Literacy and numeracy skills testing of Territory students in years 3, 5 and 7 will begin on Tuesday, Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said today.

Mr Stirling said Multilevel Assessment Program (MAP) testing is held each year in August and assesses individual student achievement in reading, writing, spelling and numeracy.

This year, testing will occur between 6 and 23 August.

"The program is part of an annual Australia-wide assessment of students’ literacy and numeracy competencies, which are then measured against national benchmarks," Mr Stirling said.

"These benchmarks are a set of indicators that describe the essential literacy and numeracy skills that represent minimum standards for all Australian students.

"The information gathered through this program is very valuable in terms of future planning and programming in Northern Territory schools and classrooms.

"It allows teachers to direct and target resources in order to enhance students’ education outcomes.

"We need to obtain the most accurate representation of student achievement possible, so it’s crucial that every child in Years 3, 5 and 7, or of equivalent age takes part in MAP testing."

Mr Stirling said parents would receive a report of their child’s achievement set against the national standard in literacy and numeracy at the end of the school year.

"The Government made a commitment to make MAP testing results available to parents so they can see for themselves their child’s literacy and numeracy levels, as well as how Territory schools compare to national standards.

For more information, parents should contact their child's school.