

## MAPC Position Statement

Assessment  
May 05, 2006

MAPC supports required, effective, ongoing assessment of students at the school level. We support informal (day to day classroom) assessment that gives teachers the ability to make efficient use their class time and individualized knowledge of each student. MAPC strongly supports the introduction of a mandatory assessment course for pre-service teachers and ongoing professional development regarding test development and formal and informal assessment.

MAPC supports formal Divisional testing of students in some grade levels, especially early years and transition to high school. Parents want students in all schools within a Division to be receiving the same standard of education. This will allow new initiatives (resulting from evaluation of test results) to be accurately evaluated, and hold Divisional administrators accountable for decisions made based on test results.

MAPC supports ongoing communication between parents and teachers. Informational material should be provided to students and parents prior to Divisional testing, explaining intent, content, and evaluation processes. Individual test results must be shared with students and parents, in terms and language that is meaningful to them. The ability to respond to assessments results is key—MAPC supports the provision of funds by MECY, if needed, to address challenges within individual schools.

MAPC discourages the concept of competition between schools or Divisions. All students should receive the same excellent standard of education.

As a result of our May 2004 survey, MAPC has determined that parents are divided in their recommendations regarding provincial assessment. Some parents feel that because curriculum is developed by the province, it should be evaluated at the provincial level; that the accountability should lie with those who write curriculum. Other parents feel that divisional testing should be enough and that the method of formal provincial testing is stressful for students.

MAPC supports the Department of Education's new initiative to conduct a provincial assessment at the grade 8 level. MAPC encourages teachers and schools to share assessment results with senior years teachers in order to best meet the needs of all students.

*Rationale:*

*MAPC would like to be able to share this position, as representative of its members, with our education partners (including the Minister of Education), and the media.*