

# The World of Assessment in Blue Valley



# Types of testing

- ▶ **Diagnostic**
  - MAP
  - Formative assessment (assessment for learning)
- ▶ **Aptitude and Ability Tests**
  - Raven Progressive Matrices
  - Peabody Picture Vocabulary
  - WISC
  - PSAT/SAT
  - Career/interest
- ▶ **Achievement**
  - EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT
  - Advanced Placement (AP)
  - State Testing
  - PISA



# Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

- ▶ Provides a measure for what a child knows and is ready to learn
- ▶ Based on the RIT scale (Rasch unit)
- ▶ Score represents the level at which the student is answering the questions correctly about 50% of the time
- ▶ Impossible to answer all questions correctly
- ▶ Provides information to teachers to help differentiate instruction



# PSAT and SAT

- ▶ College admission/reasoning tests
- ▶ PSAT used to identify students for the National Merit Program – includes verbal and mathematics sections
- ▶ SAT is a college admission test with critical reading, mathematics and writing sections



# Kansas Testing

- ▶ Required by federal law – (Elementary and Secondary Education ACT)
- ▶ 2006 – 2013 NCLB proficiency test based on minimum competency standards
- ▶ 2014 test is a transitional test based on Kansas College and Career Ready Standards
- ▶ 2015 test will be new standard – designed to measure readiness for college and career



# EXPLORE/PLAN/ACT

- ▶ Achievement tests leading to college admission
- ▶ All three tests are based on the same scale
  - English
  - Mathematics
  - Reading
  - Science
- ▶ Provide benchmarks for predicting college success



# ACT College Readiness Benchmarks

College Course or Area	Test	EXPLORE Score	PLAN Score	ACT Score
English Composition	English	13	15	18
Algebra	Mathematics	17	19	22
Social Studies	Reading	16	18	22
Biology	Science	18	20	23



# Advanced Placement (AP)

- ▶ Approximately 15 courses offered
- ▶ College Board is in the middle of a revision and updating process
- ▶ New developments
  - Cambridge Capstone Program
  - Diploma Program





# OECD Test for High Schools based on PISA

- ▶ International test for 15-year olds
- ▶ Blue Valley participated in the pilot program to make test available to high schools – spring 2012
- ▶ Blue Valley participated in the first year of the program in the fall of 2013.
- ▶ Representative sample of students tested
- ▶ Results are school/program based, not student based



# Caveats

- ▶ Any test is a snapshot – one point in time
- ▶ Scope is limited
- ▶ Tests don't measure “soft” skills
- ▶ Practice is important
- ▶ Deep learning is important



# Changes in focus

- ▶ Greater similarities coming between state tests and college admission tests and AP tests
- ▶ New tests require deep reading, critical thinking and problem solving skills
- ▶ Application of knowledge and skills is more important than memorization
- ▶ Explanation and justification for responses is required – even for multiple choice questions

