

NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Beacon Academy administers the MAP Reading and MAP Math tests to students in grades K-8 in the Fall and Spring of each school year. MAP tests are untimed, but usually take 60-90 minutes per subject area. Students and staff receive immediate results upon completion of the test.

The MAP is a nationally normed assessment that provides feedback to students, parents and teachers regarding the student's academic growth over time. The MAP is also one of the academic accountability measures used by Beacon Academy's Authorizer, Innovative Quality Schools (IQS).

[Click here to read or download the Parent Guide to MAP](#)

State Assessments

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments: Reading, Math, and Science Testing

The MCAs are state tests that measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards. The MCAs also meet the Minnesota Department of Education's state and federal obligations under the Every Student Succeeds Act. State assessment results are one element of MDE's North Star school accountability system. The MCA is also one of the academic accountability measures used by Beacon Academy's Authorizer, Innovative Quality Schools (IQS).

Reading

Reading tests are given in grades 3-8 and 10. They measure the student's ability to understand how a piece of writing is structured by the author and the kinds of writing devices an author uses to express the storyline or argument.

Math

Math tests are given in grades 3-8 and 11. They measure the student's ability to solve complex, multi-step problems based on real-world situations using math.

Science

Science tests are given in grade 5, 8 and 10. Often, the problems focus on scientific scenarios students might encounter doing real-world research and investigations.

The MCA's are administered in the Spring of each school year. Official results will be available the following fall.

MCAs are untimed, but estimated durations are:

Grade and Test	Number of Groups of Items	Approximate Number of Items	Typical Range for Scheduling	Estimated Time to Impact Performance
Grades 3–5 Reading MCA	5	50	1.5–2 hours	Up to 2 hours
Grades 6–8 Reading MCA	5	55	1.5–2 hours	Up to 2 hours
Grade 10 Reading MCA	4	60	1.5–2 hours	Up to 2 hours

Table 17. Estimated Test Administration Times for Online Mathematics MCA

Grade and Test	Number of Groups of Items	Approximate Number of Items	Typical Range for Scheduling	Estimated Time to Impact Performance
Grades 3–8 Mathematics MCA	5	50	1.5–2 hours	Up to 2.5 hours
Grade 11 Mathematics MCA	6	55	1.5 hours	Up to 2 hours

Table 18. Estimated Test Administration Times for Online Science MCA

Grade and Test	Number of Sections	Approximate Number of Items	Typical Range for Scheduling	Estimated Time to Impact Performance
Grade 5 Science MCA	4	50	1–1.5 hours	Up to 1.5 hours
Grade 8 Science MCA	4	60	1–1.5 hours	Up to 1.5 hours
High School Science MCA	4	80	1–1.5 hours	Up to 1.5 hours

ACCESS for English Learners

State and federal laws require that all identified ELD students are assessed annually to measure their English language proficiency and progress in learning English in the four domains of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The ACCESS test is administered annually in February-March to assess English language proficiency and to monitor ELD students' progress toward meeting Minnesota's standards for English language development. Official results are available the following fall. The estimated test times for each domain are Listening: 40 minutes, Reading: 35 minutes, Speaking: 30 minutes, Writing: 65 minutes.

[Click here to read or download the MDE ACCESS Parent Fact Sheet](#)

Participation in Assessments

Beacon Academy is committed to the ongoing assessment of student performance on district, state and national measures in order to provide parents the information they need to make informed decisions about the education of their children, and to provide staff the data they require to make informed instructional decisions.

Under federal law, parents and guardians have the right to opt their child out of standardized testing. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has published a [Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing](#) which provides information to help parents/guardians make informed decisions about Minnesota State Assessments.

If a parent or guardian wishes to speak with a school representative about their child's participation in standardized testing, they may contact their child's classroom teacher, an administrator, or the District Assessment Coordinator.

If a parent or guardian wishes to opt their child out of standardized testing, the form at the back of the [Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing](#) must be completed and submitted to the District Assessment Coordinator.

For More Information

The contact information for the District Assessment Coordinator is as follows:

Myla Johnson
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3415 Louisiana Ave N
Crystal, MN 55427
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More information about when testing will occur can be found on the [Beacon Academy School Calendar](#).