

Feedback: Testing In Districts:

District # 1: Right now the elementary tests are as follows:

Map Reading: 3 times per year grades k-6 (Note: K and 1 will be testing for the first time this year.)

Map Math: 3 times per year grades k-6 (Note: K and 1 will be testing for the first time this year.)
Reasons for these assessments: To establish flex groups, title one, academic intervention, Advanced Learning Placement (ALP), and establish student growth.

AIMS WEB testing, all grades 3 times per year (Fall, Winter, Spring / coincides with Map testing.)
Reasons for assessments: Information for teachers to make informed academic decisions, title one placement, etc.

MCA Math: This year (Two practice testing opportunities called OLPA's):
Reasons for this assessment: Allow kids to practice the MCA concepts and process. Allows staff to make informed decisions and determine which students will need assistance before the accountability test in the spring.

MCA Math: Spring of 2013: Students will take the Math test. (This administration will count towards the new MMR (Multiple Measures Rating).
Reasons for this assessment: State accountability assessment

MCA Reading: Taken one time spring of 2013 for accountability purposes. (This assessment does not have additional administrations).

MCA Science: Grade 5 (Taken one time during the Spring). Not included in Minnesota State Accountability.

Kindergarten

Fall - LNF and LSF and NR (Letter Names, Letter Sounds, and Number Recognition).

Winter - LSF and NR and ORF (Letter Sounds, Number Recognition, and Oral Reading Fluency.)

Spring - LSF and NR and ORF (Letter Sounds, Number Recognition, and Oral Reading Fluency.)

Reasons for these assessments: To establish flex grouping, determine kindergarten placements and progress, measure student growth.)

High School:

Map Reading: 2 times per year grades 7-9 (Note: Special Education and Academic Intervention students take them 3 times).

Map Math: 2 times per year grades 7-9 (Note: Special Education and Academic Intervention students take them 3 times).

Reasons for these assessments: To establish programming to improve math and reading skills, academic intervention placement, informed decision making.

MCA Math: Spring of 2013: Grades 7, 8, and 11. Students will take the Math test. (This administration will count towards the new MMR (Multiple Measures Rating).

Reasons for this assessment: State accountability assessment

MCA Reading: Grades 7, 8, and 10. Taken one time spring of 2013 for accountability purposes. (This assessment does not have additional administrations).

MCA Writing: Grade 9 (one time in the Spring)

MCA Science: Grade 8, and High School. (Scores not counted towards Minnesota Accountability Standards.)

Grad Retests in Reading and Math until grade 12 for those 10th and 11th grade students that are not proficient. (There will no longer be a grad portion of the MCA's after the 12-13 testing year.)

District # 2:

MCA Reading 3-8 - spring

MCA Math 3-8, - spring

NWEA MAP 1-8, fall, winter, spring

CBMs K-8 - multiple times per year

ACT EXPLORE 9 –fall

GRAD Writing 9 - spring

ACT PLAN 10 – fall

MCA Reading, 10 - spring

PSAT/NMSQT 11 – fall

MCA Math 11 - spring

Accuplacer (state college assessment) 11 or 12 - fall

NWEA MAP; 9-12 as needed fall, winter spring

FAQ: From a local School District

How is my student assessed during the Kindergarten Assessment?

All Kindergarten students enrolled in the Minneapolis Public Schools are assessed in the fall, winter and spring. The assessments are individually administered by Early Childhood Cadre, a group of testers trained on its standardized administration using a standard set of materials. The Beginning and End of Kindergarten Assessments measure literacy and numeracy skills. [More information on the Kindergarten assessment](#) (pdf)

How is my student assessed during the Grade 1 Assessment?

All students enrolled in first grade are assessed in the fall, winter and spring with the district-developed Grade One Assessment. In reading, students receive scores on each of three reading dimensions: words read per minute, reading expression, and reading comprehension. In math, students are asked to identify numbers and quantities, count sets of objects, add and subtract numbers orally, and add single digit numbers. [More information about the Grade 1 assessment](#) (pdf)

What is AYP?

Adequate Yearly Progress, a measurement as to whether a student is (or averages of students within a school or district are) learning enough material from year to year.

Details: AYP is the component of the No Child Left Behind Act for determining whether or not all school students achieve the same high standards of academic achievement in reading or language arts and mathematics by 2013-2014. AYP requires statistically valid and reliable ways to determine the continuous and substantial academic improvement of all students from a starting point in 2001-2002 to the proficiency level by 2013-2014. Moreover, AYP includes efforts to narrow the achievement gaps of students who are economically disadvantaged, students from major race and ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and students with limited English proficiency.

What is the MAP Test?

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA/MAP - Measures of Academic Progress)

State aligned computerized adaptive tests in reading and math that reflect the instructional level of each student. It measures growth over time in addition to performance. For additional information on this assessment go to: www.nwea.org

What is the MCA Test?

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment - The MCAs are the state tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. The reading and mathematics tests are used to determine whether schools and districts have made adequate yearly progress (AYP) toward all students being proficient in 2014. Science is required for No Child Left Behind but is not included in AYP calculations at this time. Reading and mathematics tests are given in grades 3-8, 10 and 11. More

information: http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Accountability_Programs/Assessment_and_Testing/Assessments/MCA/index.html

What is the difference between MAP tests and MCA tests? And why do we need both?

MAP Testing measures each student's growth from year to year.

MCA's measure each student in comparison with the Minnesota Standards.

Within the school the MCA results are used to determine if the school is successful in teaching the

state's standards (a No Child Left Behind mandate). The MAP results are used to determine if each child is getting enough growth (now a district mandate).

What are all of these other testing acronyms and names: MTAS, EXPLORE and ACCESS?

MTAS – Minnesota Test of Academic Skills

MTAS is a performance-based assessment in reading, mathematics and science for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It is the alternate assessment available in every grade in which the MCA-II is available and features substantial reductions in the complexity of the academic content standards.

ACCESS

ACCESS for ELLs® stands for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners. This large-scale test addresses the academic English language proficiency (ELP) standards at the core of the WIDA Consortium's approach to instructing and evaluating the progress of English language learners. (Replacing the TEAE and Solom tests)

EXPLORE

The EXPLORE test is administered to Minneapolis 8th grade students in the fall of each school year; the costs associated with the administration of the EXPLORE are paid for by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). EXPLORE has four academic tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. A Composite Score (score range 1-25) summarizes performance across all four academic tests. In addition to the academic tests, students complete an interest inventory and needs assessment. For more information about the EXPLORE test, please visit the ACT Web site at <http://act.org/explore/>.

What is an IEP?

An Individual Education Plan is a 'goals and support' plan for students with specific special education needs.

Details: Kids with delayed skills or other disabilities might be eligible for special services that provide individualized education programs in public schools. Parents can now work with educators to develop a plan — the individualized education program (IEP) — to help kids succeed in school. The IEP describes the goals the team sets for a child during the school year, as well as any special support needed to help achieve them.

What does ELL stand for?

ELL stands English Language Learners- those students who do not speak fluent English.

What does ELP stand for?

English Language Proficiency (ELP) standards

What is the MDE?

Minnesota Department of Education