



2026-2027 Detroit Lakes Public School Assessment Calendar

Why does Detroit Lakes assess students?

Assessments help teachers understand each student's strengths, identify areas where additional support may be needed, monitor growth over time, and ensure students are making progress toward state academic standards. No single assessment tells the whole story. Teachers use assessment results along with classroom performance to guide instruction and support student success.

While the Minnesota Department of Education and Detroit Lakes Public Schools work to keep this testing schedule consistent, please note that it is subject to change. As testing dates approach, each building will share more detailed information with parents. We will continue to update this schedule and provide families with direct communication regarding their child's assessment dates and results.

A real-time detailed calendar can be found [here](#).



STAR MATH ASSESSMENTS (Grades 6-12)

Star Assessments are standardized computer-based tests that take about 10–30 minutes. They provide teachers with valuable learning data to help guide instruction. Because Star tests are computer adaptive, they adjust to each answer your child provides. This allows teachers to gather the most accurate information in the shortest amount of testing time.

The results are used to inform instruction, monitor progress, and measure annual growth. Students in grades 6–10 take Star Assessments in math.

STAR Assessment Windows

Each teacher and/or principal will provide parent notification of the exact dates and times for individual teachers' classrooms.

- **Fall:** September 8 – October 2
- **Winter:** December 1 – January 15
- **Spring:** April 15 – May 21



FASTBRIDGE ASSESSMENTS (K-5)

The **Minnesota READ Act** requires schools to use approved literacy screeners in grades K-3 to monitor students' early reading development. These screeners also help identify characteristics of dyslexia so that students can get the right support early.

At Detroit Lakes Public Schools, we will use **FastBridge Assessments** in both reading and math to help teachers understand each child's learning needs and growth.

Fastbridge Assessment Window

Each teacher or principal will provide parents with notification of the exact dates and times.

- **Fall:** September 8 - October 10
- **Winter:** January 6 - February 12
- **Spring:** April 13 - May 21



CAPTI READBASIX (Grades 4-12)

Capti READ Basix is a Minnesota-required reading assessments. Results help teachers identify strengths and provide targeted instruction and support.

Capti READBasix Assessment Windows

Each teacher and/or principal will provide parent notification of the exact dates and times for individual teachers' classrooms.

- **Fall:** September 14 - October 2
- **Winter:** December 1 - January 15
- **Spring:** April 15 - May 21



STATE ACCOUNTABILITY TESTING

MCA testing is an accountability assessment required by federal and state law to examine the progress of our district students towards achievement of the Minnesota Academic Standards. More information can be found on the MDE [website](#).

- Teachers and principals will be sending out detailed information closer to the date.

- Exact dates and times may be adjusted and will be noted on the calendar. We will update our [testing](#) Google Calendar with all details as they are finalized. If you have questions or concerns, contact your child's teacher or principal.

February 1, 2027

- WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS – **begins**

March 8, 2027

- MCA Reading grades 3–8 and 10 and Mathematics grades 3–8 and 11 – **begins**
- MCA Science grades 5, 8, and high school – **begins**
- MTAS Reading, Mathematics, and Science – **begins**

March 26, 2027

- WIDA ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS – **ends**

May 7, 2027

- MCA Reading grades 3–8 and 10 and Mathematics grades 3–8 and 11– **ends**
- MTAS Reading, Mathematics, and Science – **ends**

May 14, 2027

- MCA Science grades 5, 8, and high school– **end**





OPTIONAL ACT EXAM (Grade 11)

ACT Exam: Optional

The students will receive specific information regarding the time and details of signing up to take the district-offered ACT.

- April 6, 2027
- Make-up date: April 20, 2027



OPTIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS

The 2027 AP Exams will be administered in schools over two weeks in May. Students who are taking exams will receive notification from their teachers, AP coordinators, or high school counselors about when and where to report. Find more information on the [AP Central site](#).

2027 AP Exam Dates (May 3-14)

- **Biology:** Monday, May 3rd, 2027
- **Statistics:** Tuesday, May 11, 2027
- **English Literature & Composition:** Wednesday, May 5, 2027
- **United States History:** Friday, May 7, 2027
- **Calculus:** Monday, May 10, 2027
- **Psychology:** Friday, May 14, 2027



WIDA Screener (for newly enrolled students who may qualify for English learner services)

- **As Needed:** WIDA Screener for newly enrolled students who may qualify for English learner services.