

Comparison of the Reading MCA-III and Reading MCA-IV – Test Administration Changes

As academic standards are revised, a new series of assessments is developed to align with the updated standards. In MDE’s official documents and test data, the series number is added—at least in the initial reference—to indicate the academic content standards that are being measured. The Reading MCA-III was administered from 2013-2025 and was aligned to the 2010 Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts. Spring 2026 is the first administration of the new Reading MCA-IV assessment aligned to the Reading strand of the [2020 Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts](#), which addresses comprehension such as interpreting and evaluating arguments and use of information from a wide variety of sources. The assessment will still be administered in grades 3-8 and 10.

The new Reading MCA-IV assessment is aligned to the Reading strand of the [2020 Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts](#), which addresses comprehension such as interpreting and evaluating arguments and use of information from a wide variety of sources.

MDE seeks to continuously improve the testing experience for students through new and enhanced test materials, tools, supports, and accommodations. With this in mind, some testing features will be available only for the new MCA-IV series, as they are developed along with the new assessment. The [Student Readiness Tools \(SRTs\)](#) on the Minnesota Assessment Hub website can be used to explore many of these changes through instructional videos and practice opportunities to use these tools and test supports, and indicate answers to different types of questions.

The table below outlines the key test administration changes between the Reading MCA-III and Reading MCA-IV. Refer to the [Procedures Manual](#) for more information. Contact mde.testing@state.mn.us with any questions.

2025-26 Summary of Changes from Reading MCA-III to MCA-IV

Feature	Reading MCA-III	Reading MCA-IV	Description of Change
24-point font test book	✓		The 24-point large print test book is not available for the MCA-IV series. Instead, the 18-point large print test book format has improved readability, and its new layout has been designed to maximize the layout of the content on an 8.5" x 11" page size, making the materials more manageable for students.
Passages book		✓	Students testing on paper will use a separate passages book to make it easier to access reading passage information alongside the items included in the test book. The passages book is provided automatically with all paper test books.
Assistive technology online forms		✓	Specially designed TestNav forms allow students who use assistive technology (AT) such as screen readers or non-screen reader devices or programs, to use their AT to interact with the online Reading MCA-IV. The braille paper test materials can be used alongside the AT online forms. DACs must indicate this accommodation prior to testing in order for the applicable form to be available for the student.
Allow student to read a reading test aloud, recording their voice for later playback	✓		This accommodation (MT) is no longer available since the new read-aloud accommodation options provide this support for eligible students.
Headphones		✓	Headphones are now required for the online test due to audio available in the English glossary support.
English glossary		✓	The English glossary feature provides concise definitions or explanations of selected academic terms in English on items only (not passages). The online glossary is an embedded test feature that provides both written and audio definitions. Paper translated and glossed word lists are also available.
Read-aloud accommodations		✓	Read-aloud accommodations (script/human reader, text-to-speech, or assistive technology online form for screen readers) are available for eligible students. With these accommodations, the reading passages and test items are read to the student. MDE must approve their use for each student.