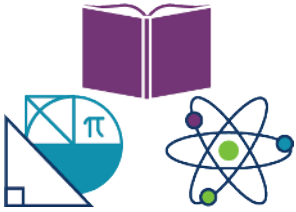


# Information on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)



## What are the MCAs?

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are assessments in reading, mathematics, and science and are administered every year. The MCAs are based on the Minnesota Academic Standards, which specify what students in a particular grade should know and be able to do.



## Who takes the MCAs?

All students in Minnesota public and charter schools take the MCAs. Reading and mathematics tests are administered in grades 3–8 and high school (students in grade 10 take the Reading MCA, and students in grade 11 take the Mathematics MCA). The Science MCA is administered to students in grades 5 and 8 and in the high school grade in which they take a life science or biology course.



## How do students take the MCAs?

Students take the Reading, Mathematics, and Science MCAs online. Some students may be eligible for paper test materials based on their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.



## Why do students take the MCAs?

The MCAs are used to gather information about the alignment of districts' and schools' curriculum and instruction with state academic standards. Schools use the information to improve curriculum materials and student support. Educators look for areas where students do well so they can reinforce the ways they teach these skills. Educators also look for areas where they can improve standards-based curriculum and instruction.



Increased data accuracy

Informed district and school decisions

## Participation in the MCAs

Student participation in the MCAs is important because it gives your school and district the opportunity to evaluate their curriculum and instruction to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. The more students who participate, the more accurate the data is for districts and schools to make informed decisions about how to use money and resources to support all students.