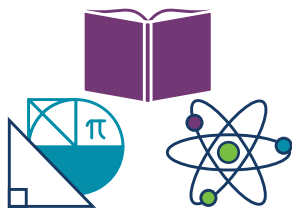


# Information on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)



## What are the MCAs?

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) are assessments in reading, mathematics, and science that are given every year in the spring. The MCAs are aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards, which specify what students in a particular grade should know and be able to do.



## Who takes the MCAs?

All students in Minnesota public schools take the MCAs. Students take the Reading MCA in grades 3–8 and 10, the Mathematics MCA in grades 3–8 and 11, and the Science MCA in grades 5, 8, and once in high school.



## How do students take the MCAs?

Students take the Reading, Mathematics, and Science MCAs online. Some students can take the MCAs on paper, based on their Individualized Educational Program (IEP) or 504 plan.



## Why do students take the MCAs?

The MCAs are used to gather information about how districts and schools are teaching the Minnesota Academic Standards. Schools use the information to improve curriculum materials and student support. Teachers look for areas where students do well so they can reinforce the ways they teach these skills. Schools and districts also look for areas where they can improve their curriculum and instruction.



## Participation in the MCAs

When your student takes the MCA, it helps your school and district see how well their teaching and programs are working for all students. The more students who participate, the more information districts and schools have to make informed decisions about how to use money, staff, and resources to support every student's learning.