

Mathematics Test for English Language Learners (MTELL)

Questions and Answers about the MTELL



What is the MTELL?

The Mathematics Test for English Language Learners (MTELL) is an online mathematics assessments available to English language learners (ELL) in grades 3-8 and 11 who need a mathematics test that accommodates their limited English. The items are written in simplified English to reduce the quantity and complexity of the language in problems set in real-world situations. ELL who take the MTELL should be able to demonstrate what they know and can do on the grade-level mathematics standards. There is a separate version of the test for each grade.

MTELL tests the same math standards as the Mathematics Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment – Series II (MCA-II). According to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, the performance of each student taking the MTELL or Mathematics MCA-II is used to determine whether the student's school and district have met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Who must take this test?

Students who are identified as "limited English proficient" (LEP) may take this test. The MTELL is taken **in place of** the Mathematics MCA-II; ELL do not take both tests.

What does it take to pass the test?

Students do not pass or fail this test. Each student receives a score that falls in one of four achievement levels – Does Not Meet the Standards, Partially Meets the Standards, Meets the Standards and Exceeds the Standards.

What is the format of the MTELL?

The test is taken on the computer. Real-world mathematics problems are presented in sets based on a theme so that students encounter fewer contexts than in the Mathematics MCA-II. Students may listen to each test item as it is visually presented on the screen, and they can replay the audio for each question, if needed.

What skills are included on the MTELL?

There are two types and three categories of questions in the MTELL:

The types are multiple-choice and short constructed-response. In short constructed-response items, students type numeric answers into a grid.

The categories are symbolic response, math vocabulary and sheltered English.

- *Symbolic response* items are math problems without language other than a simple instruction.
- *Math vocabulary* items have math terminology students are expected to know at a given grade level.
- *Sheltered English* items are thematically grouped story problems in which the English has been simplified.

What are the guidelines for calculator use?

In some grades, students taking the MTELL cannot use calculators on the sections that measure computation skills. Calculators are permitted on other sections of the test with questions that

measure a student's ability to reason and decide what math skill is needed to solve a problem.

When a calculator is permitted on the test, students can use a four-function or scientific calculator. The calculator can belong to either the student or the school. Students can also use the on-screen calculator. Students cannot share calculators with other students during the test or use any calculator instructions.

How can I see the MTELL results for my child?

All test results are sent to the school district. The district will deliver the results for your child to you.

How can students prepare for these tests?

Please see our handout "Test Preparation Suggestions for Students, Teachers and Parents" under the [Assessments section](#) of our Website for tips on content preparation, general test-taking and calculator use.
(<http://education.state.mn.us> – under Accountability Programs: Assessment and Testing: Assessments)

Where can I find more information about the MTELL?

Go to the Minnesota Department of Education [Website](#) and follow these links: Accountability Programs: Assessment and Testing: Assessments: ELL Tests

For more information, contact:

Minnesota Department of Education
Research and Assessment
mde.testing@state.mn.us
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266
(651) 582-8200