

Assessment Overview

Name of Test	Objective	Grades Tested
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) Reading, Math, Science	MCA's are the state tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and also meet federal and state legislative requirements. Results are also used to make decisions for students about curriculum and instructional practices.	Reading: 3-8, 10 Math: 3-8, 11 Science: 5, 8, & High School
Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) Reading, Math, Science	MTAS is Minnesota's alternative assessment based on alternate achievement standards. Students who receive special education services and meet eligibility requirements may take the alternate assessment MTAS instead of the MCA's.	Reading: 3-8, 10 Math: 3-8, 11 Science: 5, 8, & High School
Optional Local Purpose Assessment (OLPA)	This assessment may be given to assist in predicting proficiency on the MCA and plan for instructional interventions.	Reading: 3-8, 10 Math: 3-8, 11
Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State (ACCESS)	ACCESS is a reading, writing, listening, and speaking test for English Learners (ELs) designed to demonstrate growth from year to year. *An Alternate ACCESS may be administered to students receiving special education services and are English Learners.	K-12 English Learners
ACT	The ACT is a standardized aptitude examination for college admission	11
STAR 360	STAR assessments are computer adaptive tests in reading and math that can be used for screening and progress monitoring to aid with instructional decisions and interventions	All students screened upon enrollment, then continued if progress monitoring if deficit skills are revealed.

At the West Central Education District ALC and Beacon Program state and local assessments are used to report progress as a program as well as individually. The data is important in making curriculum and instruction decisions. Should you choose to have your son/daughter "opt out" of assessments, a written statement regarding your intentions and signature is required. The written statement needs to be submitted to the program administrator prior to assessments (assessment schedule is posted online).