

Summary of Recommendation Process for Grade 1 Assessment

Formation and Charge of K-2 Assessment Work Groups (January 2013):

- Review K and Gr. 1 assessments in light of new use within teacher evaluation.
- 4 work groups formed (Reading, Math, Spanish and Engagement)

March: Grade 1 decision fast-tracked due to budget cuts

- 28 primary grades assessments brought forward
- List reduced based on cost, cumbersome delivery, computer adaptive, and assessment infrastructure.
- List further reduced over Spring Break by REA based on reliability/validity, content coverage, growth measures, reporting of strand information and inclusion of audio support.
- MPG brought forward to workgroups by REA and literacy and math assessment work group leads.

Advantages of MPG:

- MPS had already conducted a 2-year pilot of MPG at Grade 1 in Burroughs and Jenny Lind (2010-11 and 2011-12). The test was well-received, and we learned valuable lessons regarding administration support.
- MPG is technically very sound (robust studies of reliability, validity, large samples of students); this was confirmed by REA studies of our pilot data.
- MPG geared toward measuring growth
- Has both reading and math components (reading aligned to Common Core)
- Uses same scale score continuum as MAP
- Has familiar structure/ set-up
- Consistent sampling across goals for all students (no matter grade or performance level)
- Built-in audio support for both math and reading
- Can start and stop assessment as often as needed (break into smaller test sessions)
- Two other assessment tools included in price (10 reading and 28 math very focused skills tests, math and reading screening assessments)

Concerns re MPG:

- Not yet available in Spanish (eventual plans for Spanish math, but not reading)
- Not aligned to MN math standards (has Common Core alignment and reporting for Reading and a six- strand “NWEA” version for math)
- Length of assessment
- Concerns regarding technical support (currently being addressed)
- Number and variety of report choices may require additional training