



GRAND RAPIDS AREA
—— **Virtual Academy** ——
Resilience ♦ Readiness ♦ Excellence

6-12 VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Student Handbook
2025-26 School Year

Principal: Andy Forbort
Phone #: 218-327-5714
Email: aforbort@isd318.org



Welcome

Welcome to Grand Rapids Area Schools Virtual Academy (GRAVA). We are honored that you have selected us as a partner in supporting your educational journey. We are excited you are a student with us, where we are committed to a program that builds resilience, readiness, and excellence!

This school handbook is designed to provide you with policies and guidelines that are needed to create a positive learning environment for ALL at GRAVA. Families and students are encouraged to utilize the academic snapshot and classroom dashboards available in our online platform to plan for each school week. These systems allow students to complete their lessons on a schedule that fits their individual needs. Teachers are also available to provide additional support when needed.

GRAVA is a fully accredited online provider through the Minnesota Department of Education for students in Kindergarten - 12th grade. Our program utilizes licensed teachers and a curriculum aligned to Minnesota Academic Standards.

GRAVA delivers a personalized learning approach, provides a flexible schedule, and offers instructional and technical support.

Students will receive:

- Individualized student learning through the use of digital curriculum and personalized instructor support
- Instruction that allows students to follow their own pace, plan, and path along their educational journey
- High-quality curriculum aligned to Minnesota academic standards
- Access to curriculum 24:7
- Flexibility in their personal and academic schedules
- Ability to connect with teachers during online office hours
- Tiered Levels of instruction to offer flexibility to students/families

Thank you for entrusting us with educating your child. Please contact us at any time if you have questions.

School Calendar

August	January
26-28 - Teacher Work Days	1-2 - Winter Break/No School
27 - GRHS Open House	15 - Last Day of Quarter 2
	16-No School, Teacher Work Day/PD
	19 - No School
September	February
2 - Labor Day/District Closed	16 - No School
3 - Grade 9-1st day of School	
4 - Grades 10-12 1st day of school	
October	March
16 - No School/MEA	20 -Last Day of Quarter 3
17 - No School/MEA	23 - No School, Teacher Work Day
31 -Last day of Quarter 1	30-31 - Spring Break/No School
November	April
1 -No School, Teacher Work Day/PD	1-3 Spring Break/No School
14 - No School- Parent/Teacher Conferences	
27 - Thanksgiving Day/District Closed	May
28 - No School	25 - Memorial Day/District Closed
	29 - GRHS Graduation
December	30 - Bigfork Graduation
22-31 - Winter Break/No School	
	June
	3 - Last Day of School
	4 - Teacher Work Day

General Student Information and Expectations

GRAVA students have the benefit of learning in an environment with a high level of flexibility and independence. With that in mind, students must make appropriate progress in their classes. Students should expect to work on schoolwork a minimum of 6-7 hours a day or at least 25-30 hours each week. Students should create a schedule and establish a routine that allows them to complete all assignments listed for the week on their academic dashboard.

Communication Expectations

Due to the nature of online education, communication is critical to the learning environment. Students are expected to respond to all staff communications within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. Students may also be expected to attend live online classes and support sessions with teachers and other support staff. Therefore, students need to arrive on time and be prepared. Students should contact their teacher if they need help in a class and make arrangements with the teacher to attend a live Google Meet.

6th-12th Grade GRAVA Attendance
Each of the factors below is considered when teachers report daily attendance. Google Meetings and online participation in Edgenuity are vital to the success of online education.
◆◆ Student attends all Google meets daily required for the specific assigned Tier for Core Classes.

◆◆ Students are on track in Edgenuity for the week using the graph provided by Edgenuity
◆◆ If a student is not on track in Edgenuity, at least 6 hours have been spent working on the courses (not idle time).
If the items listed above do not occur, the student will be marked as an unexcused absence.
Excused Absences Examples:
To be considered an excused absence, the student’s parent or legal guardian must contact the school and indicate the reason for the student’s absence within 24 hours of the absence. The following are examples of absences that will be considered excused and count toward a student’s 10 excused absences per year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Illness ● Serious illness in the student’s immediate family ● Funeral ● Family Emergency ● Pre-arranged excused absences for student participation in non-school competitions and performance activities ● Family vacations with a pre-arranged absence form completed prior ● Professional appointments that cannot be scheduled outside of the school day

The following types of absences are excused, but do not count toward the absence total for attendance procedures:

- Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action. Student/parent/guardian must provide paperwork to the school to verify court appearance.
- Religious holiday
- Funeral-death of an immediate family member
- Medical, dental, or orthodontic treatment, or counseling appointment when a doctor's note is provided or approved by the school nurse.

Consequences of Excused Absences

- The typical student misses 5-7 days per school year.
 - When students reach 5 excused days, families will receive a letter informing them of how many days their student has missed.
 - When students reach 7 excused days, families will receive a letter informing them of how many days their student has missed. A conference or phone call may be arranged with the student and family to discuss the student's attendance.
 - When students reach 10 excused days, families will receive a letter of concern informing them that if their student misses more than 10 days, the absences will be required to be excused by a doctor or the school nurse.
 - If a doctor or school nurse excuse is required but not provided, the absence will be considered unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

- Any absence not cleared within 24 hours of occurrence
- Work at a business when required to meet live with a teacher
- Non-pre-arranged family vacations
- Overslept
- Arrival to a scheduled live session after twenty minutes will be coded as an unexcused absence and will count toward the total number of absences allowed.
- Other non-school authorized excuses
- Taking care of a sibling or family member

Guidelines for Truancy

In accordance with the State Department of Education and the Minnesota Mandatory Attendance Law, students must attend school each and every day school is in session. It is the responsibility of the students, parents/guardians, and the school to ensure that students attend school.

Truancy defined: An absence without lawful excuse from attendance at school when required to attend. MN Statute 260A.02 subd. (3) and subd. (19):

Required Reporting

- Continuing Truant: Minn. Stat. 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. 120.101 and is absent from instruction in a school. As defined in Minn. Stat. 120.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for three or more days if the child is in middle school or high school.
- Habitual Truant: A habitual truant is a child under the age of 18 years who is absent from school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for seven school days if the child is in middle school or high school.
- A school district official shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent(s) or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures under Minnesota Statute Chapter 260A.

Consequences: Truancy Ladder

Occurrence	SCHOOL ACTION	COUNTY ACTION
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with grade-level administrator 	
3-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory parent/guardian -administration meeting Continual truancy notification 	Appearance with the County Attendance Review Board (ARB) and/or referral to truancy court.
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitual Truancy Referral to Law Enforcement Loss of eligibility for school events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral to Human Services Possible Court Summons Possible Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) petition.

Student Responsibilities to Prevent Truancy

- Students must log in every school day and submit assignments to be on track in each of their courses.
- Students must have regular contact with online faculty and staff, returning all emails, texts, and calls.
- Students must complete courses within the timeframe determined at enrollment.
- If the student is going to be absent, a parent/guardian must call the attendance line to report the absence.

Parent Responsibility to Prevent Truancy

- Parents should monitor and make sure their child is engaging in daily coursework that totals a minimum of three assignments per day.
- If a student does not turn in an assignment for fifteen consecutive school days, the student will be withdrawn from GRAVA in accordance with state law.
- The parent/legal guardian should log into the parent portal to view student progress and attendance.
- If a student is going to be absent from school, a parent/legal guardian must call the GRAVA attendance line to report it.

Parents play a key role in helping their child succeed in school. Parents can monitor their student's progress at any time and may contact their child's teacher with questions or concerns. GRAVA looks forward to partnering with parents to help make their child's academic experience a successful one.

Attending while traveling

Students are expected to attend GRAVA Online while residing within the state of Minnesota. Students wanting to work while traveling outside Minnesota, and especially outside of the United States, may not be able to access all of the online work. Students in good academic standing may take up to five excused absences for vacation and should notify the school prior to the absence.

Attendance Policies and Procedures

- GRAVA expects students and their parent(s)/guardians to take responsibility for knowing and following the Attendance Policy.
- All students, regardless of age, must have absences excused by the parent(s)/guardian if the student lives at home.
- Students enrolled in an in-person class should leave campus immediately following their last class.

Absence Procedures - Grades 6-12

- Attendance on Days of School Activities: Students are reminded that except for doctor and dental appointments and school-approved activities, attendance for the entire school day is required on the day of a game or a performance. Violations of this rule will be referred to the principal's and activities director's office.

Schedule Changes

Schedules are developed before the start of the school year. Schedule changes are discouraged after the start of a course and are generally not made after the first week of enrollment. Courses that are not completed will be transcribed as a fail.

Schedule Change Policy

Once a student completes registration for the next school year, there will be little or no opportunity to change schedules. Teacher class schedules and the hiring of teachers are all determined by the initial course selection and registration of our students. Procedure to discuss a schedule change with a counselor:

- Student obtains schedule change Google form from the counselor.
- Student fills out the schedule change form with parent contact information to verify parent approval.
- Student submits their schedule change form to the counseling office.
- Student follows the original schedule until they receive a new schedule.
- Counselor will set up a meeting with the student if the counselor has questions about the change the student is requesting.

Withdrawal From Class

All students may elect to withdraw from a class to which they have been assigned. Students must begin this process by first meeting with their counselor to review their academic status and credit guide. Students who have been given approval to withdraw by their counselor must complete a Withdraw Form Class Request form. All withdrawal requests made within the first 10 days of a class meeting will result in a Withdrawal recorded on the student's transcript. The withdrawal mark (W) will have no effect on the student's GPA and class rank calculation. All withdrawal requests made after the 10-class meeting will result in a Withdraw Fail mark on their transcript. The withdrawal/fail mark (WF) will count as 0.0 and be included in the GPA and class rank calculations.

Accessing Online Course Work

Students will receive a login to the Edgenuity System. Once in the system, students have a dashboard where they can access all of their courses. Edgenuity offers a standards-aligned, video-based curriculum for students in a blended learning environment. Edgenuity allows teachers to customize the curriculum for their students, monitor their progress, and provide support when needed. Students will complete lessons, assessments, and interactive activities as they learn course content.

What do you need to know as a 6th-12th grade student:

[Edgenuity Orientation Video](#) - View this video to understand the Edgenuity platform.

[Edgenuity Log In](#)

Username: (Student Complete School Email)

Password: (Lunch Pin)

[Edgenuity Help Center](#)

Independent Work Time

Students are expected to work on their assignments daily and keep up with the timelines outlined by their teacher.

Tier Class Expectations

GRAVA offers a range of instructional methods to accommodate different learning styles and schedules. One of the key features of GRAVA is its provision of both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

Synchronous instruction refers to real-time learning experiences, where students and teachers interact simultaneously, just like in a traditional classroom setting. It typically involves live video conferencing, virtual classrooms, or webinars, allowing students to engage in discussions, ask questions, and receive immediate feedback from their teachers.

Synchronous instruction promotes active participation and collaboration among students and provides an opportunity for real-time interaction and clarification of concepts.

Asynchronous instruction provides flexibility and self-paced learning opportunities. With asynchronous instruction, students can access pre-recorded lectures, video lessons, reading materials, and assignments at their convenience. They have the freedom to choose when and where to engage with the course materials, allowing them to learn at their own pace.

To ensure that students receive the necessary support to meet their academic needs, GRAVA implements a tiered system of support. This means that support services are organized into different tiers based on the level of assistance required. For instance, students may need a variety of support from synchronous instruction, one-on-one tutoring sessions, or small-group interventions. The tiered schedule aims to provide targeted support to students who require extra assistance, while also recognizing and addressing the diverse needs of the student population.

Overall, GRAVA strives to offer a comprehensive and adaptable learning environment, combining synchronous and asynchronous instruction methods and providing tiered support to ensure that students can thrive academically.

Synchronous Expectations:

- Show up on time and be prepared.
- Respect your classmates and your teacher and their opinions.
- Be mindful when using your microphone, annotation, and the chat feature.
- Participation is required.
- Think before you send something in chat.
- Don't type in all capital letters - this is the same as yelling.
- Stay on task.
- Be kind and supportive.

Home Learning Coach Partnership

Support at home is critical to the success of students in an online setting. All middle school students are expected to have a responsible adult to support learning at home. The learning coach will be responsible for learning how to use GRAVA systems, monitoring student progress, and helping/encouraging students to access teacher help. It is vital to the learning of students enrolled in GRAVA for the school and parents to develop a positive partnership to increase student learning.

Progress Monitoring

Students and parents/guardians may check student progress by logging into the Edgenuity Classroom and viewing the student Homescreen, where there is a progress bar and grade book. The Grade link is on the homepage for each course in which the student is enrolled. Questions about student progress should be directed to the teacher of a specific course.

Grading

Grades 9-12 Quarter Long Classes:

Students enrolled in .5 credit, one-quarter class will receive a final grade at the conclusion of that quarter. The final grade will be the Relative Grade in Edgenuity. This grade will count toward the GPA and determine whether credit is given.

Grades 9-12 Semester Long Classes:

Students enrolled in a 1 credit, semester course will receive the Actual Grade in Edgenuity for the first quarter of the course. Student's first-quarter grades will not count against their GPA. The Relative Grade in Edgenuity for the second quarter of the course will be the final grade. This grade will count toward the GPA and determine whether credit is given.

16

Grades 6-8 Year-Long Classes:

For year-long classes, students will receive the Actual Grade for quarters 1, 2, and 3. The final grade will be the Relative Grade in Edgenuity.

Grades 6-8 Semester Long Classes:

Students enrolled in a semester course will receive the Actual Grade in Edgenuity for the first quarter of the course. The Relative Grade in Edgenuity for the second quarter of the course will be the final grade.

Actual Grade

The Actual Grade is the grade on the work students have submitted, adjusted down if they are behind in progress.

Relative Grade

This is the grade that a student would receive if they have not completed all of the coursework by the end of the grading period. All unfinished assignments receive a 0%.

GRAVA Grading Scale:

Mark	Regular Value	9-12 Grading Scale		7-8 Grading Scale	
			Percentages		Percentages
A	4.00	A	100-94	A	100-94
A-	3.67	A-	93-90	A-	93-90
B+	3.33	B+	89-87	B+	89-87
B	3.00	B	86-84	B	86-83
B-	2.67	B-	83-80	B-	82-80
C+	2.33	C+	79-77	C+	79-77
C	2.00	C	76-74	C	76-73
C-	1.67	C-	73-70	C-	72-70
D+	1.33	D+	69-67	D	69-50
D	1.00	D	66-64	F	49-0
D-	0.67	D-	63-60		
F	0.00	F	59-0		
I	0.00				
W/F	0.00				

Graduation Requirements for Students in Grades 9-12

Grand Rapids Area Schools Graduation Requirements

All high school students are expected to complete enough classes each year to attend as full-time students and make appropriate progress toward graduation. Students are expected to complete between 5-7 credits each year to be on track for graduation.

Graduation Requirements

- 4 credits of Language Arts
- 3 credits Math
- 3 credits Science
 - 1 credit Physical Science
 - 1 credit Biology
 - 1 credit Chemistry or Physics
- 3.5 credits Social Studies
- 1 credit PE
- .5 credits Health
- 1 credit Art
- .5 credits Money Matters
- 7.5 Elective credits

23 Total Required Credits

Technology

Technology Device and Insurance Agreement

Students will be provided with technology to use at GRAVA. All students/families are required to sign the [Technology Device and Insurance Agreement](#) prior to beginning the academic school year. GRAVA will provide to the student, according to the terms and conditions specified in one-quarter increments, the following device, equipment, and accessories:

- IPAD
- Power cord

Students are required to follow School Board Policy [524: Internet Acceptable Use & Safety](#)

Technology Support

If you are experiencing a technology issue, you can contact the Grand Rapids Area Schools Technology Department by sending an email to grhelpdesk@isd318.org. A member of the Technology Department will contact you as soon as possible during Technology Help Desk hours.

Technology Help Desk Hours:

Monday - Friday

7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Academic Integrity

GRAVA expects a full commitment to academic integrity from each of our students. Should your teacher suspect that cheating or plagiarism has taken place, you may be required to verify your work which can include additional demonstration of mastery such as additional course work, verbal demonstration of comprehension, and proctored exams in school at the Grand Rapids Area Schools offices

- Your work on each assignment will be completely your own.
- Your collaboration with another classmate on any assignment will be pre-approved by your instructor.
- You will not cheat or plagiarize in any form.
- You will not allow others to copy your work.
- You will not misuse content from the Internet.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Dictionary.com defines plagiarism as, “An act or instance of using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization and the representation of that author’s work as one’s own, as by not crediting the original author.” Plagiarism, or copying another’s work and submitting it as your own, is not tolerated and will receive consequences when identified and confirmed.

Students found to have copied sections from books, encyclopedias or off the Internet, and turned this work in as their own, will receive a reduction in grade for that assignment up to a “fail.” This may also result in a loss of credit for that particular class. Cheating on an exam or an assignment may have a similar consequence. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing may lose credit for the assignment. The student may lose credit for the course upon the consideration of the teacher and an administrator.

Workspace and Supplies

Students must have their IPAD charged and ready each day to complete their work. We strongly encourage having a designated space to work from on a daily basis. High-speed internet access is required.

While you are an online student, we recommend having notebooks, pencils, a calculator, and any other school supplies you would need in a traditional setting available in your workspace. Students are required to have a headset/earbuds in order to participate in live classes and individual support sessions. Students are encouraged to use the online tools embedded into the Edgenuity platform.

6-8 Supply List	9-12 Supply List
Notebook	Notebook
Pencils	Pencils
Headphones	Headphones
Mouse (optional)	Mouse (optional)
**May be additional requirements dependent on elective choices	TI-84 Calculator (optional, we use Desmos online calculators)
	**May be additional requirements dependent on elective choices

Standardized Testing Requirements

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs)

All GRAVA students are expected to participate in state and district assessments. Some of these assessments may be required for graduation while others are designed to measure student proficiency in various subjects. Other state-mandated tests may be administered throughout the year.

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments are state assessments given in grades 7, 8, 10, and 11. High school students must take the science test one time during their high school career, generally administered during the time they are taking Life Science/Biology. Parents/Guardians have the right to refuse student participation in statewide testing. Parents/Guardians choosing refusal must review the Parent/ Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing and complete and return the included form. To read Grand Rapids Area Schools assessment policies, visit <https://www.isd318.org/domain/263>

Activities 9-12

Students living in the Grand Rapids Area Schools district boundary are able to participate in athletics and activities. Please contact the Grand Rapids/Bigfork High School Activities Office with questions. Students in our partner districts may participate in their home district activities.

21

Graduation

Students enrolled in GRAVA will have the opportunity to participate in the Grand Rapids/Bigfork High School Graduation Ceremony.

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences

Parent Conferences will be scheduled throughout the year. The purpose of conferences is to keep parents/guardians informed of the progress students are making at GRAVA.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to sign up and/or access the Parent Portal to view up-to-date grades. Sign-up for Parent Portal can be done by contacting the school counselor.

Bullying Policy

GRAVA is committed to providing a safe and caring environment for all students. We treat each other with respect and refuse to tolerate bullying of any kind. We will endeavor to be kind and respectful in our interactions with others.

Definitions

1. The term “bullying” means any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including cyberbullying, i.e. acts transmitted through the use of the internet, cell phone, or another electronic device) that is likely to be reasonably perceived as being intimidating, mocking, belittling, hostile, humiliating, threatening, or is otherwise likely to evoke fear of physical harm or emotional distress. Bullying includes but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Hurting another physically by hitting, kicking, tripping, or pushing
 - b. Stealing or damaging another person’s things
 - c. Ganging up on another person
 - d. Teasing another person in a hurtful way
 - e. Calling another person hurtful names
 - f. Using put-downs, such as insulting another person’s race, making fun of another person because of their characteristics based on gender, or denigrating another person for other personal characteristics
 - g. Spreading rumors or untruths about another person

Off-campus student behavior, including behavior on computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices whether at home or in other places is subject to consequences under this policy if the behavior creates a material and substantial disruption of the educational process at school for one or more students. ([Policy 423](#) and [Policy 514](#))

Student Expectations

GRAVA students must not bully others, must not be a bystander to bullying, and must report bullying to an adult. Students are expected to do the following:

1. Treat others with kindness and respect
2. Refuse to bully others
3. Refuse to let others be bullied
4. Refuse to watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being bullied
5. Try to include everyone in activities, especially those who are often left out
6. Report bullying to an adult

School District Policies

A complete list of policies can be found on the School District website at <https://www.isd318.org/domain/236>

Notifications:

- [Directory Information and Pupil Records](#)
- [Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment \(PPRA\)](#)
- **Employment and Services Criminal History Background Checks**

The school district has adopted a policy, the purpose of which is to promote the physical, social, and psychological well-being of its students. Pursuant to this policy, the school district shall seek criminal history background checks for all applicants who receive an offer of employment with the school district. The school district also shall seek criminal history background checks for all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of

whether compensation is paid. These positions include, but are not limited to, all athletic coaches, extracurricular academic coaches, assistants, and advisors. The school district may elect to seek criminal history background checks for other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees.

- **Nondiscrimination Policy** It is the policy of GRAVA to provide equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, age, gender identity or expression, or socio-economic status. Students with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education that includes general education, special education and/or related aids and services.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Title IX Coordinator

Kasie VanQuekelberg
Director of Human Resources
Grand Rapids Area Schools
Telephone Number: 218-327-5708

Section 504 Coordinator

Anna Lloyd
Director of Special Services
Grand Rapids Area Schools
Telephone Number: 218-327-5705

Visit the school district website (www.isd318.org) for more information. All policies, including [Policy 522 - Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination](#) - can be found on the school district website: <https://www.isd318.org/domain/236>

School Attendance

Regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communication between teachers and students, and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student.

Reasonable efforts will be made by the school district to accommodate any student who wishes to be excused from a curricular activity for a religious observance. Requests for accommodations should be directed to the GRAVA principal.

Policies

- 102 [Equal Educational Opportunity](#)
- 413 [Harassment and Violence](#)
- 418 [Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School](#)
- 419 [Tobacco-Free Environment](#)
- 423 [Employee-Student Relationships](#)
- 501 [School Weapons Policy](#)
- 502 [Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions & Student's Person](#)
- 503 [Student Attendance](#)
- 506 [Student Discipline](#)
- 514 [Bullying Prohibition Policy](#)
- 522 [Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy](#)
- 524 [Electronic Technologies Acceptable Use Policy](#)
- 526 [Hazing Prohibition](#)
- 529 [Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students](#)
- 531 [The Pledge of Allegiance](#)
- 534 [School Meals Policy](#)

Statewide Assessments:

Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information

Your student's participation in statewide assessments is important as it allows your school and district to ensure all students have access to a high-quality education. In the past, students with disabilities and English learners were often excluded from statewide assessments. By requiring that all students take statewide assessments, schools and teachers have more information to see how all students are doing. This helps schools to continuously improve the education they provide and to identify groups, grades, or subjects that may need additional support.

Assessments Connect to Standards

Statewide assessments are based on the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) or the [WIDA English Language Development Standards](#). These standards define the knowledge and skills students should be learning in K–12 public and charter schools. Minnesota prioritizes high-quality education, and statewide assessments give educators and leaders an opportunity to evaluate student and school success.

Statewide Assessments Help Families and Students

Participating in statewide assessments helps families see a snapshot of their student's learning so they can advocate for their success in school. High school students can use MCA results:

- For Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) in grade 10.
- For course placement at a Minnesota State college or university. If students receive a college-ready score, they may not need to take a remedial, noncredit course for that subject.

English learners who take the ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS and meet certain requirements have the opportunity to exit from English learner programs.

Taking Statewide Assessments Helps Your Student's School

Statewide assessments provide information to your school and district about how all students are engaging with the content they learn in school. This information helps:

- Educators evaluate their instructional materials.
- Schools and districts identify inequities between groups, explore root causes, and implement supports.
- School and district leaders make decisions about how to use money and resources to support all students.

Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

Student participation in state and locally required assessments is a parent/guardian choice. If you choose to have your student not participate in a statewide assessment, please provide a reason for your decision on the form. Contact your student's school to learn more about locally required assessments.

Consequences of Not Participating in Statewide Assessments

- The student will not receive an individual score. For ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, the student would not have the opportunity to exit their English learner program.
- School and district assessment results will be incomplete, making it more difficult to have an accurate picture of student learning.
- Since all eligible students are included in some calculations even when they do not participate, school and district accountability results are impacted. This may affect the school's ability to be identified for support or recognized for success.

Check with your local school or district to see if there are any other consequences for not participating.



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