

Dr. Joshua J. Isaacson  
Superintendent

De Soto School District #73

Dr. Doréan Dow  
Assistant  
Superintendent



Superintendent's Office

Ensuring learning, growth, and success for all.

To: Families of Students Who Participated in Spring 2018 MAP Testing  
From: Doréan Dow  
Date: December 9, 2018  
Re: Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Distribution

The building, district, and state achievement level data for Grade-Level Assessments have been released for local review. The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) Grade-Level Assessments evaluate students' progress toward the Missouri Learning Standards. Assessments are given in the subject areas of English Language Arts (grades 3-8), Mathematics (grades 3-8) and Science (grades 5 and 8).

The De Soto School District tested **April 2-May 11** of last school year. You might be curious as to why there was such a delay in the results. The MAP system has undergone many changes as a result of the adoption of updated learning standards, and this is a multi-year process:

- In 2017-2018, schools administered *field tests* in 5th and 8th grade Science and Biology I. This is a normal process when adopting new assessments. Because of this required step, we do not receive any data for science for the 17-18 SY.
- In 2017-2018, new ELA and Math assessments went fully operational. During the summer of 2018, DESE completed the Achievement Level setting process. *This is what we were waiting on for our results to come.*

Following the summer Achievement Level setting, DESE notified schools that, most likely, their percentages of students scoring Advanced and Proficient would decrease, in some cases significantly. It is essential that we all remember that **we CANNOT compare this year's results to last year's**, as our ELA and Math assessments were completely different, and Achievement Level cut points have changed. We are starting completely fresh with ELA and Math data this year.

It can be difficult to feel confident in gauging our school's progress with so many changes to the statewide assessment system. This is why we as a staff of educators have committed to improving and relying on our *local* assessment systems. The assessments we give on a regular basis--Istation's ISIP, MobyMax's placement tests, teacher-created unit tests, Running Records, and classroom projects/presentations--tell us daily where our students are in relation to the standards' expectations. This data is far more usable in the classroom to guide our daily lesson planning and communicating with you how your student is doing. If you have any questions about your student's progress, please reach out to your teacher. If you have any questions about the MAP test, you can contact me at [dow.dorean@desoto.k12.mo.us](mailto:dow.dorean@desoto.k12.mo.us) or via phone at the Central Office.

With Dragon Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorean E. Dow".

Dr. Doréan E. Dow  
Assistant Superintendent C&I