Purpose and Description of Maze Test

Description and purpose of the Maze test supplied to Florida schools for purposes of screening and progress monitoring in reading.

At the request of the Just Read, Florida! Office, and to satisfy the requirements of legislation requiring that students scoring at Level 1 and Level 2 on the FCAT take tests to monitor their progress in reading during the following year, the Florida Center for Reading Research developed both the Florida Oral Reading Fluency test and the Florida Maze test. Both of these measures should be regarded as interim progress monitoring measures to satisfy the requirements of the law while districts in Florida, and the Just Read, Florida! Office develop a long-term assessment strategy for adolescent struggling readers in Florida.

The purpose of the Maze test is to provide a brief, group-administered test that measures fluency of silent reading and low-level comprehension of passages that are like those students will encounter on the FCAT. The test is meant to provide an estimate of a student’s basic reading skill. The test measures only lower level comprehension processes, because the items on the test were designed to be easy to answer if the student has a basic idea of the gist of the passage. The score that is provided is simply the number of items the student got correct in the time allowed to read the passage. The Maze test assesses silent reading fluency, because the more fluently the student reads, the more items will be attempted. It assesses low-level comprehension, because the items must be answered correctly in order to receive credit in the score.

The risk levels associated with this test and the Oral Reading Fluency were developed by examining the relationship of these tests to performance on the FCAT, and then projecting an expected rate of growth during the year. Scores on both the FORF and the Mazes tests should increase from fall, to winter, to spring, if the student is making good progress in becoming a better reader.