

Information on the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)



What is the MTAS?

The Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) is a statewide alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The MTAS is based on extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards and measures reading, mathematics, and science skills that are aligned to the general education curriculum. These tests represent high expectations while allowing students to demonstrate their learning.



Who takes the MTAS?

All students in Minnesota public and charter schools are required to participate in the statewide assessments. Assessments are provided for specific grades in reading (3–8 and 10), mathematics (3–8 and 11), and science (5, 8, and once in high school). The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team makes annual decisions about student participation using the [MTAS Eligibility Requirements](#) document on the MDE website.



How do students take the MTAS?

The MTAS is a performance assessment that is administered by the student's teacher (or another school district employee who is familiar with the student) in a one-on-one setting. Tasks may be read aloud and presented with pictures and/or graphics to make them accessible to students who need such supports. Students may respond in a variety of ways (such as speaking, pointing, or using eye gaze) to show what they know on tasks.



Why should students with disabilities participate in statewide assessments?

Statewide assessments, like the MTAS, allow students to show what they know and how they are doing in school. The MTAS provides important data that allows schools to make sure students with the most significant cognitive disabilities have their educational needs met and receive rigorous instruction aligned to the standards.



Increased data accuracy

Informed district and school decisions

Participation in the MTAS

Student participation in the MTAS 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.