

Interpretive Guide for Statewide Assessment Reports

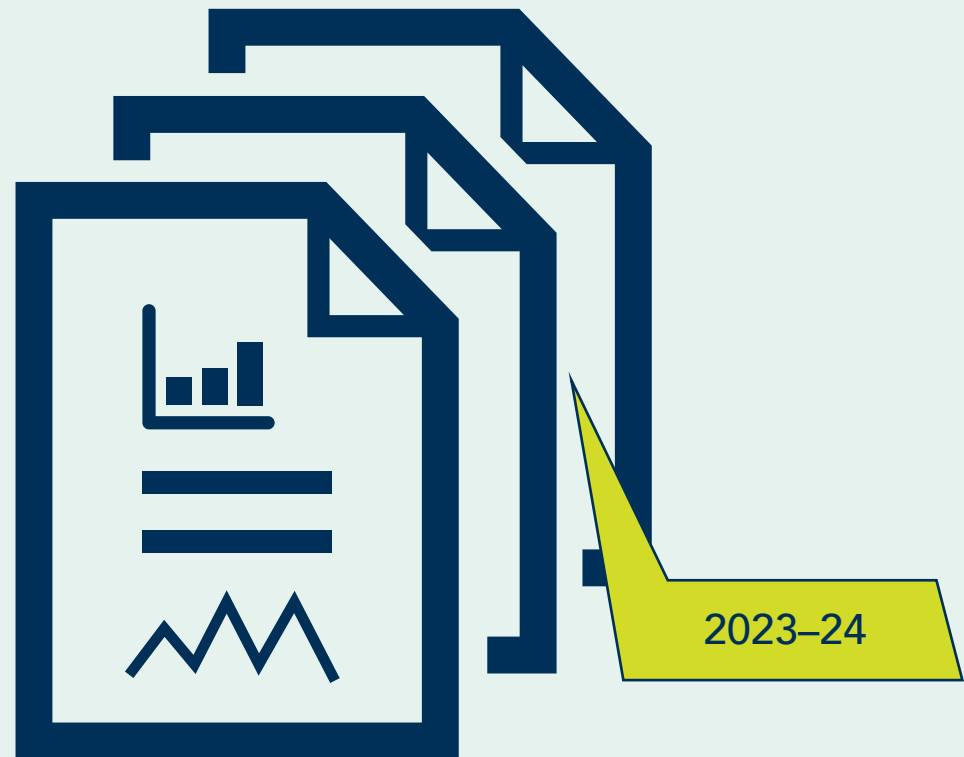


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Assessments are designed to provide information about student learning, but there is no single assessment that can provide the full perspective of what a student has learned. These assessments provide one data point that should be considered in the context of additional evidence of student learning.

Letter From the Department of Education

The statewide assessments administered each year are one measure of student learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards and the WIDA English Language Development Standards. This *Interpretive Guide for Statewide Assessment Reports* is geared towards those interested in understanding the results from these assessments.

This guide contains information on the types of results available for the standards-based accountability assessments and the English language proficiency accountability assessments. Resources are included for how to use and interpret MCA, MTAS, ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS individual student results.

Districts and schools use these results as one part of their balanced and comprehensive assessment system, which should include a variety of assessment types. When statewide test results are used with additional information at the school and district level, they support districts and schools in their work to create an education system where every student receives a high-quality education.

We encourage you to use this guide to inform interested persons in your community about how the Minnesota assessment results can be used to gauge equitable learning opportunities for all students to engage with rigorous standards-based content and instruction.

State of Minnesota

Minnesota Department of Education

Introduction to the Interpretive Guide

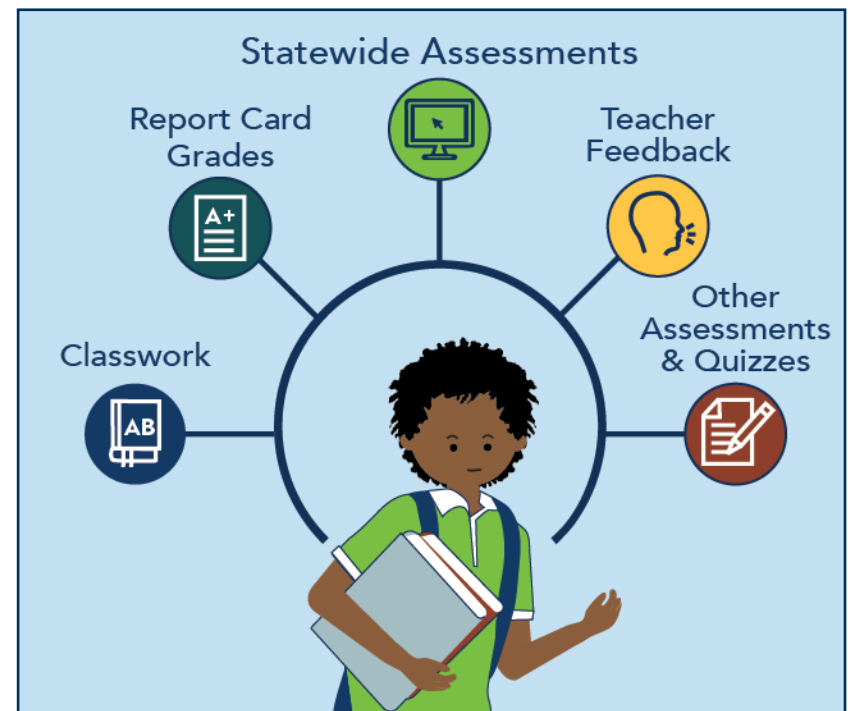
Minnesota has developed an assessment system comprised of standardized, criterion-referenced assessments, which means that they measure performance against a fixed set of criteria. These criteria are the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards (K-12)), developed by Minnesota educators, and the [WIDA English Language Development Standards](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > English Learner Education > English Language Development Standards), adopted by Minnesota.

Individual student reports (ISRs) provide one data point for parents/guardians and students about student learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards or the progress towards proficiency as described by the WIDA English Language Development Standards. Parents/guardians can use this information with the student's classroom assessments, assignments, and grades to see a more complete picture of their student's progress.

Educators and school leaders should use these results in the context of their [balanced and comprehensive assessment system](#) (Testing 1, 2, 3 site > Assess > Balanced Assessment Systems). An assessment system is balanced and comprehensive if it includes a variety of assessment types, the assessments are coherently linked through clear standards-based learning targets, and it continuously documents student learning over time.

Personalized video ISRs are provided MCA and MTAS student assessment results. These videos include an overview of the assessment and of the student's performance in each subject taken, as well as their performance related to the school, district, and state averages. In addition to English, video ISRs may be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified (Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese).

Video ISRs are accessed by scanning the QR code on the ISR, or by downloading a report with video links from [Published Reports](#) (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next).



This *Interpretive Guide* will assist you in understanding the results of the statewide assessments. The guide provides basic information about each assessment, describes each available report, and suggests ways to use the results.

The sections of this guide are:

- [Purpose of Statewide Assessments](#)
- [Data Sites and Resources](#)
- [Types of Reports of Final Assessment Results](#)
- [Interpreting Scores and Achievement Levels](#)
- [Descriptions of Reported Results](#)
- [Sample Individual Student Reports \(ISRs\)](#)
- [Sample Student Results Labels](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

References to additional information on the MDE website exist throughout this guide: education.mn.gov, including one-page quick reference infographics about preliminary or final statewide assessment results.

Infographics for districts

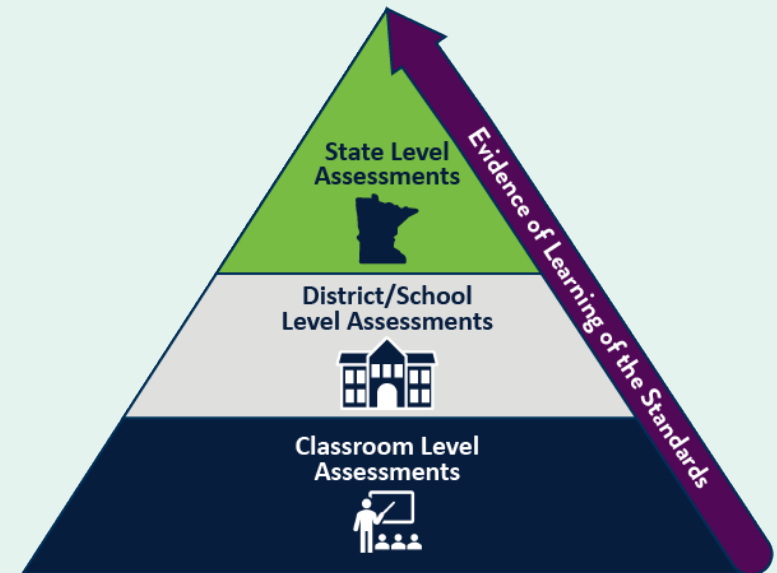
(education.mn.gov > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > District Resources > Test Score Interpretation Resources)

Infographics for students and families

(education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing > Assessment Results)

The purposes and uses of assessment information differ at each level of the education system (state, district/school, and classroom) and for the stakeholders using the information.

Together, information from each level should describe the learning expectations defined in the standards.



TESTING 123

Testing 1, 2, 3 (testing123.education.mn.gov) is a website designed for educators as the primary audience. It contains a number of resources for assessment and data literacy that can be used and shared with district and school staff who interpret results from the statewide assessments.

Purpose of Statewide Assessments

Standards-Based Accountability Assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Science

Pearson is the administration service provider for the standards-based accountability assessments (MCA and MTAS).

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA)

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) is administered to students in reading in grades 3–8 and 10; mathematics in grades 3–8 and 11; and science in grades 5, 8, and high school. The purpose of the MCA is to measure a snapshot of student learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards. These results can be used to look across student groups, schools, and districts to determine where there may be underlying inequities and highlight promising instructional practices.

The MCA is the primary assessment Minnesota uses to meet state and federal accountability requirements. All students are required to take this test or, for eligible students with significant cognitive disabilities, the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS).

Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

The Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) is an alternate assessment in reading in grades 3–8 and 10; mathematics in grades 3–8 and 11; and science in grades 5, 8, and high school that is based on extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards. The MTAS measures the extent to which students with significant cognitive disabilities are making progress on standards that have been reduced in breadth, depth, and complexity. The MTAS is a performance-based assessment where tasks in each subject are administered to students in a one-on-one setting. Test Administrators score performance tasks using a task-specific script and scoring rubric.

Test Specifications

Test specifications provide information on how the academic standards are addressed on the assessment by indicating which strands, substrands, and benchmarks can be assessed and in what proportions. The purpose of the test specifications is to guide test developers on what must be included in each test. Some concepts in the academic standards can only be assessed in the classroom and not on a standardized statewide assessment. The [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards (K-12)), not the test specifications, are meant to be used as the basis for curriculum and instruction.

View [test specifications](#) for the standards-based accountability assessments on the MDE website.

(MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Test Specifications)

English Language Proficiency Accountability Assessments

Minnesota is a member of the [WIDA Consortium](#) (WIDA website > Memberships and Programs > WIDA Consortium > Minnesota).

The English language proficiency accountability assessments, ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, are designed to measure English learners’ progress towards language proficiency as described by the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards.

ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS are administered to English learners in grades K–12. WIDA Alternate ACCESS is for English learners with significant cognitive disabilities.

Year	Test	Grades	Standards	WIDA Resource Link	Early Student-Level Results	WIDA Results/ Reports (Under the Report Delivery menu)
2024	ACCESS	K–12	2012 Amplification of the WIDA English Language Development Standards #	https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/access	In Spring 2024 in Test WES	Individual Student Reports Student Roster Reports District and School Frequency Reports District and School Student Response File Translated Student Reports
2024	WIDA Alternate ACCESS	K–12	WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition ^	https://wida.wisc.edu/assess/alt-access	Early results will not be provided for 2024	Additional details about related reports and resources for 2023–24 will be provided as they are made available from WIDA *

Minnesota educators are approaching full implementation of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition and the first administration of the ACCESS test aligned to the 2020 Edition will be in 2025–26.

* Standard setting will take place in summer 2024 following the administration of the WIDA Alternate ACCESS, which will delay the reporting of results.

^ WIDA Alternate ACCESS test results from past years should not be compared to results from 2023–24 and forward, as the assessment is measuring different standards and has been revised.

ACCESS and WIDA ACCESS Early Student-Level Results

Early student-level results available in Test WES in the spring each year may be used to make individual student reclassification and exiting decisions. Depending on the district’s policy, student-level data can be shared with teachers, students, and families for instructional and informational purposes with the understanding that the scores are preliminary. However, districts should not use this file to calculate school or district summaries to share with the public. Early results are not final, and Posttest Editing changes may affect final results.

For 2024, WIDA Alternate ACCESS will not be included in early student-level results due to additional steps needed for a new assessment.

Official Results in MDE Secure Reports

Keep in mind, MDE Secure Reports includes the official results for ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS.

Resources

Refer to the [Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data](#) for score interpretation and the [Using Assessment Results During Transition to New ELD Standards](#) document for guidance about assessment results while transitioning to the new WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 edition, both available on the [District Resources](#) web page (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > District Resources > Test Score Interpretation Resources).

Data Sites and Resources

Official final results for all statewide assessments are provided by MDE. For preliminary results and unofficial data for MCA and MTAS, visit PearsonAccess Next. For 2024, the following table outlines information about ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS results.

Report/Website	User Guides	MDE	Pearson ACCESS NEXT	WIDA
Minnesota Report Card* Includes publicly available official school, district, and state summary data.	Minnesota Report Card User Guide	public report		
District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR)* Includes official student, school, and district results through secure access.	DSR and SSR User Guide	secure report		
Test Results Summary* Includes official summary results through secure access.	Test Results Summary User Guide	secure report		
Student Assessment History Report* Allows districts to access test history for newly enrolled students, based on student enrollment data submitted to MDE.	Student Assessment History Report User Guide	secure report		
On-Demand Reports (MCA and MTAS) Includes preliminary results reported during testing.	On-Demand Reports and Export User Guide		secure report	
Published Reports (MCA and MTAS) Includes PDF versions of final results released by MDE.	Published Reports Quick Guide		secure report	
Longitudinal Reports (MCA and MTAS) Includes unofficial historical results.	Longitudinal Reports and Export User Guide		secure report	
Historical Student Data (MCA and MTAS) Includes unofficial individual student historical results.	Historical Student Data User Guide		secure report	
Subscore Report (MCA only) Publicly available strand/substrand results in MCA content areas.	Subscore Report User Guide		public report	
Early Student-Level Results (Only for ACCESS data in 2024) Includes preliminary results through secure access in Test WES.	ACCESS Early Student-Level Results	secure report		
WIDA AMS (ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS) Includes unofficial final results through secure access.	WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS) User Guide (WIDA AMS Library > Show Documents)			secure report

* For 2024, all WIDA Alternate ACCESS results will be available in the fall due to additional steps needed for a new assessment.

Assessment Data in Public and Secure Reports

1. Reports Available to the Public

Student privacy protections apply to all public data to protect student privacy. For more information about student privacy and public data, please reference the [Data Practices](#) page (MDE website > About MDE > Data Practices).

- The public Assessment Files include summary performance for the MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, and are available at the state, county, district, and school level by test, year, public/nonpublic, subject and grade.
- The Minnesota Report Card gives families and communities easy access to MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS results for their school, district and the state.
- The MCA Subscore Report includes subscores, or strand and/or substrand results, and is available to the public on PearsonAccess Next. Caution is always required when interpreting subscores; comparing school or district performance to district or state performance are more appropriate uses of group strand/substrand information.

Assessment Files

(MDE website > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics > Accountability and Assessment > Assessment Files)

Minnesota Report Card

(MDE website > Data Center > Minnesota Report Card)

MCA Subscore Report

(PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Subscore Report)

2. Secure Reports

Assessment data in MDE Assessment Secure Reports is available to educators who have obtained permission from their district to access secure reports. Student privacy protections do not apply to secure reports.

- The District Student Results and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files contain all MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS student level assessment results, demographics information, and overall and performance detail scores.
- The Student Assessment History Report allows authorized district staff to look up all student testing history for students who are currently enrolled in the district this school year.
- Test Results Summary reports contain MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS summary results at the school, district, and state level, including demographics information, and overall and performance detail scores.

Login to **MDE Assessment Secure Reports** (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports > Assessment Secure Reports).

View Assessment Secure Reports **user guides and help documents** (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Assessment Secure Reports).

- Copies of final reports for MCA and MTAS are available in **Published Reports** (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next).
- Copies of final reports for ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS are available in **WIDA AMS** (WIDA website > Login).

View the **Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources** page (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources). ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS resources are available in the **WIDA Resource Library** (WIDA website > Resource Library).

Reporting in PearsonAccess Next

Authorized users can sign in to [PearsonAccess Next](#) (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next) to retrieve current preliminary results, prior year, and/or older historical test results for the standards-based accountability assessments (MCA and MTAS). The report options for test results are under the “Reports” menu.

Resources for On-Demand Reports, Longitudinal Reports, Historical Student Data, and Published Reports are available on the **Additional Reporting Resources** page. (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Reporting Resources)

On-Demand Reports

MCA/MTAS student level preliminary results are available in On-Demand Reports in PearsonAccess Next within 60 minutes after a student test or data entry is completed. They remain available until final results are posted in Published Reports.

Student Detail Reports (SDRs) of individual student preliminary results are available as PDFs. Preliminary results can also be downloaded as a Student List Report in PDF or Excel format.

On-Demand Reports include performance details for content areas within a subject. MCA results include overall, strand/substrand scale scores and strand performance levels. MTAS results include overall and extended standards performance details.

A student that moves from one district to another during a test administration will have preliminary results available online in only the district where the student tested.

Longitudinal Reports

Longitudinal Reports include student to state level historical results and can be reviewed by administration, overall and average scale score, achievement level, strand performance detail, and/or student group.

Longitudinal data at the organizational and student level in PearsonAccess Next are updated to include the current year when MDE releases final assessment results.

Historical Student Data

Historical Student Data includes the assessment history for students who previously tested in the district and students who are currently enrolled in the district. Historical Student Data includes a student’s achievement level, scale score, performance details by strand, and test details.

Published Reports

Published Reports are PDF versions of the final reports posted in PearsonAccess Next. Final reports include ISRs, rosters, student labels, and benchmark reports. Rosters are a list of students with individual performance data.

Student rosters, student labels, and Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are posted to Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next at the time the paper ISRs reach districts.

MCA Benchmark Reports are posted a few weeks later.

Only users with the District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles have access to Longitudinal Reports and Published Reports. Teachers need to be assigned to Reporting Groups in PANext to get access to On-Demand Reports and Historical Student Data for their students.

Use of MCA and MTAS Results

Preliminary assessment results provided in [PearsonAccess Next](#) (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next) can be printed and shared with students and families to provide general information about student learning in a timely manner. However, these results are not considered final, so they cannot be shared or summarized publicly. Final assessment results are provided publicly by MDE.

Results in PearsonAccess Next are considered preliminary for the following reasons:

- Many checks occur to ensure the scores of each student are correct and the results are accurate; each item students receive is checked to ensure it is scored correctly.
- Test administration situations (for example, test invalidations or irregularities) could lead to changes from the preliminary results.
- MCA and MTAS assessment data go through [Posttest Editing in Test WES](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Test WES) before final reports are generated, and changes made during this process could lead to final results that differ from the preliminary results available in On-Demand Reports.
- Although results available in Published Reports, Longitudinal Reports, and Historical Student Data will reflect edits made during Posttest Editing, any changes made after Posttest Editing would only be reflected in assessment results at MDE. Even though this would be a rare occurrence, it is why final data are provided by MDE.

The [Statewide Assessments: Using Preliminary Results](#) infographic (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > District Resources) provides information for district staff about using preliminary results for statewide assessments.

Lexile Measure

Preliminary and final Reading MCA results include a predicted Lexile measure for a student's ability, and an upper and lower range that helps match readers with literature appropriate for their reading skills. When reading a book within the predicted Lexile range, the reader should comprehend enough of the text to make sense of it, while still being challenged enough to maintain interest and learn. Visit hub.lexile.com for more information about the [Lexile Framework](#).

Predicted Lexile[®](*) measure: **835L**
and range: **735L - 940L**

Quantile Measure

Preliminary and final Mathematics MCA results include a predicted Quantile measure for a student's ability, and an upper and lower range that helps match the student with materials appropriate for their ability in mathematical skills and concepts. Mathematics materials within the predicted Quantile range can challenge students without overwhelming them. Visit hub.lexile.com for more information about the [Quantile Framework](#).

Predicted Quantile[®](*) measure: **1275Q**
and range: **1225Q - 1325Q**

Types of Reports of Final Assessment Results

Reports available for 2024 are listed in the following table:

Report Types						
Name	Format	Student	School	District	Statewide	Additional Resources in this Guide
Student Results Files (MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS)						
School (SSR)	Online	✓				Page 8, Data Sites and Resources Page 9, MDE Data Center > Secure Reports
District (DSR)	Online	✓				
Test Results Summary Files (MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS)						
School	Online		✓	✓	✓	Page 8, Data Sites and Resources Page 9, MDE Data Center > Secure Reports
District	Online			✓	✓	
Individual Student Report (ISRs) Shipments (MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS)						
ISR for Parent/ Guardian*	Paper	✓	✓	✓	✓	Page 7, English Language Proficiency Accountability Assessments Page 25, Sample MCA/MTAS ISRs
Student Results Labels (MCA/MTAS only, optional)**	Paper	✓				Page 35, Sample Student Results Labels
Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next (MCA, MTAS)						
Benchmark Reports by grade and subject for a school	Online		✓			Page 8, Data Sites and Resources Page 10, Reporting in PearsonAccess Next Page 40, Online Resources > PearsonAccess Next
Benchmark Reports by grade and subject for a district	Online			✓		
ISR PDFs	Online	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rosters PDFs	Online		✓			
Student Results Label PDFs	PDF	✓				
Final Results in WIDA AMS (ACCESS, WIDA Alternate ACCESS)						
ISR PDFs	Online	✓	✓	✓	✓	Page 7, English Language Pro iciency Accountability Assessments Page 40, Online Resources > WIDA Website
Student Roster Report PDFs	Online		✓	✓		

*Districts may elect to download PDFs and provide them electronically to parents/guardians.

**Districts have the option to request printed labels from Pearson and/or download PDFs from PearsonAccess Next.



Interpreting Scores and Achievement Levels

You can find student-level results in the DSR and SSR files available in the Secure Reports section of the MDE website. Student-level data on assessment results provides a useful starting point when this information is paired with information from district and [classroom assessments](#) (Testing 1, 2, 3 site > Assess > Classroom Assessments).

For 2024, the following types of individual student-level results for MCA and MTAS are available:

- Achievement level
- Overall scale score
- Performance at the subscore or strand/substrand level, also known as content areas within a subject.
 - For MCA, subscores are given in a scale score range of 1–9 and as strand/substrand performance level descriptors.
 - For MTAS, subscores as extended standards are reported as points earned out of points possible.

MCA includes subscores, as strands and substrands, or as performance level descriptors.

- Strand/substrand performance levels are reported as Below Expectations, At or Near Expectations, of Above Expectations.
- Performance levels are determined by comparing the school (or district) performance to the state expectation at the Meets achievement level.
- Strand/substrand scores are also given in a scale score range of 1 to 9. Calculations for the scores are different from those for the performance levels.
- Calculations for performance levels use the standard error of measurement, which is an estimate of how much error there is likely to be in an individual's observed score, or how much score variation would be expected if the individual were tested multiple times with equivalent forms of the test.
- Comparing school or district performance to district or state performance is a more appropriate use of group strand/substrand information.

MTAS includes subscores as extended standards.

- Subscores as extended standards for MTAS are reported as raw score points earned out of points possible and should only be compared within a particular year.
- Comparisons at the school and district levels may provide insight about strengths or areas needing improvement relative to other schools or districts.
- Subscores based on raw score points are not equated for differences in difficulty in a given year; one strand or substrand may have items that are more difficult than others.
- Comparisons between different subscores or across multiple years is not advised.

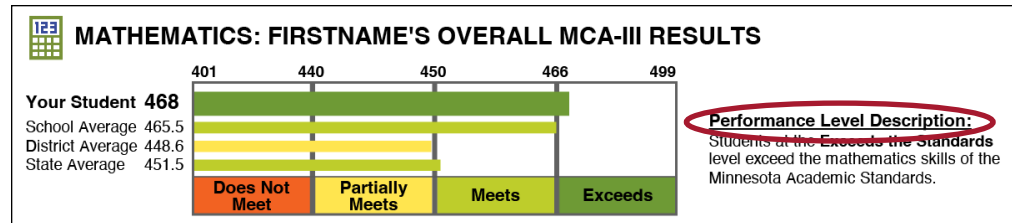
Learn how to [interpret statewide assessment scores](#) on the Testing 1, 2, 3 site (Testing 1, 2, 3 site > Analyze > Interpret Statewide Assessment Scores).

View school, district, and state level strand performance levels in the [MCA Subscore Report](#) on PearsonAccess Next (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Subscore Report).

Development of the Achievement Level Descriptors



The MCA and MTAS Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) give descriptive information of what students at each achievement level are expected to know of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

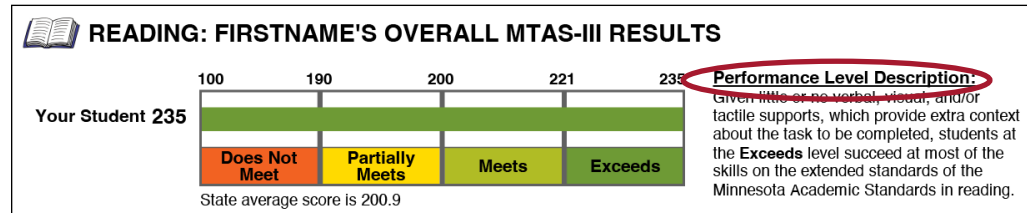
 Achievement Level Descriptors appear as Performance Level Descriptors on the Individual Student Reports (ISRs).



Your Student's Reading and Mathematics Performance History
Your student's Performance History in Reading and Mathematics on the MCA is below. The tables show the achievement level for your student by grade and subject.

Your Student's MATHEMATICS Performance History

Student Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year	2023	2024				
Achievement level of student score on grade level standards	 Meets	 Exceeds				



READING: PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Firstname's score Exceeds the Reading Alternate Achievement Standards

Students at the **Exceeds** level succeed at most of the skills on the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards in reading. Given little or no verbal, visual, and/or tactile supports, which provide extra context about the task to be completed, the students may demonstrate the ability to:

Key Ideas and Details: Make connections between the main idea/central message and key details of a reading passage; identify multiple traits and behaviors of characters; compare and contrast characters; answer literal and basic inferential questions about a story, poem, or informational text; sequence events or steps in a process; make relevant connections between characters and setting; summarize whole text; identify cause and effect; draw appropriate conclusions based on a literal interpretation of a reading passage; make logical inferences, predictions, and generalizations based on a reading passage; and identify the plot of a story.

Craft and Structure: Determine literal meanings of new words or multiple-meaning words by using context clues; and determine the meaning of new grade-level, content area vocabulary.

The ALDs were developed focusing on the content of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Preliminary drafts of the ALDs were provided for the standard setting panels as they began their work to determine cut scores for each of the achievement levels. After standard setting, minor adjustments were made to more accurately reflect the skills demonstrated by students at each of the achievement level score ranges.

Educators have requested more detailed descriptions of the knowledge, skills, and abilities demonstrated by students across the four achievement levels on the MCA, beyond what the traditional Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) offer. Benchmark ALDs are also available for mathematics and reading in grades 3–8 and high school, and describe student performance at the benchmark level.

View the [ALDs and Benchmark ALDs](#) on the Testing 1, 2, 3 site (Testing 1, 2, 3 site > Plan and Teach > Success Criteria)

How to Use the Achievement Level Descriptors

The Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) describe the four levels of achievement specific to grade-level for the statewide assessments, based on the standards.

Students who achieve the “Meets” and “Exceeds” levels are considered proficient with regards to the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) described in the academic standards.

Developed by panels of Minnesota teachers and content experts, the ALDs were created by focusing on a set of questions in reference to the standards and test specifications.

These questions might also be useful to educators in determining performance levels when designing classroom assessments and learning objectives:

- To what degree do students master each standard at each achievement level?
- For which KSAs is it possible to describe gradations of performance across four levels, and for which KSAs is it not feasible?

When using any of the Minnesota ALDs, it is important to remember that the performance of an individual student at an achievement level may vary from the descriptors.

View the MCA and MTAS [Achievement Level Descriptors](#) on the MDE website.

(MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Achievement Level Descriptors)

What can teachers do with MCA and MTAS data?

The MCA and MTAS results can be used to gain a general sense of strengths and gaps in curriculum and instruction.

Teachers can analyze statewide results by achievement level in their school, class, or by grade considering questions like:

- What additional evidence can you consider, like classroom work, attendance, or family surveys?
- Are there instructional changes that could provide additional context (such as, curriculum changes, emphasis on a certain content strand)?
- Are the students who tested representative of your total student population? How does this compare to previous years?
- Who did and did not participate, and why?
- What percent of students are not yet proficient? How does this compare across student groups?
- What do you notice about the percent of students in each achievement level? How does this compare across years or student groups?

However, a teacher needs more fine-grained, curricular information to differentiate instruction for individual and groups of students and for more granular-level planning.

View ways to **use statewide assessment data** on the Testing 1, 2, 3 site (Testing 1, 2, 3 site > Analyze > Use Statewide Assessment Data)

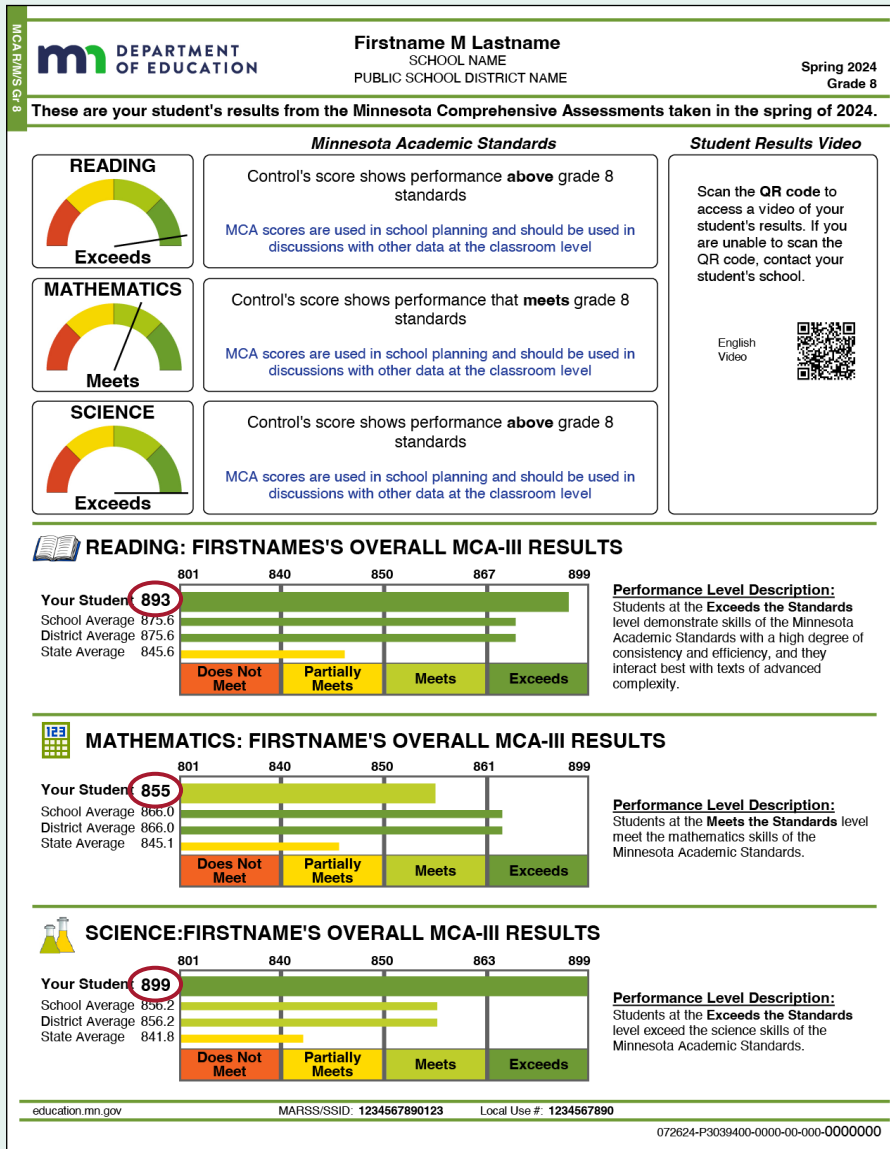
Descriptions of Reported Results

MCA Overall Results

Scale Scores

- The raw score totals (points earned) for Science MCA are converted to a scale score specific to each grade.
- For all grades of Reading and Mathematics MCA, the scale score is not based on the raw score total; it is based on the specific pattern of correct and incorrect responses given by the student. For all three subjects, use the scale score to determine the student's achievement level on the test.
- Each year, the test is equated for difficulty with the previous year's test. This means the scale score has equivalent meaning and provides a valid comparison from year to year for a given grade and subject provided that the academic standards being assessed remain unchanged. Scale scores between grades cannot be compared.
- Refer to the table on the next page and on [Testing 1, 2, 3](#) for further information about comparing results across years.

View [Understanding MCA Scale Scores](#) for an overview of how to interpret scale scores and compare across grades (Testing 1, 2, 3 site > Analyze > Interpret Statewide Assessment Scores).



Comparing Assessment Results from Year to Year

Use caution when interpreting trend data as assessments change when academic standards are revised; see additional information in the following table.

Assessment	Grades	Year Academic Standards Last Revised	First Year Assessment Based on Revised Standards	Years Scores Are Comparable*
Mathematics MCA and MTAS	3–8	2007	2011	2011 to 2024
Mathematics MCA and MTAS	11	2007	2014	2014 to 2024
Science MCA and MTAS	5, 8, HS	2009	2012	2012 to 2024
Reading MCA and MTAS	3–8, 10	2010	2013	2013 to 2024

*Due to COVID-19, there was limited data for 2020 and no summary data was provided for any public or secure reports.

- Grades 3–8 Mathematics MCA and MTAS scores from 2011 to 2024 can be compared as 2011 was the first year that those assessments were based on the 2007 revised mathematics academic standards.
- Grade 11 Mathematics MCA and MTAS scores from 2014 to 2024 can be compared as 2014 was the first year that the assessment was based on the 2007 revised mathematics academic standards.
- Grades 5, 8, and high school Science MCA and MTAS scores from 2012 to 2024 can be compared as 2012 was the first year that those assessments were based on the 2009 revised science academic standards.
- Grades 3–8 and 10 Reading MCA and MTAS scores from 2013 to 2024 can be compared as 2013 was the first year that those assessments were based on the 2010 revised reading academic standards.

Note: New [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards (K-12)) are in the process of being adopted for all subjects. The timeline for the first administration of the revised science assessments is school year 2024–25. Refer to the *Using Assessment Results During Transition to New Academic Standards*: Science resource on the [District Resources](#) web page (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > District Resources > Test Score Interpretation Resources) for guidance on using and communicating about assessment results while transitioning to new academic standards. The timeline for the first administration of the revised reading assessments is school year 2025–26. The timeline for the first administration of the mathematics assessment is anticipated to be school year 2027–28.

Achievement Levels

For the MCA, the four achievement levels and the colors that represent them are:

- Exceeds the Standards (dark green)
- Meets the Standards (light green)
- Partially Meets the Standards (yellow)
- Does Not Meet the Standards (red)

Exceeds the Standards and Meets the Standards are considered proficient.

Students are assigned an achievement level based on their scale score. For the MCA, commissioner-approved cut scores are used to assign achievement levels. The cut scores for levels Partially Meets the Standards and Meets the Standards are G40 and G50, respectively. The cut score for level Exceeds the Standards varies by grade and subject.

The Science MCA assessment raw scores are converted to scale scores and more than one raw score point may be assigned the same scale score, except at the cut scores for each achievement level or at the maximum possible score of G99. For more information about understanding scale scores, visit the [Testing 1, 2, 3 website](#).

For details of the raw score to scale score relationship, visit the [Technical Reports](#) section of the MDE website.

(MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Technical Reports)

The first one or two digits represent the grade. The last two digits of the number identify the position of the score on the grade scale. For example, a grade 8 scale score might be 859, and a grade 10 scale score might be 1059.

NOTE: Although the high school Science MCA can be administered in any grade (9–12) depending on coursework completion, grade 10 is used to represent the grade for the high school scores.

The last two digits of the number identify the position within the scale range.

MCA Scale Scores & Achievement Levels			
Does Not Meet the Standards—Students at this level succeed at few of the most fundamental skills or the Minnesota Academic Standards.	Partially Meets the Standards—Students at this level partially meet this subject's skills for the Minnesota Academic Standards.	Meets the Standards—Students at this level meet this subject's skills for the Minnesota Academic Standards.	Exceeds the Standards—Students at this level exceed this subject's skills for the Minnesota Academic Standards.
G01	G40	G50	G67
			G99
Does Not Meet (G01–G39)	Partially Meets (G40–G49)	Meets (G50–G66)	Exceeds (G67–G99)

Each grade level will have the same score range (G01 to G99), with G=Grade. For example, a grade 8 scale score would be in the range of 801–899. A grade 10 scale score would be in the range of 1001–1099.

The first two cut scores, G40 and G50, will be constant over the years. The third cut score varies by grade and subject. In this graphic, G67 is used as an example.

MCA Content Area Performance Details

A student's performance in a content area within a subject is compared to the state expectations for the content area and reported as Below Expectations, At or Near Expectations, or Above Expectations.



For more information on performance details on content areas, reference the applicable **test specifications** on the MDE website.

(MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Test Specifications)

Mathematics MCA Content Areas

The Mathematics MCA content areas represent the four mathematics strands from the 2007 Minnesota Academic Standards in Mathematics.

Grades 3 to 8

- Number and Operation (NOPS): may include understanding meanings of numbers and operations, computing fluently, and making reasonable estimates.
- Algebra (ALGS): may include using models to understand, represent, and analyze patterns, relations, and functions.
- Geometry and Measurement (GMS): may include analyzing properties of geometric shapes, understanding the units, systems, and processes of measurement.
- Data Analysis (DANS) (grades 3–5) and Data Analysis and Probability (DAPS) (grades 6–8): may include organizing and displaying relevant data questions, understanding and applying basic concepts of probability.

Grade 11

- Algebra (ALGS): identify features of functions and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems, generate equivalent expressions, and solve equations and inequalities.
- Geometry and Measurement (GMS): calculate measurements, construct logical arguments to prove results, and apply properties of figures to solve problems.
- Data Analysis and Probability (DAPS): display and analyze data, use various measures to draw conclusions, make predictions, and calculate probabilities.

Reading MCA Content Areas

The Reading MCA content areas reflect the substrands of Literature and Informational Text from the 2010 Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts, which are outlined in the test specifications. All of the reading reports—grades 3–8 and 10—have the same content areas.

- Literature (LSS): use strategies to analyze, interpret, and evaluate fiction (such as short stories, fables, poetry, and drama).
- Informational Text (INFS): use strategies to analyze, interpret, and evaluate nonfiction (such as expository and persuasive text, and literary nonfiction).



The ten reading standards are organized under four skill domains. The four skill domains are:

- Key Ideas and Details (standards 1–3). Use text evidence to make inferences, conclusions, and predictions; analyze symbolism; recall cause/effect; sequence events; identify relevant details; compare/contrast individuals and ideas; summarize text, including main idea, plot, theme, and topic; recognize literary elements; and define literary terms.
- Craft and Structure (standards 4–6). Define literary devices; use evidence to justify word meanings; recognize word relationships, context, and structure; categorize technical terminology; analyze tone; use figures of speech, and features, format, and function of text structures; use connotations, word history, and structure; interpret author's purpose; and identify transitions, mood, and style.
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas (standards 7–9). Analyze author's credibility, bias, and argumentation methods; recognize sufficiency of evidence and validity of reasoning; identify fallacies; and recognize effective persuasion. Not assessed on the MCA.
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity (standard 10). Not assessed on the MCA.

Within the skill domains, seven of the ten reading standards are assessed on the Reading MCA. Standards 7, 9, and 10 are best assessed using classroom measures and are not assessed on the Reading MCA.

Science MCA Content Areas

The Science MCA content areas in grades 5 and 8 include all four strands and in high school two strands are included from the 2009 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science.

Grade 5 Strands

- Nature of Science and Engineering (NSE): may include conducting controlled scientific investigations, constructing explanations based on evidence, and identifying engineering solutions to problems.
- Physical Science (PSCS): may include describing and experimenting with the properties of matter, light, heat, sound, electricity, magnetism, and force and motion.
- Earth and Space Science (ESS): may include recognizing positions of the Sun, Earth, and Moon, describing how weathering and erosion shape Earth's surface, and how water moves through the water cycle.
- Life Science (LIFS): may include comparing structures and functions of organisms and relationships among organisms, and understanding that individual differences give advantages in survival.

Grade 8 Strands

- Nature of Science and Engineering (NSE): may include understanding how humans affect scientific investigations, designing and conducting investigations, communicating results, and refining engineering solutions.
- Physical Science (PSCS): may include differentiating between physical and chemical changes, understanding properties of waves and force and motion of an object, and describing changes in energy.
- Earth and Space Science (ESS): may include understanding how forces affect motions of objects in the universe, describing weather patterns, and understanding the processes that occur on Earth.
- Life Science (LIFS): may include identifying changes in energy within an ecosystem, understanding cell processes and genetic variation, and describing the effect of humans on ecosystems.

High School Strands

- Nature of Science & Engineering (NSE): may include analyzing risks and benefits of engineering solutions, accurately communicating scientific results, and testing hypotheses.

Substrands

- Practice of Science (POSS)
- Practice of Engineering (POES)
- Interactions among STEM and Society (INTS)
- Life Science (LIFS): may include describing cell functions and processes, understanding relationships of organisms in an ecosystem, and the role of DNA and variation in evolution.

Substrands

- Structure and Functions in Living Systems (SFLS)
- Interdependence among Living Systems (IALS)
- Evolution in Living Systems (EILS)
- Human Interaction with Living Systems (HILS)



CAUTION – Use care when interpreting data involving few students or test items.

The more test items taken within content areas in a subject, the more reliable the test results are.

MTAS Overall Results

Scale Scores

The raw score totals (points earned) for Mathematics, Reading, and Science MTAS are converted to a scale score for each test subject and grade. This scale score represents how the student performed on the test. Each year, the test is equated for difficulty with the previous year's test, which means the scale score permits a valid comparison of achievement from year to year for a given grade and subject (provided that the academic standards being assessed have not changed).

Achievement Levels

For the MTAS, the four achievement levels and the colors that represent them are:

- Exceeds the Alternate Achievement Standards (dark green)
- Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards (light green)
- Partially Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards (yellow)
- Does Not Meet the Alternate Achievement Standards (red)

Exceeds and Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards are considered proficient.

Students are assigned an achievement level based on their scale score. The cut scores for levels Partially Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards and Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards for all grades and subjects are 190 and 200, respectively. The cut score for level Exceeds the Alternate Achievement Standards varies by grade and subject.

Specific details regarding the raw score to scale score relationship are reported on the Technical Reports section of the MDE website.

Example from Report

MATHEMATICS AREA	DESCRIPTION	POINTS EARNED* /POINTS POSSIBLE
Number and Operation:	May include understanding meanings of numbers and operations and how they relate to one another; computing fluently and making reasonable estimates.	4 / 6
Algebra:	May include models to understand, represent and analyze patterns, relations, and functions.	9 / 12
Geometry and Measurement:	May include analyzing characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes and developing mathematical arguments about geometric relationships; understanding the units, systems, and processes of measurement.	2 / 3
Data Analysis and Probability:	May include organizing and displaying relevant data questions; understanding and applying basic concepts of probability.	5 / 6
TOTAL:		20 / 27

* State averages for the areas and total are 3.7, 7.7, 1.7, and 4.7 respectively.

Comparison of the number of points earned by the student to the total number of points possible.

MTAS Content Area Performance Details

A student's performance in a content area within a subject is reported by comparing the number of points earned by the student to the total number of points possible for each content area. The MTAS consists of nine performance tasks per subject as identified in the extended standard statements described in the MTAS test specifications. Each task is worth 3 points, and each MTAS content area is measured by a single task or multiple tasks. The sum of a student's content area points earned is the student's total points earned.

View all of the MTAS performance descriptions on the MDE website in the **MTAS Achievement Level Descriptors**.

(MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Achievement Level Descriptors)

View the **Technical Reports** section of the MDE website.

(MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Technical Reports)

Mathematics MTAS Content Areas

Grades 3 to 8

- Number and Operation (NOPS): may include understanding meanings of numbers and operations and how they relate to one another, computing fluently, and making reasonable estimates.
- Algebra (ALGS): may include models to understand, represent, and analyze patterns, relations, and functions.
- Geometry and Measurement (GMS): may include analyzing characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes and developing mathematical arguments about geometric relationships, understanding the units, systems, and processes of measurement.
- Data Analysis (DANS) (grades 3–5) and Data Analysis and Probability (DAPS) (grades 6–8): may include organizing and displaying relevant data questions, and understanding and applying basic concepts of probability.

Grade 11

- Algebra (ALGS): understand the concept of functions and recognize, represent, and solve linear functions.
- Geometry and Measurement (GMS): know and apply properties of geometric figures to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Data Analysis and Probability (DAPS): display and analyze data to identify trends and describe relationships, and calculate and apply probability concepts to solve real-world and mathematical problems.

Reading MTAS Content Areas

The Reading MTAS includes performance tasks that measure the student's understanding of short fiction and nonfiction passages. Passages and tasks may be accompanied by pictures, symbols, and/or objects. Students taking the Reading MTAS may listen to passages, read the passages along with the teacher, or read the passages independently. The following bullets list the extended standards for Reading MTAS.

Grade 3

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly.
- Determine central ideas in a text; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- Recognize that individuals, events, and ideas develop over the course of a text.
- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text.

Grade 4

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and make simple inferences.
- Determine central ideas in a text; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- Identify how individuals, events, and ideas develop over the course of a text.
- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text.

Grades 5 to 8 and Grade 10

- Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and make inferences.
- Determine the main idea in a text; summarize key supporting details and ideas.
- Describe how individuals, events, and ideas develop (and/or interact, for grade 10 only) over the course of a text.
- Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including multiple-meaning words.

Science MTAS Content Areas

Grade 5

- Nature of Science and Engineering (NSE): may include knowing and selecting the proper tools for scientific investigations and understanding their purpose.
- Physical Science (PSCS): may include identifying and giving examples of the states of matter and understanding the role temperature plays when matter changes from solid to liquid to gas.
- Earth and Space Science (ESS): may include understanding how reducing, reusing, and recycling can help address the environmental problem of solid waste and identifying how the components of the water cycle work together.
- Life Science (LIFS): may include sorting and classifying common plants and animals based on their physical characteristics and understanding how personal hygiene is important to maintaining human health.

Grade 8

- Nature of Science and Engineering (NSE): may include identifying common engineered systems, how people use them, and ways they benefit daily life.
- Physical Science (PSCS): may include identifying states of matter, recognizing when matter has undergone a physical or chemical change, and understanding how different forces (e.g., gravity, friction, pushes, pulls) affect the speed and direction of objects.
- Earth and Space Science (ESS): may include understanding that landforms can change and identifying the effects of weathering, erosion, and deposition on landforms over time.
- Life Science (LIFS): may include identifying and understanding the functions of organs in the respiratory, circulatory, and digestive systems (e.g., lungs, heart, stomach), and understanding that some organisms cause diseases in humans.

High School

- Nature of Science and Engineering (NSE): may include identifying a hypothesis and understanding how it guides a scientific investigation, identifying data collection and a conclusion in a scientific experiment, and understanding that scientific experiments can produce different results.
- Life Science (LIFS): may include understanding that animals and plants use different structures to obtain energy (e.g., mouth for animals, leaves for plants), recognizing the factors that can affect an organism's survival (e.g., the ability to find food and water), identifying inherited traits, and identifying the risks and benefits of humans on the environment.



CAUTION – Use care when interpreting data involving few students or test items.

The more test items taken within content areas in a subject, the more reliable the test results are.

Sample Individual Student Reports



An Individual Student Report (ISR) is generated for every student participating in the assessment and for students who did not participate, showing why results are not included (absent, test invalidated, medical excuse, not attempted, not completed, not enrolled, parent or student refusal, wrong grade, and no test data available). The ISR for a participating student describes an individual student's performance in terms of overall results, performance level, and Minnesota Academic Standards for each subject.



See the glossary at the end of this guide for additional information and definitions of terms on the ISR.

Grades	Report Page Count
3, 4, 6, and 7	One 4-page report includes the results for reading and mathematics
5 and 8	One 4-page report includes the results for reading, mathematics, and science
High School	Separate 2-page reports include the results for each subject: grade 10 reading, grade 11 mathematics, and science in the year when life science instruction is completed.

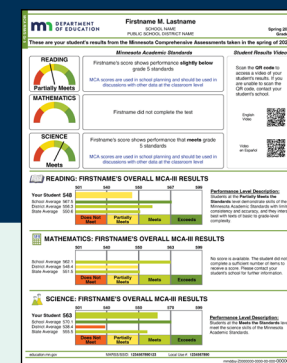
View [sample MCA and MTAS ISRs](#) on the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources page.

(PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources)

Schools can receive paper copies of ISRs for MCA and MTAS or choose to instead retrieve electronic ISRs from PearsonAccess Next. The ISR needs to be shared with the student's parent/guardian no later than Dec.1, whether through a student information system, mailed to the student's parent/guardian, or another method chosen by the district.

Districts can also access final student-level information through the DSR and SSR files provided on the Secure Reports section of the MDE website.

Refer to the table for report page counts by grade. If a student participated in both MCA and MTAS for different subjects, students receive separate ISRs for each.



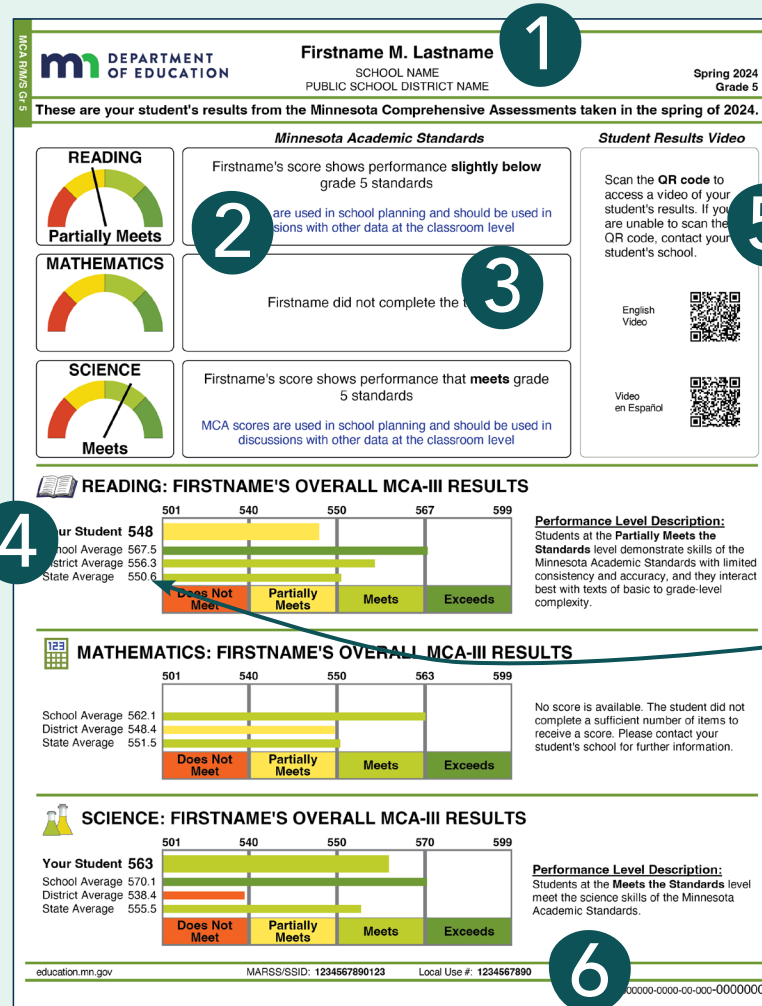
Grades 3–8 Reports

Grades 3–8 MCA Sample Individual Student Report

On the grades 3–8 multi-subject reports, it may be the case that a student may not have participated in all the assessments. In those cases, the reports indicate when no test data is available and may include a reason such as absent or not enrolled.

Page 1

- 1. Student Demographic Information**—The report begins with demographic information for the student, including: Student Name, Grade, School, District, Date, and Assessment.
- 2. Performance Meter**—For each reported subject, the Performance Meter graphically indicates the student's overall score as an achievement level, which is the performance level on the ISR.
- 3. Standards**—Next to the Performance Meter is a description of the student's score in relation to what students at each performance level are expected to know of the Minnesota Academic Standards.
- 4. Overall Results**—For each reported subject, performance is indicated by a student scale score, performance level, and performance level description. A scale score represents one of four performance levels for each subject: Exceeds the Standards, Meets the Standards, Partially Meets the Standards, or Does Not Meet the Standards. A graph for each subject provides a comparison of the student's performance to the school, district, and state average scale scores.



- 5. Student Results Video**—A video report is available for each student with at least one valid score. Video ISRs are accessed through scanning the QR code on the ISR, or download a report with video links from [Published Reports](#) (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next). Video may also be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified.

A scale score is derived by converting a student's item response pattern (Reading and Mathematics MCA) or raw score (Science MCA) to the reported scale after accounting for differences in test difficulty from one year to the next.

- 6. School Use Numbers**—MARSS/SSID and Local Use numbers are indicated at the bottom.

Grades 3–8 MCA Sample Individual Student Report—Pages 2 and 3

7. **Report Information**—The test, date, and student reported are at the top of the page.

8. **Performance Indicators**—Performance on content areas within each subject is reported as a comparison to the state expectations. A downward-pointing arrow indicates performance below state expectations, a horizontal double-headed arrow indicates performance at or near state expectations, and an upward-pointing arrow indicates performance above state expectations.

9. **Performance Details**—Description and performance in content areas for each subject.

10. **Lexile® Measure**—The predicted Lexile measure of the student's reading ability and the upper and lower range that helps match a reader with literature appropriate for their reading skills. Available for Reading MCA only.

11. **Quantile® Measure**—The predicted Quantile measure of the student's mathematical ability and the upper and lower range that helps match them with materials appropriate for their ability in mathematical skills and concepts. Available for Mathematics MCA only.

12. **Resources and Learning**—Additional information on the Lexile framework (Reading MCA only) and the Quantile framework (Mathematics MCA only).

13. **Performance History**

- The tables show results for each year the MCA was given in the subjects applicable to that grade. When no score is available, a description of why is included.
- The four MCA achievement levels include Does Not Meet, Partially Meets, Meets, and Exceeds the grade-level standards.
- Students who achieve the Meets or Exceeds the Standards performance levels are demonstrating the knowledge, skills and abilities expected for their grade level, as described in the academic standards.
- The achievement level reported for a grade relates to the Minnesota Academic Standards tested in that particular grade only. When looking at results across grades, keep in mind academic standards change from grade to grade.

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS Spring 2024 Page 2 of 4 Firstname M. Lastname

Performance within Subjects

Your student's score is compared to the state expectations for each subject and content area tested. Performance in content areas within a subject is reported as Below Expectations, At or Near Expectations, or Above Expectations.

↓ = Below Expectations ↔ = At or Near Expectations ↑ = Above Expectations

READING: Performance Details

READING AREA	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMANCE
Literature:	Use strategies to analyze, interpret, and evaluate fiction (such as short stories, fables, poetry, and drama).	↓ Below Expectations
Informational Text:	Use strategies to analyze, interpret, and evaluate nonfiction (such as expository and persuasive text, and literary nonfiction).	↔ At or Near Expectations

Predicted Lexile® measure: 835L and 940L

MATHEMATICS: Performance Details

MATHEMATICS AREA	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMANCE
Number and Operation:	May include understanding meanings of numbers and operations; computing fluently and making reasonable estimates.	No Test Data Available
Algebra:	May include modeling to understand, represent and analyze patterns, relations, and functions.	No Test Data Available
Geometry and Measurement:	May include analyzing properties of geometric shapes; understanding the units, systems, and processes of measurement.	No Test Data Available
Data Analysis:	May include organizing and displaying relevant data questions; understanding and applying basic concepts of probability.	No Test Data Available

Predicted Quantile® measure: NA and range: NA

SCIENCE: Performance Details

SCIENCE AREA	DESCRIPTION	PERFORMANCE
Nature of Science and Engineering:	May include conducting controlled scientific investigations, constructing explanations based on evidence, and identifying engineering solutions to problems.	↔ At or Near Expectations
Physical Science:	May include describing and experimenting with the properties of matter, light, heat, sound, electricity, magnetism, and force and motion.	↔ At or Near Expectations
Earth and Space Science:	May include recognizing positions of the Sun, Earth, and Moon, describing how weathering and erosion shape Earth's surface and how water moves through the water cycle.	↔ At or Near Expectations
Life Science:	May include comparing structures and functions of organisms and relationships among organisms, and understanding that individual differences give advantages in survival.	↑ Above Expectations

Resources for Learning

- Enter the predicted Lexile range at hub.lexile.com to match your student's reading skills with books appropriate for their level. Enter the predicted Quantile range to match your student with resources appropriate for their level.

education.mn.gov

MINNESOTA COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS Spring 2024 Page 3 of 4 Firstname M. Lastname

How should parents/guardians use these results?

- State test results are a snapshot of student learning from one day, and they are one data point among many that schools use when measuring classroom teaching and learning.
- Teachers use other assessments on a regular basis, such as quizzes, mid-terms, chapter tests, and final exams, to capture how well students are learning concepts taught in the classroom. Teachers look for areas students do well so they can reinforce how those skills are taught, and for areas that need improvement so they can individualize instruction.
- To be an advocate for your student, keep track of their academic progress and communicate regularly with their teachers.

What does the year to year comparison below represent?

- The table shows results for each year the MCA was given in the subjects applicable to that grade. When no score is available, a description of why is included.
- The four MCA performance levels, also referred to as achievement levels, include Does Not Meet, Partially Meets, Meets, and Exceeds the Standards.
- The performance level reported for a grade relates to the Minnesota Academic Standards tested in that particular grade only. When looking at results across grades, keep in mind academic standards change from grade to grade.
- Students who achieve the Meets or Exceeds the Standards performance levels are demonstrating the knowledge, skills and abilities expected for their grade level, as described in the academic standards.

Your Student's Reading, Mathematics, and Science Performance History

Your student's Performance History in Reading, Mathematics, and Science on the MCA is below. The tables show the achievement level for your student by grade and subject.

Your Student's READING Performance History

Student Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year	2022	2023	2024			
Achievement level of student score on grade level standards	Not Completed	Exceeds	Partially Meets			

Your Student's MATHEMATICS Performance History

Student Grade	3	4	5	6	7	8
Year	2022	2023	2024			
Achievement level of student score on grade level standards	Meets	Partially Meets	Not Completed			

Your Student's SCIENCE Performance History

Student Grade	5	8
Year	2024	
Achievement level of student score on grade level standards	Meets	

Science is given in grade 5, grade 8 and once at the high school level depending on coursework completion.

Additional Resources

- Go to the [Minnesota Academic Standards](https://www.mn.gov/education) webpage to learn more about the learning expectations for each grade and subject (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards K-12).
- Go to the [Minnesota Report Card](https://www.mn.gov/education) to see results for your student's district and school and others throughout the state (MDE website > Data Center > Minnesota Report Card).

education.mn.gov

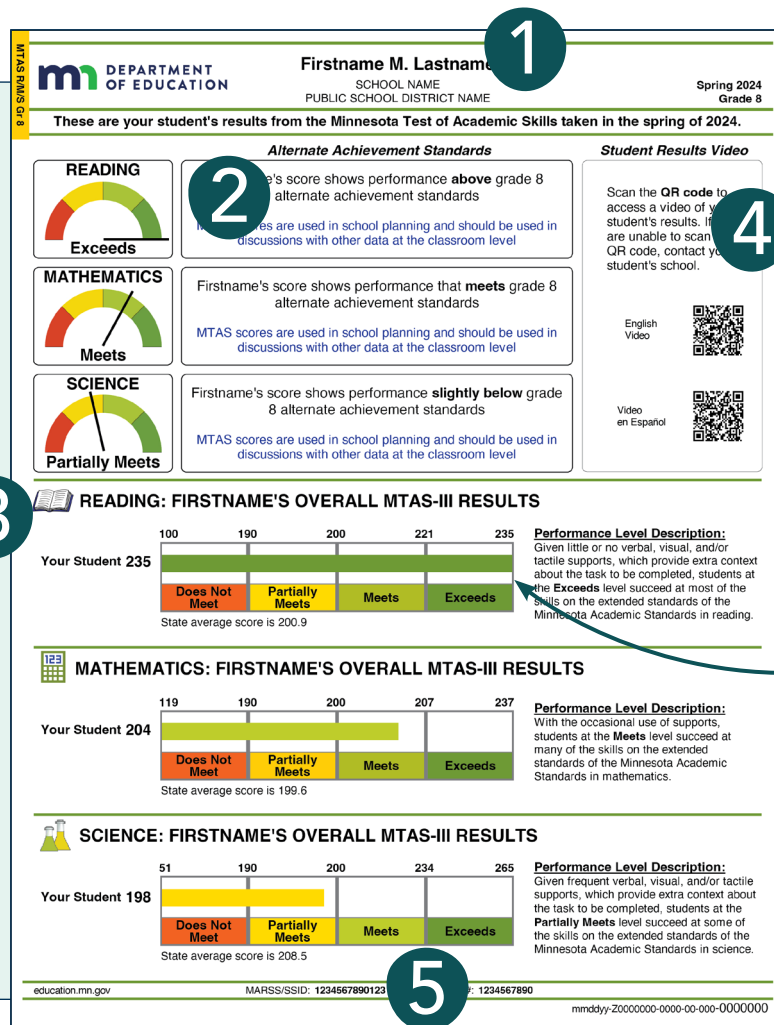
Grades 3–8 MTAS Sample Individual Student Report

On the grades 3–8 multi-subject reports, it may be the case that a student may not have participated in all the assessments. In those cases, the reports indicate when no test data is available and may include a reason such as absent or not enrolled.

Page 1

1. **Student Demographic Information**—The report begins with demographic information for the student, including: Student Name, Grade, School, District, Date, and Assessment.
2. **Performance Meter**—For each reported subject, performance is graphically indicated and described in relation to the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards.
3. **Overall Results**—For each reported subject, performance is indicated by a student scale score, performance level, and performance level description.

A scale score is derived by converting a student's raw score to the reported scale after accounting for differences in test difficulty from one year to the next. State average scores are provided for comparison.



4. **Student Results Video**—A video report is available for each student with at least one valid score. Video ISRs are accessed through scanning the QR code on the ISR, or download a report with video links from **Published Reports** (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next). Video may also be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified.

A scale score represents one of four performance levels for each subject: Exceeds the Alternate Achievement Standards, Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards, Partially Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards, or Does Not Meet the Alternate Achievement Standards.

5. **School Use Numbers**—MARSS/SSID and Local Use numbers are indicated at the bottom.

Grades 3–8 MTAS Sample Individual Student Report—Pages 2 and 3

6. Report Information—The test, date, and student reported are at the top of the page.

7. MTAS Scoring Rubric—This rubric was used by the Test Administrator to score MTAS tasks along with a task-specific script.

6

MINNESOTA TEST OF ACADEMIC SKILLS Spring 2024 Page 2 of 4 Firstname M. Lastname

7

Performance within Subjects
Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) Scoring Rubric
 The MTAS consists of nine performance tasks per subject. For each task, points are earned according to the guidelines below.
 • The student responds correctly without assistance = 3 points
 • The student responds correctly to the task after the test administrator provides additional support = 2 points
 • The student responds incorrectly to the task after the test administrator has provided additional support = 1 point
 • The student does not respond to the task or the student's response is unrelated to the task = 0 points

READING: PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Firstname's score Exceeds the Reading Alternate Achievement Standards
 Students at the **Exceeds** level succeed at most of the skills on the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards in reading. Given little or no verbal, visual, and/or tactile supports, which provide extra context about the task to be completed, the students may demonstrate the ability to:

Key Ideas and Details: Make connections between the main idea/central message and key details of a reading passage; identify multiple traits and behaviors of characters; compare and contrast characters; answer literal and basic inferential questions about a story, poem, or informational text; sequence events or steps in a process; make relevant connections between characters and setting; summarize whole text; identify cause and effect; draw appropriate conclusions based on a literal interpretation of a reading passage; make logical inferences, predictions, and generalizations based on a reading passage; and identify the plot of a story.

Craft and Structure: Determine literal meanings of new words or multiple-meaning words by using context clues; and determine the meaning of new grade-level, content area vocabulary.

READING AREA	DESCRIPTION	POINTS EARNED* /POINTS POSSIBLE
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and make inferences.		6 / 6
Determine the main idea in a text; summarize key supporting details and ideas.		6 / 6
Describe how individuals, events, and ideas develop over the course of a text.		12 / 12
Interpret words and phrases as they are used in text, including multiple-meaning words.		3 / 3
There were three reading passages included in the assessment. Your student had		TOTAL: 27 / 27
• 0 passage(s) read aloud by the test administrator,		
• read 2 passage(s) along with the test administrator, and		
• read 1 passage(s) independently.		

* State averages for the areas and total are 4.4, 4.7, 9.8, 3.0, and 21.9 respectively.

Additional Resources

- Go to the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) webpage to learn more about the learning expectations for each grade and subject (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards K-12).
- Go to the [Minnesota Report Card](#) to see results for your student's district and school and others throughout the state (MDE website > Data Center > Minnesota Report Card).

education.mn.gov

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MINNESOTA TEST OF ACADEMIC SKILLS Spring 2024 Page 3 of 4 Firstname M. Lastname

MATHEMATICS: PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Firstname's score Meets the Mathematics Alternate Achievement Standards
 Students at the **Meets** level succeed at many of the skills on the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards in mathematics. With the occasional use of supports, the students may demonstrate the ability to:

- Compare rational numbers.
- Evaluate an algebraic expression when the value of one variable is given.
- Recognize that parallel lines have the same slope.
- Estimate line of best fit on scatterplots.

MATHEMATICS AREA	DESCRIPTION	POINTS EARNED* /POINTS POSSIBLE
Number and Operation:	May include understanding meanings of numbers and operations and how they relate to one another; computing fluently and making reasonable estimates.	4 / 6
Algebra:	May include models to understand, represent and analyze patterns, relations, and functions.	7 / 12
Geometry and Measurement:	May include analyzing characteristics and properties of two- and three-dimensional geometric shapes and developing mathematical arguments about geometric relationships; understanding the units, systems, and processes of measurement.	2 / 3
Data Analysis and Probability:	May include organizing and displaying relevant data questions; understanding and applying basic concepts of probability.	5 / 6
TOTAL:		18 / 27

* State averages for the areas and total are 4.8, 7.2, 2.1, 3.9, and 18.0 respectively.

SCIENCE: PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Firstname's score Partially Meets the Science Alternate Achievement Standards
 Students at the **Partially Meets** level succeed at some of the skills on the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards in science. Given frequent verbal, visual, and/or tactile supports which provide extra context about the task to be completed, the students may demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify ways that people use common engineered systems.
- Recognize when matter has undergone a physical change.
- Understand that forces cause a change in motion.
- Identify how weathering changes landforms.
- Understand that the human body contains organs that have different functions.
- Recognize that diseases are caused by organisms.

SCIENCE AREA	DESCRIPTION	POINTS EARNED* /POINTS POSSIBLE
Nature of Science and Engineering:	May include identifying common engineered systems, how people use them, and ways they benefit daily life.	4 / 6
Physical Science:	May include identifying states of matter, recognizing when matter has undergone a physical or chemical change, and understanding how different forces (e.g., gravity, friction, pushes, pulls) affect the speed and direction of objects.	2 / 3
Earth and Space Science:	May include understanding that landforms can change and identifying the effects of weathering, erosion, and deposition on landforms over time.	6 / 9
Life Science:	May include identifying and understanding the functions of organs in the respiratory, circulatory, and digestive systems (e.g., lungs, heart, stomach) and understanding that some organisms cause diseases in humans.	6 / 9
TOTAL:		18 / 27

* State averages for the areas and total are 3.8, 1.4, 4.9, 7.6, and 17.7 respectively.

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8. Performance Details—For each subject, performance is presented and described in terms of the alternate achievement standards. Additionally, content areas within extended standards for the subjects are listed and described with performance indicated. Performance is reported in points earned compared to points possible for each content area and the total. State averages for the content areas and total are provided for comparison.

9. Reading Access—Describes how the student accessed the reading passages. For Reading MTAS only, during test administration the Test Administrator indicated how the student accessed each reading passage. The choices available for each passage are: the passage was read independently by the student, the student read along with the Test Administrator, and the Test Administrator read the passage to the student.

Grades 3–8 MCA or MTAS Sample Individual Student Report—Page 4

11. **Address Section**—The school can use this area to print an address for mailing the ISR to the student's home. The school district return address has been pre-printed. The report must be tri-folded in order to take advantage of this section.

12. **For More Information**—This section addresses frequently asked questions and includes links for resources to learn more about the statewide assessments.

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS Page 4 of 4 Spring 2024 MTAS RMIS OF 8

m DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS-III)**
Reading, Mathematics, and Science

School District
P.O. Box 1234
123 First St
City Name, MN 12345

Optional Parent or Guardian Name
To the Parent or Guardian of Firstname M. Lastname
Optional Address Line 1
Optional Address Line 2
Optional Address Line 3

What is the Individual Student Report (ISR) about?

- This ISR provides your student's results on the Minnesota statewide assessments taken in the spring of 2024 to measure student learning of the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards.
- For each reported subject, overall performance includes your student's score, related Alternate Achievement Standard level, and state average score.
- Your student's performance details in content areas within extended standards include points earned compared to points possible for each content area and the total, including state averages for each of those score areas.
- When reviewing student scores and state averages, keep in mind that each student has unique needs considered in the administration of tasks, which influence performance on this particular assessment.
- If you have questions about the results, we encourage you to contact your student's school.

Who takes these assessments and why?

Minnesota statewide assessments are taken by all public students in grades 3-8 and 11 in mathematics, in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading, and in grades 5, 8, and once in high school in science. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria may take the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS).

Where can parents/guardians find information?

Find information on results for students and families on the following webpages:

- [MDE Students and Families Statewide Testing page](#) under Assessment Results (MDE website > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing)
- [PearsonAccess Next Individual Student Reports \(ISRs\) Resources](#) (Minnesota PearsonAccess Next website > Reporting Resources > Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources)

How can I request my student's results in a translated language or an alternative format?

If your home language has been reported to your student's school or district, a QR code may be included on page 1 to a translated student results video with translated audio and/or captions. This ISR report format may also be made available in another translated language or an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or as an audio file. Contact MDE by email at mde.testing@state.mn.us, by phone 651-582-8674 or by fax 651-582-8874. TTY users may call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711.

education.mn.gov

10. **Report Information**—The test, date, and subjects reported are at the top of the page.

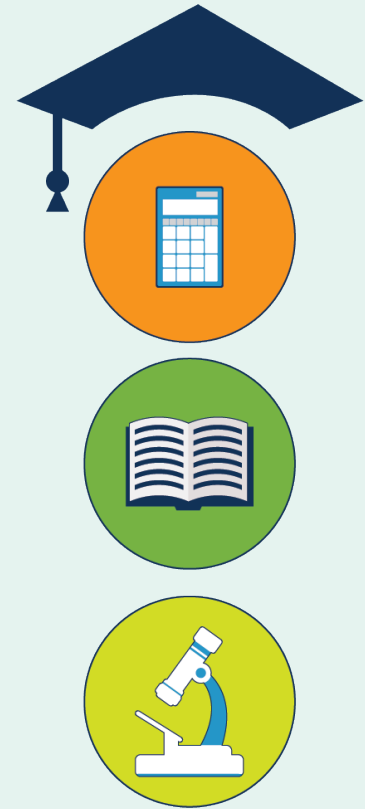
High School Reports

High school students take the MCA or MTAS in each of the following grades and subjects:

- Reading in grade 10
- Mathematics in grade 11
- Science in the year of high school life science coursework completion

The following grade 11 Mathematics MCA sample ISR serves as an example of an ISR for all high school MCA subjects and includes all of the elements and explanations for all sections present on MCA high school reports.

The following grade 10 Reading MTAS sample ISR serves as an example of an ISR for all high school MTAS subjects and includes all of the elements and explanations for all sections present on MTAS high school reports.



High School MCA Sample Individual Student Report

Page 1

2. **Performance Meter**—The meter graphically indicates the student's overall score as an achievement level, which is the performance level on the ISR. Next to the Performance Meter is a description of the student's score in relation to what students at each performance level are expected to know of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

3. **Overall Results**—Performance is indicated by a student scale score, performance level, and performance level description.

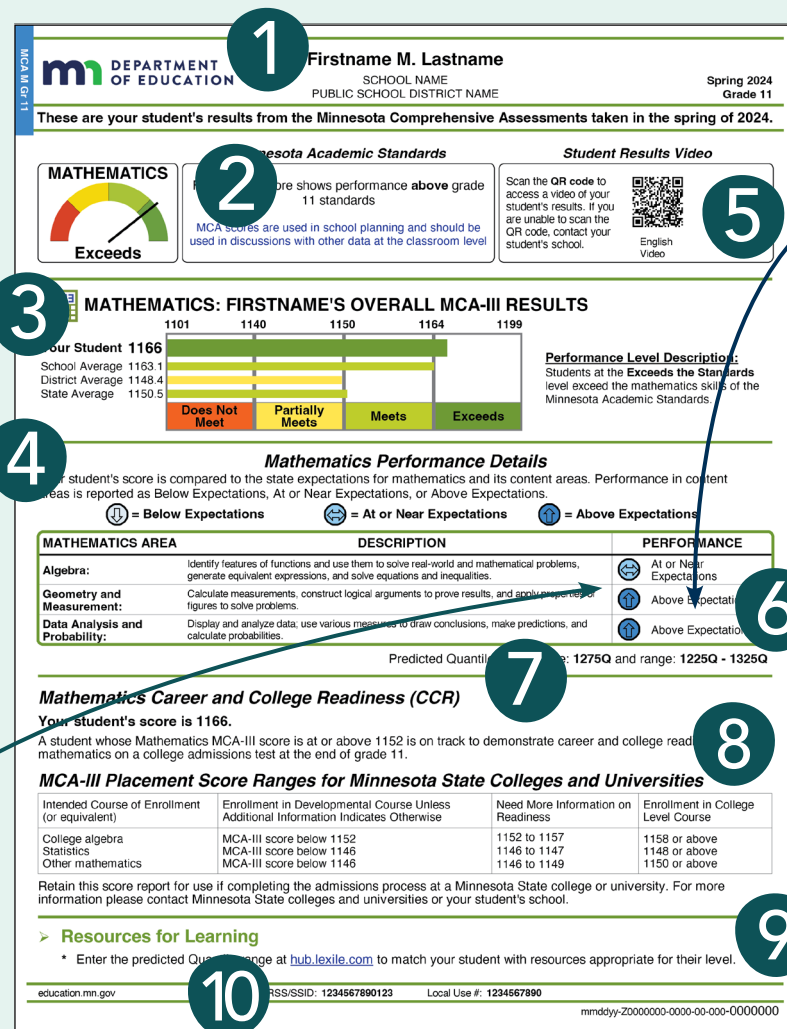
A scale score is derived by converting a student's item response pattern (Reading and Mathematics MCA) or raw score (Science MCA) to the reported scale after accounting for differences in test difficulty from one year to the next.

A scale score represents one of four performance levels for each subject: Exceeds the Standards, Meets the Standards, Partially Meets the Standards, or Does Not Meet the Standards.

For comparison to the student score, school, district, and state average scale scores for tested students and corresponding performance levels are provided graphically.

4. **Performance Details**—Performance on content areas within each subject are reported as a comparison to the state expectations. A downward-pointing arrow indicates performance below state expectations; a horizontal double-headed arrow indicates performance at or near state expectations; and an upward-pointing arrow indicates performance above state expectations.

1. **Student Demographic Information**—The report begins with demographic information for the student, including: Student Name, Grade, School, District, Date, and Assessment.



5. **Student Results Video**—A video report is available for each student with at least one valid score. Video ISRs are accessed through scanning the QR code on the ISR, or download a report with video links from [Published Reports](#) (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next). Video may also be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified.

6. **Quantile® or Lexile® Measure**—Mathematics MCA ISRs have a predicted Quantile measure of the student's mathematical ability and the upper and lower range that helps match them with materials appropriate for their ability in mathematical skills and concepts. Reading MCA ISRs have a predicted Lexile measure of the student's reading ability and upper and lower range that helps match a reader with literature appropriate for their reading skills.
7. **Career and College Readiness (CCR)**—The CCR Goal Score is an indicator that performance is on track to demonstrate career and college readiness on a college entrance exam at the end of grade 11. Student scores below the CCR Goal Score may indicate a student's performance is not on track to meet career and college readiness. CCR Goal Scores are not reported for science.

8. **Using MCA Scores for Course Placement**—Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may use high school Reading and Mathematics MCA scores in determining course enrollment. For more information, view the [Minnesota State Academic Affairs](#) page (minnstate.edu > About Minnesota State > System Office Divisions > Academic and Student Affairs > Academic Affairs > Assessments of Academic Readiness).

9. **Resources for Learning**—Additional information on the Lexile framework (Reading MCA ISRs only) and the Quantile framework (Mathematics MCA ISRs only).

High School MTAS Sample Individual Student Report

Page 1

1. **Student Demographic Information**—The report begins with demographic information for the student, including: Student Name, Grade, School, District, Date, and Assessment.

2. **Performance Meter**—Performance is graphically indicated and described in relation to the alternate achievement standards.

3. **Student Results Video**—A video report is available for each student with at least one valid score. Video ISRs are accessed through scanning the QR code on the ISR, or download a report with video links from **Published Reports** (PearsonAccess Next > PearsonAccess Next). Video may also be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified.

4. **Overall Results**—Performance is indicated by a student scale score, performance level, and performance level description.

A scale score is derived by converting a student's raw score to the reported scale after accounting for differences in test difficulty from one year to the next.

A scale score represents one of four performance levels for each subject: Exceeds, Meets, Partially Meets, or Does Not Meet the Alternate Achievement Standards.

The state average score is provided for comparison.

MTAS R-10-10

1 Firstname M. Lastname
SCHOOL NAME
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME
Spring 2024
Grade 10

These are your student's results from the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills taken in the spring of 2024.

2 **Alternate Achievement Standards**
READING
Your performance shows performance above grade alternate achievement standards
MTAS scores are used in school planning and should be used in discussions with other data at the classroom level

3 **Student Results Video**
Scan the QR code to access your video report. If you are unable to scan the QR code, contact your student's school.
English Video
Video en Español

4 **READING: FIRSTNAME'S OVERALL MTAS-III RESULTS**
Your Student 216
105 190 200 215 237
Does Not Meet Partially Meets Meets Exceeds
State average score is 208.5

5 **READING PERFORMANCE DETAILS**
Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) Scoring Rubric
The MTAS consists of nine performance tasks. For each task, points are earned according to the guidelines below.
• The student responds correctly without assistance = 3 points
• The student responds correctly to the task after the test administrator provides additional support = 2 points
• The student responds incorrectly to the task after the test administrator has provided additional support = 1 point
• The student does not respond to the task or the student's response is unrelated to the task = 0 points

6 **Firstname's score Exceeds the Reading Alternate Achievement Standards**
Students at the Exceeds level succeed at most of the skills on the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards in Reading. Given little or no verbal, visual, and/or tactile supports, which provide extra context about the task to be completed, the students may demonstrate the ability to:
Key Ideas and Details: Make connections between the main idea/central message and key details of a reading passage; identify multiple traits and behaviors of characters; compare and contrast characters; answer literal and basic inferential questions about a story, poem, or informational text; sequence events or steps in a process; make relevant connections between characters and setting; summarize whole text; identify cause and effect; draw appropriate conclusions based on a reasonable interpretation of a reading passage; make logical inferences, predictions, and generalizations based on a reading passage; and identify the plot of a story.
Craft and Structure: Determine literal meanings of new and multiple-meaning words by using context clues; and determine the meaning of new grade-level, content area vocabulary.

READING AREA	DESCRIPTION	POINTS EARNED /POINTS POSSIBLE
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and make inferences.		6 / 6
Determine the main idea in a text; summarize key supporting details and ideas.		6 / 6
Describe how individuals, events, and ideas develop and/or interact over the course of a text.		10 / 12
Interpret words and phrases as they are used in text, including multiple-meaning words.		3 / 3
There were three reading passages included in the assessment. Your student had • read 0 passage(s) read aloud by the test administrator, • read 2 passage(s) along with the test administrator, and • read 1 passage(s) independently.		TOTAL: 25 / 27

* State averages for the areas and total are 4.8, 2.4, 8.9, 2.6, and 18.7 respectively.

education.mn.gov MARSS/SSID: 1234567890123 Local Use #: 1234567890 mmdyy-Z0000000-0000-00-000-00000000

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5. **MTAS Scoring Rubric**—This 0–3 rubric was used by the Test Administrator to score MTAS tasks.

6. **Performance Details**—Performance is presented and described in terms of the alternate achievement standards. Additionally, content areas within subjects are listed and described with performance indicated. Performance is reported in points earned compared to points possible for each content area and the total. State averages for the content areas and total are provided for comparison.

7. **Reading Access**—Describes how the student accessed the reading passages. For Reading MTAS only, during test administration the Test Administrator indicates how the student accessed each reading passage. The choices available for each passage are: the passage was read independently by the student, the student read along with the Test Administrator, and the Test Administrator read the passage to the student.

8. **School Use Numbers**—MARSS/SSID and Local Use numbers are indicated at the bottom.

High School MCA or MTAS Sample Individual Student Report—Page 2

9. **Report Information**—The test, date, and subjects reported are at the top of the page.

10. **Address Section**—The school can use this area to print an address for mailing the ISR to the student's home. The school district return address has been pre-printed. The report must be tri-folded in order to take advantage of this section.

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MINNESOTA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS

Page 2 of 2

Spring 2024

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS-III)
Reading

School District
P.O. Box 1234
123 First St
City Name, MN 12345

Optional Parent or Guardian Name
To the Parent or Guardian of Firstname M. Lastname
Optional Address Line 1
Optional Address Line 2
Optional Address Line 3

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➤ **What is the Individual Student Report (ISR) about?**

- This ISR provides your student's results on the Minnesota statewide assessments taken in the spring of 2024 to measure student learning of the extended standards of the Minnesota Academic Standards.
- For each reported subject, overall performance includes your student's score, related Alternate Achievement Standard level, and state average score.
- Your student's performance details in content areas within extended standards include points earned compared to possible for each content area and the total, including state averages for each of those score areas.
- When reviewing student scores and state averages, keep in mind that each student has unique needs considered in the administration of tasks, which influence performance on this particular assessment.
- If you have questions about the results, we encourage you to contact your student's school.

➤ **Who takes these assessments and why?**

Minnesota statewide assessments are taken by all public students in grades 3-8 and 11 in mathematics, in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading, and in grades 5, 8, and once in high school in science. Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who meet specific eligibility criteria may take the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS).

➤ **Where can parents/guardians find information?**

Find information on results for students and families on the following webpages:

- [MDE Students and Families Statewide Testing page](#) under Assessment Results (MDE website > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing)
- [PearsonAccess Next Individual Student Reports \(ISRs\) Resources](#) (Minnesota PearsonAccess Next website > Reporting Resources > Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources)

➤ **How can I request my student's results in a translated language or an alternative format?**

If your home language has been reported to your student's school or district, a QR code may be included on page 1 to a translated student results video with translated audio and/or captions. This ISR report format may also be made available in another translated language or an alternative format, such as large print, braille, or as an audio file. Contact MDE by email at mde.testing@state.mn.us, by phone 651-582-8674 or by fax 651-582-8874. TTY users may call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711.

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education.mn.gov

11. **For More Information**—This section addresses frequently asked questions and includes links for resources to learn more about the statewide assessments.

Student results labels provide test score information for students participating in the assessment.

Districts determine if they want to receive student labels for standards-based accountability printed assessments. PDFs of student labels are available to download in Published Reports in a format ready for label printing.

Testing year

Name: **Lastname, Firstname M.**
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-III) Spring 2024

District: DISTRICT NAME MAX NUMB OF CHARACTER (0000-00)
 School: SCHOOL NAME MAX NUMBER OF CHARACTER (0000-00-000)
 Grade: 8 DOB: 01/01/2000 MARSS/SSID: 1234567890123
 Gender: M Local Use #: 1234567890

Subject	Scale Score	Achievement Level
Reading	Invalidation Due to Student Action	
Mathematics	Not Attempted	
Science	845	Partially Meets the Standards

Name: **Lastname, Firstname M.**
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-III) Spring 2024

District:	DISTRICT NAME MAX NUMB OF CHARACTER (0000-00)		
School:	SCHOOL NAME MAX NUMBER OF CHARACTER (0000-00-000)		
Grade:	8	DOB: 01/01/2000	MARSS/SSID: 1234567890123
		Gender: M	Local Use #: 1234567890

Subject	Scale Score	Achievement Level
Reading	875	Exceeds the Standards
Mathematics	825	Partially Meets the Standards
Science	845	Does Not Meet the Standards

Name: **Lastname, Firstname M.**
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-III) Spring 2024

District: DISTRICT NAME MAX NUMB OF CHARACTER (0000-00)
 School: SCHOOL NAME MAX NUMBER OF CHARACTER (0000-00-000)
 Grade: 8 DOB: 01/01/2000 MARSS/SSID: 1234567890123
 Gender: M Local Use #: 1234567890

Subject	Scale Score	Achievement Level
Reading	Not Completed	
Mathematics	825	Does Not Meet the Standards
Science		No Test Data Available

Glossary

Academic Standards—Statewide expectations that identify the knowledge and skills all K–12 students are expected to achieve by the end of a grade level or grade band.

The MCA and MTAS are the statewide assessments that help districts measure student learning of Minnesota’s academic standards. The academic standards are revised according to a schedule set forth by statute. The timeline for the first administration of the revised science assessments is school year 2024–25, and reading assessments is school year 2025–26. The timeline for mathematics assessments is still to be determined based on the standards revision schedule.

Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)—ALDs provide descriptive information of what typical students at each achievement level are expected to know of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

Note: Achievement Level Descriptors appear as Performance Level Descriptors on the Individual Student Reports (ISRs).

Achievement Levels—For MCA: There are four achievement levels: Students who achieve the Meets or Exceeds performance levels are demonstrating the knowledge, skills and abilities expected for their grade level, as described in the academic standards.

For MTAS: There are four achievement levels: Exceeds the Alternate Achievement Standards, Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards, Partially Meets the Alternate Achievement Standards, and Does Not Meet the Alternate Achievement Standards.

Benchmark Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)—Benchmark ALDs provide more detailed descriptions of the knowledge, skills, and abilities demonstrated by students across the four achievement levels on the MCA, beyond what the traditional Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) offer. Available for math and reading only.

Career and College Readiness (CCR)—For high school Reading and Mathematics MCA, CCR is a graphical representation of a student’s “progress” score compared to the CCR Goal Score. CCR Goal Scores are identified by directly linking scale scores on these tests to scores on the corresponding subject-level subtests from a nationally recognized college entrance exam. At each grade, CCR Goal Scores are indicators that performance is on track to demonstrate career and college readiness on a college entrance exam at the end of grade 11. A high school student’s MCA scale score for a subject is on the same scale as the CCR Goal Score for that subject and can be interpreted for performance comparison. If a student’s MCA scale score is at or above the CCR Goal Score, they are expected to be able to successfully complete credit-bearing coursework at a two- or four-year college or university or other credit-bearing post-secondary program without any need for remediation. Student scores below the CCR Goal Score may indicate that the student’s performance is not on track to meet career and college readiness, and the student may benefit from remediation. CCR Goal Scores are not reported for science.

English Language Development (ELD) Standards—WIDA-developed expectations that Minnesota has adopted as statewide ELD standards. These standards reflect the social and academic dimensions of acquiring a second language that are expected of English learners in grade levels PreK–12. The ELD standards provide a connection between language development and academic content. The ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessments are the statewide tests administered.

WIDA Alternate ACCESS is a paper-based test individually administered to students in grades K-12 who are identified as English learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. 2023-24 is the first administration of the WIDA Alternate ACCESS test aligned to the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition.

The ACCESS test is currently based on the 2012 Amplification of the WIDA English Language Development Standards. Minnesota educators are approaching full implementation of the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, 2020 Edition and the first administration of the ACCESS test aligned to the 2020 Edition will be in 2025–26.

Individual Student Report (ISR)—An Individual Student Report (ISR) is the final and official report of a student’s assessment results provided by MDE to districts to distribute to parents or guardians.

Lexile® Measure—Reading MCA ISRs include a Lexile (reading) measure of the student’s ability. The upper and lower ranges help match students with materials appropriate for their ability in the content area’s skills and concepts. The Lexile Framework helps identify the text a child can read and understand independently. Visit the Lexile® & Quantile® Hub hub.lexile.com to access reading and math tools.

Longitudinal Reports—Longitudinal Reports include historical test results in a graphical display at the student, school, district, and/or state level for review or comparison by administration (test and year). Comparisons include overall and average scale score, achievement level, strand performance detail, and/or student group. A Dashboard view will display performance comparisons across all tests, as they apply to the administration being reported, in a summary graph for a side by side comparison. Longitudinal reports are available in PearsonAccess Next.

MCA Scores for Course Placement—Minnesota State Colleges and Universities may use high school Reading and Mathematics MCA scores in determining course enrollment. For more information, view the [Minnesota State Academic Affairs](http://minnstate.edu) page (minnstate.edu > About Minnesota State > System Office Divisions > Academic and Student Affairs > Academic Affairs > Assessments of Academic Readiness).

MTAS Scoring Rubric—This 0–3 rubric is used by the Test Administrator to score MTAS tasks.

On-Demand Reports—On-demand reports are preliminary test results that are available within 60 minutes after testing or data entry is completed. On-demand reports are available for all online assessments and for student responses in paper accommodated test materials that are entered online. On-demand reports are available in PearsonAccess Next.

Performance Details—For MCA: The student’s performance on content areas within each subject is compared to state expectations. A downward-pointing arrow indicates student performance below state expectations; a horizontal double-headed arrow indicates student performance at or near state expectations; and an upward-pointing arrow indicates student performance above state expectations.

For MTAS: For each subject, student performance is presented and described in terms of the alternate achievement standards. Additionally, content areas within extended standards for the subjects are listed and described with student performance indicated. Student performance is reported in points earned compared to points possible for each content area and the total. State averages for the content areas and total are provided for comparison.

Performance History—Tables included on MCA Individual Student Reports (ISRs) show results for each year the MCA was given in the subjects applicable to that grade. When no score is available, a description of why is included. A student may have no performance history if he or she transferred from a different school district. A student may have gaps in performance history if he or she left Minnesota school districts or previously took a different assessment, such as MTAS.

Performance Level Descriptors—See *Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)*. Referred to as Performance Level Descriptors on ISRs.

Performance Meter—For grades 3–8 MCA: For each reported subject, the Performance Meter graphically indicates the student’s overall score as an achievement level, which is the performance level on the ISR. Next to the Performance Meter is a description of the student’s score in relation to what students taking the MCA are expected to know at each performance level of the Minnesota Academic Standards (Standards). Percentile rank is no longer available.

For high school MCA: The Performance Meter graphically indicates the student’s overall score as an achievement level, which is the performance level on the ISR. Next to the Performance Meter is a description of the student’s score in relation to what students taking the MCA are expected to know at each performance level of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Percentile rank is no longer available.

For grades 3–8 MTAS: For each reported subject, student performance is indicated graphically and described in relation to the alternate achievement standards.

Performance within Subjects (also known as strand performance levels)—A student’s score compared to the state expectations for each subject and content area tested. Performance within subjects is reported as Below Expectations, At or Near Expectations, or Above Expectations.

Published Reports—Published reports are PDF versions of the final reports that are delivered to districts, including electronic copies of the Individual Student Reports (ISRs). They are posted to Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next after the testing window at about the time printed reports arrive in districts.

Quantile® Measure—Mathematics MCA ISRs include a Quantile (mathematics) measure of the student’s ability. The upper and lower ranges help match students with materials appropriate for their ability in the content area’s skills and concepts. The Quantile Framework helps find math skills and concepts that are at your child’s readiness level. Visit the Lexile® & Quantile® Hub hub.lexile.com to access reading and math tools.

Reading Access—For Reading MTAS only: Describes how the student accessed the reading passages. During test administration the Test Administrator indicates how the student accessed each reading passage. The choices available for each passage are: the passage was read independently by the student, the student read along with the Test Administrator, and the Test Administrator read the passage to the student.

Scale Score—For MCA: A score that takes the student’s item response pattern (Reading and Mathematics MCA) or raw score (Science MCA) and adjusts it for possible differences in test difficulty from one year to the next.

For MTAS: A score that takes the student’s raw score and adjusts it for possible differences in test difficulty from one year to the next.

School Use Numbers—MARSS/SSID and Local Use numbers.

Student Demographic Information—A description of the demographic information for the student, including: Student Name, Grade, School, District, Date, and Assessment.

Students Results Video—Video versions of Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are personalized to each student and provide parents/guardians a dynamic overview of their student’s results on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) or Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS). Each video provides an overview of the assessment followed by a detailed look at the individual student’s performance for each subject taken, as well as their performance related to the school, district and state averages. In addition to English, video ISRs may be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified (Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese).

Test Specifications—Specific rules and characteristics guide the development of a test’s content and format. They indicate which strands, substrands, standards, and benchmarks will be assessed on the test and in what proportions.

Online Resources

MDE Website (education.mn.gov)	
Resource	Location
<u>Achievement Level Descriptors</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Achievement Level Descriptors
<u>Assessment Secure Reports user guides and help documents</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Assessment Secure Reports
<u>District Resources: Test Score Interpretation Resources</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > District Resources > Test Score Interpretation Resources
<u>English Language Development Standards</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > English Learner Education > English Language Development Standards
<u>Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards (K-12)
<u>Students and Families Assessment Results Website</u>	MDE website > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing > Assessment Results
<u>Technical reports</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Technical Reports
<u>Test specifications</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Test Specifications
<u>Testing 1, 2, 3</u>	MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Resources > Testing 1, 2, 3

Online Resources (continued)

PearsonAccess Next (minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com)	
Resource	Location
Benchmark Reports User Guides	PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Reporting Resources
On-Demand Reports and Export User Guide	
Longitudinal Reports and Export User Guide	
Historical Student Data User Guide	
Published Reports Quick Guide	
Subscore Report User Guide	

WIDA Website (wida.wisc.edu)	
Resource	Location
WIDA Resource Library	WIDA website > Resource Library
ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports	WIDA website > Assess > ACCESS for ELLs > ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports
WIDA Alternate ACCESS	WIDA website > Assess > WIDA website > Assess > WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Contact Information

MDE
 General inquiries
mde.testing@state.mn.us
 651-582-8674

Pearson
 Submit a [Pearson help desk request](#)
 (PearsonAccess Next > Support)
 888-817-8659