

February 10, 2014

MASTERING THE MAP TEST

Chicago, IL – The recent announcement by CPS regarding the use of the MAP test in Selective Enrollment admissions has left many parents angry, fearful and confused. Most parents know little about the MAP test even though their children have been taking it for some time. A common misconception about the test is that since it is administered on a computer, students need computer skills to take it. Another misconception is that the adaptive nature of the test makes it impossible to prepare for.

Let's look at these misconceptions. Although the MAP test is indeed administered by computer, no computer skills of any kind are required. All a student has to do is push a button to enter his or her response on the screen, and then hit the GO button to proceed to the next question.

The MAP test measures student achievement just as the ISAT does. However, since the MAP test is adaptive, some contend that it cannot be prepared for. This is nonsense. All tests that measure student achievement, including MAP, ISAT, Terra Nova, etc. can be prepared for.

On a traditional test every student completes the same set of questions, often with a paper and pencil. On an adaptive test the next question is determined by the student's response to the current one. A student who answers a question incorrectly will receive easier questions. A student who answers a question correctly – and continues to do so -- will be able to continue through questions of increasing difficulty via access to a huge database of questions. Sophisticated modeling techniques are then used to measure student achievement and generate percentiles.

The notion that the MAP test cannot be prepared for could not have come at a worse time, since CPS is moving to the Common Core standards this year. These Common Core standards are much more difficult than the standards Illinois has used in the past. For example, seventh grade students are expected to have deeper knowledge across a wide range of math topics including algebra, geometry, statistics and more. On the verbal side students will tackle denser texts and more interpretative questions. This

step up in difficulty calls for *more* preparation than before, regardless of the format of the exam.

In sum, students *can* prepare for the MAP Test – like any other test. If a student masters the Common Core aligned content, then he or she will do well. Taking the MAP test does *not* require any computer skills. Our program, already rigorous, has been upgraded to ensure that students are fully prepared for the MAP test and any other Common Core compliant assessment.

About SelectivePrep

SelectivePrep was founded by test prep veterans with over 25 years of test preparation experience – and extensive backgrounds in both classroom teaching and curriculum development. SelectivePrep offers the *only* classroom program that prepares students for all of the standardized tests needed to gain admission to a Selective Enrollment High School or Academic Center. SelectivePrep knows what it takes to train and motivate students who are intent upon gaining admission to one of the ten Chicago Selective Enrollment High Schools or one of seven Academic Centers. SelectivePrep's programs provide a thorough and rigorous review of test content, so students can approach these competitive admissions processes with confidence.

For additional information and registration go to www.selectiveprep.com or call (312) 409-8411.