



## MEASURING STUDENT LEARNING IN 2021: What will be Different in Mississippi?

Since COVID-19 first led to sudden school closures in 2020, families have stepped up in unprecedented ways to support learning at home as students began learning remotely. Teachers and leaders have worked hard to put plans in place to ensure students are safe, offering students across Mississippi different learning models—remote, hybrid and in-person, with some school districts transitioning between them as circumstances demanded. But the unprecedented changes in learning have impacted students in many ways, from their relationships with peers and social emotional growth to academics.

This year, it is more important than ever to measure student learning to understand the impact that COVID-19 and different learning models have had on students. To measure learning, students will take the MAAP (Mississippi Academic Assessment Program) tests this spring to provide families, schools and leaders with the objective and actionable information they need to identify learning gaps and best support student learning to recover from the pandemic.

### How will STAAR be Different in 2021?

Knowing that the pandemic has deeply affected students, teachers and schools, the state tests will be different than in the past. The results will be used for learning purposes only in 2021. As of March 2021, the following changes have been made:

- **To reduce stress for teachers and students in an already challenging year, MAAP results will not be used to rate schools or districts as they have in the past.**
- **Third grade students will not be required to reach a PL3 on the reading MAAP to move up to fourth grade.**
- **Students graduating this spring will not be required to pass the End-of-Course tests to earn a diploma.**

For the most recent information on the 2021 MAAP, visit [MDEk12.Org/OSA](https://www.mdek12.org/osa)