

Minnesota Assessment System

Update

Jennifer Dugan

Agenda

- Requirements and implementation of legislation
- Testing schedule for 2014–2015
- Big, Long-Term Picture
- Questions and Answer Session

Federal Requirements for Minnesota Assessment System

- **Mathematics and Reading**
 - Grades 3–8 and once in high school
 - Aligned to Minnesota Academic Standards
- **Science**
 - Once in elementary, middle, and high school
 - Aligned to Minnesota Academic Standards
- **English Learners**
 - Grades K-12
 - Assess English language proficiency in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking

State Legislative Requirements for Minnesota Assessment System

- **Grade 8**
 - **Mathematics, Reading, and Writing**
 - Predictive of College Entrance Exam
 - Career Exploration elements
- **Grade 10**
 - **Mathematics, Reading, and Writing**
 - Predictive of College Entrance Exam
 - Career Exploration elements

State Legislative Requirements for Minnesota Assessment System

- **If a student is not ready for career or college based on Grade 8 and Grade 10 performance, student will take College Placement Diagnostic Test**
 - **Must be taken after receiving grade 10 Career and College Assessment score and prior to the College Entrance Exam**
 - **Provides information for targeted instruction**
- **College Entrance Exam**
 - **Grade 11**
 - **Mathematics, Reading and Writing**

Minnesota Assessment System Snapshot

- **Federal and State Accountability**
 - Late Winter: Grades K-12 ACCESS for ELLs
 - Spring: Grades 3–8 and HS Math, Reading, and Science MCA/MTAS
- **Career and College Ready legislation (graduation requirements)**
 - Fall: Grade 8 Explore
 - Fall: Grade 10 Plan
 - Compass (not all students)
 - Spring: Grade 11 ACT

Minnesota Statewide Testing Program

Assessment	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
MCA and MTAS													
• Reading				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆		
• Math				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆			◆	
• Science						◆			◆			◆	
ACCESS for ELLs (English Learners only)	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Explore and Plan (Math, Reading, English & Science)									●		●		
Compass												●	
ACT												●	

- ◆ Required for federal and state accountability. Developed and administered by the state (includes MCAs and special education assessments)
- Required for English Learners for federal Title III accountability. Used as exit criterion for state funding. An alternate assessment is available for ELs with significant cognitive disabilities
- Nationally available assessment required as part of Career & College assessments

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

MCA Grades 3–8 and High School

- **Online testing window for accountability purposes**
 - **March 9 – May 8: Reading and Math**
 - **March 9 – May 15: Science**
 - **Final results used for accountability and growth calculations**

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

MCA Grades 3–8 and High School

- **Available online only in TestNav 7.5**
 - Paper accommodations continue to be available
 - Chromebooks supported through district entering into contract with vendors on TestNav Qualified site (\$)
 - Items not formatted for touch screen devices (not permitted)
- **Immediate preliminary results available for all MCAs**

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

MTAS Grades 3–8 and High School

- **Testing window for accountability purposes**
 - **March 9 – May 8**
 - **Individual administration**
 - Students must satisfy eligibility criteria
 - **Final results used for accountability and growth calculations**

Reminder – MCA-Modified is no longer available

ACCESS for ELLs Grades K-12

- **Testing window for accountability purposes**
 - **February 2 – March 20**

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

- **Grade 8 Explore and Grade 10 Plan**
 - **Fall Test Window: November 3 – November 21**
 - **Paper administration**
 - **Used for career and college planning**
 - Students must participate in order to graduate; no minimum score needed
 - MTAS eligible students do not have to participate
 - MDE does not have authority to excuse students or create policies for students not able to participate
 - **Reporting dates and process still being determined**

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

- **ACT**
 - **College Entrance Exam**
 - **Grade 11 students**
 - **Test Date: April 28 (May 12 make-up)**
 - Accommodations April 28 – May 12
 - **Paper administration**
 - **All high schools must be certified as state testing site**
 - **Accommodations Request Process**
 - **Used for career and college planning**
 - Student must participate in order to graduate; no minimum score needed
 - MTAS students do not have to participate
 - **Reporting dates and process still being determined**

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

- **Compass**
 - **College Placement Diagnostic**
 - For students not yet ready for Career and College
 - **Testing window after Plan scores and before ACT administration**
 - **Online administration**
 - **Grade 10 students testing window opens January 5**
 - Names of students required to take Compass will be provided to ACT and districts by MDE
 - MDE is gathering information and working with advisory committees to determine scores students need to obtain on each Explore and Plan subject test
 - Students identified must participate in order to graduate; no minimum score needed

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

- **Compass**

- **Available to grade 11 students in 2014-2015**

- Not a graduation requirement for these students
 - Local decision whether to administer Compass to grade 11 students in 2014-2015

- **MDE will first look for student's Plan score and then look for MCA score**

- Reading: Below Plan Reading college readiness benchmark (18) AND below Exceeds on MCA Reading Grade 10 (1064)
 - Writing: Below Plan English college readiness benchmark (15) AND below Exceeds on MCA Reading Grade 10 (1064)
 - Math: Below Plan Math college readiness benchmark (19) AND below Exceeds on MCA Math Grade 8 (861)

- **MDE will provide list of eligible students to ACT and districts**

2014–2015 Testing Schedule

- **Optional Local Purpose Assessment (OLPA)**
 - **Optional online test available for non-accountability local purposes**
 - **September 29 – February 20**
 - **Immediate results**
 - **Math**
 - Up to two optional testing opportunities per student
 - Grades 3–8
 - **Reading**
 - One optional testing opportunity per student
 - Grades 3–8 and 10
 - **Same administration policies and test security requirements as MCA-III**
 - **Uses Minnesota specific items and Math OLPA uses same adaptive algorithm as Math MCA accountability test**

2014–2015 Testing Resources

- **Learning Resources**
 - **Perspective**
 - Currently available: Math, Reading, Science
 - Learning Locators provided based on 2014 results
 - **Write to Learn**
 - Written Composition: For Grades 8 and 10
 - Available in October
- **Trainings**
 - **ACT and Pearson systems**
 - **MDE systems**
 - **Testing procedures**

Big, Long-Term Picture

- **Administration**
 - **MCA Math and Reading adaptive at all grade levels**
 - **Test Integrity Procedures for entire process developed and improved**
 - **Increase number of devices supported**
 - **TestNav8 in 2015-2016 school year**
 - **Continue developing new item types**
- **Reporting**
 - **Include information about post-secondary readiness**
 - **Improve support and interpretive materials**
 - **Improve/increase information provided, while maintaining psychometric validity**

Big, Long-Term Picture

- **System Improvements**
 - **Stakeholder feedback regarding opportunities for streamlining**
 - Statewide mandated
 - Local
 - Purpose
 - **Continue to evolve assessment tools and provide actionable information**

How can you become involved?

An Invitation for Educators: Assessment Advisory Panels

The Minnesota Department of Education is pleased to invite you to serve on our Assessment Advisory Panels.

Learn more about how tests are developed in a large-scale assessment. Each test requires several panels of educators for review in order to ensure it is fair and appropriate.

- We invite participants with the goal that our panels reflect Minnesota as best as possible in ethnicity, geography, and panel experience.
- Each panel is a separate entity. The panel meets for 2-4 days: accepting an invitation is not an ongoing commitment.
- During the school year, MDE will cover a district's substitute teacher. Retired teachers (or teachers participating on non-contract days) receive a \$125/day honorarium.
- In the summer months, both current and retired teachers receive the \$125/day honorarium. All participants are reimbursed according to state guidelines for travel and meals (lodging, if necessary) throughout the year.
- All participating teachers and administrators receive a certificate of Continuing Education Units.



Division of Statewide Testing

1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266
Phone: (651) 582-6843
Fax: (651) 582-8503
mde.testing@state.mn.us

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To sign up for the Advisory Panel Register, visit

<http://education.state.mn.us>

Go to Educator Excellence: Testing Resources: Register for Advisory Panels

Questions? Write to: mde.panels@state.mn.us

- Unique professional development opportunity at no cost to districts
- Teachers learn how tests are built
- Teachers learn the standards intimately
- Teachers see student performance across the state

MDE Assessment Contacts

Area Codes	Contact	Phone
507, 320	Lisa Grasdalen lisa.grasdalen@state.mn.us	651-582-8485
612	Jennifer Burton jennifer.burton@state.mn.us	651-582-8622
651, 763, 952	Tracy Cerda tracy.cerda@state.mn.us	651-582-8692
218	Julie Nielsen-Fuhrmann julie.nielsen-fuhrmann@state.mn.us	651-582-8837
Manager: Linda Sams linda.sams@state.mn.us or 651-582-8431		
Email: mde.testing@state.mn.us		Fax: 651-582-8874
http://education.state.mn.us > School Support > Test Administration		

Contact Information

- **Jennifer Dugan**
 - Director, Statewide Testing
 - (651) 582-8654
 - jennifer.dugan@state.mn.us