

Testing

Informal Assessment in the Classroom

As a part of the instructional planning process, students' skills are assessed regularly in the classroom. Teachers keep records of such assessments, which may include running records, performance assessments, written tasks, work samples, quizzes, unit tests, and observations.

Standardized Tests

Standardized tests are used throughout MCPS to evaluate curriculum and instructional practices. In addition they provide comparative information across schools to parents and to local and state Boards of Education.

All MCPS students in grades 2 are required to take the TerraNova 2 (TN2). The TN2 is a national norm-referenced standardized test. This multiple choice test measures basic skill achievement in reading, language arts and math in relation to national norms. Individual student scores are released to parents.

In keeping with the provisions of the "No Child Left Behind" Act, students in grades 3, 4 and 5 also take a norm- and criterion-referenced standardized test. The specific test is determined by the State of Maryland Department of Education, and is called the Maryland School Assessment (MSA).