

# Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses of Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) Results

## Appropriate Uses of Results



### Looking at overall proficiency for a grade, school and/or district

Looking at overall proficiency can be used to evaluate equitable opportunities for all students in learning the Minnesota Academic Standards.



### Comparing results across student groups

Comparing results across student groups can help determine where there may be underlying inequities and highlight promising instructional practices.



### Looking at changes in achievement levels over time

Looking at achievement levels over time can help support the evaluation of curriculum and district/classroom assessments that reflect the rigor of the standards.



### Using as one of multiple data points for school and district decision-making

Using multiple data points can strengthen the connection between the district's comprehensive assessment system and support evidence-based decision making.

## Inappropriate Uses of Results



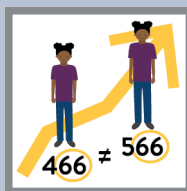
### Using results as a mandatory indicator for program placement and/or to prioritize which students receive instructional support or intervention programming

Test scores should not be used as the only indicator to determine program placement and/or intervention programming, but could be used with additional evidence or data.



### Focusing only on individual student scores for planning and instruction

Instructional decisions should be made based on results of a whole group, rather than individual student results.



### Using scale scores to calculate individual student growth

Subtraction of scale scores does not determine student growth. Instead, the achievement levels can be used to gain a general sense of progress in a subject over time for individual students.



### Using results in isolation to evaluate teacher effectiveness

Teacher effectiveness should be evaluated using multiple data points.

## Questions?

Contact Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment at [mde.testing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us).