



Strands Scores: Use and Interpretation

MCA Strand Scores

- Never use MCA strand scores for interpretation at an individual level and never use for class placements nor to compare from year to year:
 - The difficulty of MCA strand scores varies by subject, grade and year (i.e., # of questions vary, difficulty of questions vary).
 - There are not enough questions on each strand to know if the strand is mastered.
 - Error around strand scores is higher (than error around overall score).
- Group level strand scores should be interpreted with caution! Group level strand scores could be used to make decisions about program evaluation, curriculum, and instruction.
- Strand scores can be compared to how the state did overall on that strand, (i.e., “Did you do better or worse than the state average on this strand?”)

MAP Strand Scores

- Recommendation is to use math strand scores, but not reading:
 - Using math strands, we can look across strands for relative weaknesses and strengths for a student.
 - Reading is too complex of a task to definitively break it down into sub skills.
- Error around strand scores is higher (than error around overall RIT score).
- In TIES, math strands are color-coded based on the target for the overall RIT.
NOTE: it is just an assumption that the overall target works for strands. We don't know this for a fact.
- Descartes Learning Continuum lists a set of skills by strand scores for teachers to use in instruction (mastered, currently learning, next skills). This information should be considered along with other data about the student.