

The Best Academy 2023-2024 District Assessment Calendar (Updated March 2024)

State Assessments

Minnesota students take statewide mandated assessments to provide districts and the public with information about equitable opportunities for all students to engage with high quality content in school. In Minnesota, two types of statewide assessments are given to students each year to measure student learning.

Each spring, Minnesota students take either the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) or the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS). Most students take the MCA, but students who receive special education services and meet eligibility requirements take the MTAS instead. Both provide information about student learning of grade level content in Reading, Mathematics, and Science.

Minnesota students identified as English learners (ELs) also take the Access for ELLs (ACCESS) to measure progress toward meeting the WIDA English Language Development Standards. English Learners who receive special education services and meet the participation guidelines may take the Alternate Access for ELLs (Alternate ACCESS).

Resources for families:

[MCA Parent Fact Sheet](#)

[MTAS Parent Fact Sheet](#)

[ACCESS Parent Fact Sheet](#)

[Translated Versions of the Above Documents](#)

Test	Purpose	Dates	Subject	Grades Tested	Estimated Assessment Time	Timeline and Format for Disseminating Results
MCA-III Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment is an online assessment containing multiple choice and technology enhanced items.	To measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and meet the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act	State testing window: March 4-May 3 School testing window: April 16-17 (R) & 23-24 (M)	Reading	3-8	2.5-3.5 hours	Results mailed to families early September. Teachers discuss results with families at fall conferences. MDE Minnesota Report Card
			Math	3-8	1.5-2 hours	
			Science	5 & 8	1.5-2 hours	
MTAS The Minnesota Test of Academic Skills is a performance-based alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities	Source of Requirement: Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.30 and ESSA	State testing window: March 4-May 3 Test is administered individually specific dates vary: April 2-15	Reading	3-8	Administration time varies for each student. Usually 30-90 min per subject	
			Math	3-8		
			Science	5 & 8		
ACCESS for ELLs For grades 1-12, this is a computer-based, adaptive test that responds to student performance and may be administered in group or individual settings. The kindergarten test is a paper based assessment that is individually administered.	To measure English language proficiency based on Minnesota Standards for English Language Development and to meet the requirements of the federal federal Every Student Succeeds Act	State testing window: Jan 29-Mar 22 School testing window: Feb 5-Feb 29	Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking	Kindergarten	45 min individually administered	
			Reading	1-8	Up to 35 min	
			Writing	1-8	Up to 65 min	
			Listening	1-8	Up to 40 min	
			Speaking	1-8	Up to 30 min	
			Reading	1-8	Up to 20 min	
			Writing	1-8	Up to 20 min	
			Listening	1-8	Up to 20 min	
Alternate ACCESS for ELLs An individually administered English language proficiency assessment developed for English learners who have significant cognitive disabilities.	Source of requirement: ESSA		Reading	1-8	Up to 20 min	
			Writing	1-8	Up to 20 min	
			Listening	1-8	Up to 20 min	
			Speaking	1-8	Up to 20 min	

District Assessments

Minnesota's statewide assessments are only a small part of a student's year-long engagement with assessments. In addition to the statewide tests, scholars engage in school-wide and classroom-level assessments to measure student progress as part of the curriculum.

Test	Purpose	Dates	Subject	Grades Tested	Estimated Assessment Time	Timeline and Format for Disseminating Results
NWEA MAP Growth NWEA MAP Toolkit: Resources for Families	To provide a measure of academic progress in reading and math. Results help educators track individual student growth, determine student placement, and inform instructional planning. Computer adaptive tests in reading and math that are nationally normed.	Fall: September 19-20 Winter: January 23-24 Spring: April 30-May 1 * K-2 only	Reading	K-2: F, W, Sp 3-8: F & W	45-75 min	All data is tracked in a shared spreadsheet and analyzed in data meetings. Teachers will discuss the results with families at conferences.
			Math	K-2: F, W, Sp 3-8: F & W	45-75 min	
NWEA MAP Reading Fluency - Dyslexia Screener	To assess foundational reading skills, including those most often associated with dyslexia in order to collect actionable data to inform instruction and drill down into each student's strengths and needs, as well as analyze possible risk factors for dyslexia or other reading difficulties.	Fall: September 18 Spring: April 29	Reading Fluency (foundational skills, oral reading fluency, and literal comprehension)	K-3	20-30 min	
iReady Diagnostic	To provide a measure of academic progress in reading and math using a computer adaptive test that matches the difficulty of test questions to the ability of each student.	Fall: September 5-8 Spring: May 13-16	Reading	3-8	20-30 min	
			Math	3-8	20-30 min	
District Comprehensive Assessments	Summative assessments given each term to determine student proficiency in each subject area.	Term 1: Oct 16-17 Term 2: Dec 12-13 Term 3: Mar 5-6	Reading	K-8	60 min	
			Math		60 min	
			Science	5-8	60 min	
			Social Studies		60 min	