

## AFSA Assessments Calendar 2025-2026

Assessment	When Administered	Subject Matter	Time spent on test	Purpose of Assessment
STAR Reading & Math	Grades 3 - 12  Dates may be adjusted: Placement testing when students enroll Nov 3-14 Feb 17-27 May 11-21	Reading & Math	35 - 45 minutes each test	Progress monitoring and intervention identification, curriculum planning, placement level identification
ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS	February 3 - 21	Social and instructional language	170 minutes (grades 1 - 12) 45 minutes (kindergarten)	State required for English Language Learners
MCA & MTAS Math	Grades 3 - 8 and 11  April 15-30	Math	Unlimited timing, typically 75 - 120 minutes	State required
MCA & MTAS Reading	Grades 3 - 8 and 10  March 31-April 11	Reading	Unlimited timing, typically 60 - 120 minutes	State required
MCA & MTAS Science	Grades 5, 8, and students enrolled in Biology (typically 9th grade)  May 1-9	Science	Unlimited timing, typically 45 - 90 minutes	State required
ASVAB	Grade 11 or 12 (Optional) February 2026	Reading, Math, Science, Spatial and Technical	2.5 - 2 hours	College and career readiness (alternate to the ACT for some students)
Accuplacer	Grade 12 (Optional) Late April/early May	Reading, Math, Writing	Untimed	College placement for students planning to attend a 2-year institution
ACT	Grades 11 or 12 (optional; fee-based)  March 10, 2026	Reading, Math, Writing	4.5 hours	College entrance exam  Required to offer by the state

DIBELS Reading	Grades K - 3 Placement testing when students enroll, progress monitoring throughout the year  Dates may be adjusted: September 9-20 January 13-24 May 12-22	Reading skills	Average of 20 minutes	Read Act requirement for foundational reading skills Progress monitoring and assessment
Capti ReadBasix	Grades K-12 dyslexia screener used when a student tests below grade level on STAR Reading or DIBELS Reading	Reading skills	20-40 min	Required by READ Act for Dyslexia Screening
TILLS	Grades K-4 - when determined by MTSS team for intervention support	Language Acquisition & Literacy Skills screener	70-90 minutes	Intervention screener
Brigance III Screener	PreK and K - within 30 days of enrolling	Academic Skills/ School readiness	Average of 15 minutes	EC and Kindergarten Screening
GOLD Strategies for Early Development	Pre-K - ongoing throughout the year	School Readiness skills	Ongoing (observation-based throughout the year)	PreK requirement to enter Kindergarten

#### Score Distribution

Scores for local tests (Star Reading and Math, DIBELS Reading, Math CBM) are used locally for course placement, progress monitoring and instructional planning throughout the school year.

Scores on national tests (ACT, PSAT, ASVAB, Accuplacer) are mailed to students 6 - 8 weeks after the testing date.

Scores for Minnesota Statewide Testing (ACCESS, MCA, MTAS) are embargoed through August and Individual Score Reports are mailed to each family before fall conferences.