

## **Zumbrota Mazeppa Schools: Testing Schedule 19-20**

**September 9-23: Fastbridge Benchmark assessments (district)**

**October 16: PSAT (Grade 11)**

**December 6: ASVAB (Grade 11)**

**January 2-24: Fastbridge Benchmark assessments (district)**

**January 27: ACCESS window opens (state)**

**February 3-12: ACCESS (Grades 7-12)**

**February 17-28: ACCESS (Grades K-6); deadline for ACT**

**March 2-6: ACCESS Make-up testing at ZM (district)**

**March 2: Testing windows open for:**

**MCA Reading grades 3-8 and 10;**

**MCA Math Grades 3-8 and 10;**

**MCA Science grade 5, 8 and high school;**

**MTAS Reading, Math and Science**

**March 19-April 10: MTAS Reading, Math and Science (district)**

**March 20: ACCESS for ELL window closes (state)**

**April 4: ACT (Grade 11)**

**April 14: MCA Reading (Grades 4 and 6)**

**April 15: MCA Reading (Grades 4 and 6)**

**April 16: MCA Reading (Grades 3 and 5);**

**Make-up MCA Reading (Grades 4 and 6)**

**April 17: MCA Reading (Grades 3 and 5)**

April 20: **MCA Reading** (Grade 7-morning)  
**MCA Math** (Grade 8-afternoon)  
**MCA Make-up Reading** (Grades 3-5)

April 21: **MCA Math** (Grade 6)  
**MCA Reading** (Grade 10-morning)  
**MCA Math** (Grade 7-afternoon)

April 22: **MCA Math** (Grade 6)  
**MCA Math** (Grade 11-morning)  
**MCA Reading** (Grade 8-afternoon)

April 23: **MCA Math** (Grade 4)  
**MCA Make-up Math** (Grade 6)  
**MCA Science** (Grade 8 - morning)  
**MCA Science** (Grade 10 - afternoon)

April 24: **MCA Math** (Grade 4)  
**MCA MAKEUP Reading, Math & Science** (Grades 7-11)

April 27: **MCA Math** (Grade 5)  
**MCA Make-up Math** (Grade 4)

April 28: **MCA Math** (Grade 5)

April 29: **MCA Math** (Grade 3)  
**MCA Math Make-up** (Grade 5)

April 30: **MCA Math** (Grade 3)

May 1: **MCA Math Make-up** (Grade 3)

May 1: Testing **window closes** for  
MCA Reading grades 3-8 and 10;  
MCA Math grades 3-8 and 11  
**MTAS ends** for Reading, Math and Science

**May 4-22: Fastbridge Assessments window (district)**

**May 5: MCA Science (Grade 5)**

**AP Calculus**

**May 6: MCA Make-up Science (Grade 5)**

**AP Literature**

**May 7: MCA Science (Grade 10 - during 10th grade science classes)**

**May 8: Testing window closes for MCA Science grades 5, 8 and high school**

**May 8: AP US History**

**May 12: AP Psychology**



## Tests and Descriptions

**FAST Bridge (FAST)** are benchmark reading and math assessments used with Primary and Elementary students. The benchmarks are typically administered three times within the school year and take 5 minutes for benchmark testing, and 15 - 25 minutes for online portions in both reading and math.

**The PSAT (Preliminary SAT)** test measures reading, writing and language, and math skills. It is optional for high school students. The fee is \$15 and will take approximately 3.5 hours.

**The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery)** test is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. This optional test is given to juniors and takes approximately 3 hours. The test is free of charge to those students interested.

**ACCESS/ELL (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English Language Learners)** is a large-scale assessment of English language proficiency based on the Minnesota Standards for English Language Development developed by the WIDA Consortium. Students are assessed in the 4 domains of reading, writing, listening and speaking.

**NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress)** in reading and mathematics will be administered this school year (2019-20) to ZM 4<sup>th</sup> grade students as part of a congressionally mandated project administered by, and under the direction of, the US Department of Education. The total time for the pretest activities and administration should not exceed 120 minutes.

**ACT** is a standardized, timed test that measures a student's skills in five core areas: English (45 min.), math (60min.), reading (40 min.), science (35 min.), and writing (40 min.). Students take the **ACT** so that they can submit their scores to colleges as part of the college application process. This year (2019-20) the ACT will be offered to interested 11<sup>th</sup> grade students at ZMHS at a reduced rate through a reimbursement opportunity through the Minnesota Department of Education.

**MTAS (Minnesota Test of Academic Skills)** is an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards aligned to extensions of the Minnesota Academic Standards (MCA) representing a reduction of the breadth and depth of the standards. Only students meeting eligibility requirements are eligible to take this assessment. Students are given as much time as needed to complete the MTAS with teacher's facilitation. (Subject and Test Estimated Time: Reading MTAS 45–90 minutes; Mathematics MTAS 30–60 minutes; Science MTAS 30–60 minutes)

**MCA (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments)** are the math, reading and science tests that Minnesota uses to comply with the requirements of the Federal Department of Education. While the MCA can range from 2.5 to 4.5 hours in length (dependent on the subject area and the grade level), students are given as much time as they need/choose to complete the assessments.

**AP (Advanced Placement)** final tests are given in a subject area to gain credit for the course. These tests are typically completed in one class session.

**Note: No one assessment gives the full picture of a student as a learner. The teachers and staff at Zumbrota Mazeppa Schools use a variety of instruction methods, as well as, various formal and informal measures of assessment to gather data. This information is used to better inform both students and teachers about group and individual student strengths and needs. The ultimate goal is to help all to be as successful as possible.**

## Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and communities.

### Why statewide testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college.

The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academics standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our students with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens.

### Why does participation matter?

A statewide assessment is just one measure of your student’s achievement, but your student’s participation is important to understand how effectively the education at your student’s school is aligned to the academic standards.

- In Minnesota’s implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, a student not participating in the statewide assessments will not receive an individual score and for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, including opportunities for support and recognition, will not be considered “proficient.”
- Students who receive a college-ready score on the high school MCA are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota State college or university in the corresponding subject area, potentially saving the student time and money.
- Educators and policy makers use information from assessments to make decisions about resources and support provided.
- Parents and the general public use assessment information to compare schools and make decisions about where to purchase a home or to enroll their children.
- School performance results that are publicly released and used by families and communities, are negatively impacted if students do not participate in assessments.
- English learners not taking ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will not receive a score to meet English learner program exiting criteria.

### Academic Standards and Assessments

#### What are academic standards?

The [Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards](#) are the statewide expectations for student academic achievement. They identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area and are organized by grade level. School districts determine how students will meet the standards by developing courses and curriculum aligned to the academic standards.

#### What is the relationship between academic statewide assessments and the academic standards?

The statewide assessments in mathematics, reading, and science are used to measure whether students, and their school and district, are meeting the academic standards. Statewide assessments are one measure of how well students are doing on the content that is part of their daily instruction. It is also a measure of how well schools and districts are doing in aligning their curriculum and teaching the standards.

#### Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

- Based on the Minnesota Academic Standards; given annually in grades 3–8 and high school in reading and mathematics; given annually in grades 5, 8, and high school for science.
- Majority of students take the MCA.
- MTAS is an option for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

#### ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

- Based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.
- Given annually to English learners in grades K–12 in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Majority of English learners take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an option for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

## Why are these assessments effective?

Minnesota believes that in order to effectively measure what students are learning, testing needs to be more than answering multiple choice questions.

- To answer questions, students may need to type in answers, drag and drop images and words, or manipulate a graph or information.
- The Reading and Mathematics MCA are adaptive, which means the answers a student provides determine the next questions the student will answer.
- The Science MCA incorporates simulations, which require students to perform experiments in order to answer questions.

All of these provide students the opportunity to apply critical thinking needed for success in college and careers and show what they know and can do.

## Are there limits on local testing?

As stated in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.301, for students in grades 1–6, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 10 hours per school year. For students in grades 7–12, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 11 hours per school year. These limits do not include statewide testing.

In an effort to encourage transparency, the statute also requires a district or charter school, before the first day of each school year, to publish on its website a comprehensive calendar of standardized tests to be administered in the district or charter school during that school year. The calendar must provide the rationale for administering each assessment and indicate whether the assessment is a local option or required by state or federal law.

## What if I choose not to have my student participate?

Parents/guardians have a right to not have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Minnesota Statutes require the department to provide information about statewide assessments to parents/guardians and include a form to complete if they refuse to have their student participate. This form follows on the next page and includes an area to note the reason for the refusal to participate. Your student's district may require additional information.

A school or district may have additional consequences beyond those mentioned in this document for a student not participating in the state-required standardized assessments. There may also be consequences for not participating in assessments selected and administered at the local level. Please contact your school for more information regarding local decisions.

## When do students take the assessments?

Each school sets their testing schedule within the state testing window. Contact your student's school for information on specific testing days.

- The MCA and MTAS testing window begins in March and ends in May.
- The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window begins at the end of January and ends in March.

## When do I receive my student's results?

Each summer, individual student reports are sent to school districts and are provided to families no later than fall conferences. The reports can be used to see your child's progress and help guide future instruction.

## How much time is spent on testing?

Statewide assessments are taken one time each year; the majority of students test online. On average, the amount of time spent taking statewide assessments is **less than 1 percent of instructional time** in a school year. The assessments are not timed and students can continue working as long as they need.

## Why does it seem like my student is taking more tests?

The statewide required tests are limited to those outlined in this document. Many districts make local decisions to administer additional tests that the state does not require. Contact your district for more information.

## Where do I get more information?

Students and families can find out more on our [Statewide Testing page](https://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).





Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.31, subdivision 4a, requires the commissioner to create and publish a form for parents and guardians to complete if they refuse to have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Your student's district may require additional information. School districts must post this three-page form on the district website and include it in district student handbooks.

## Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

To opt out of statewide assessments, the parent/guardian must complete this form and return it to the student's school.

To best support school district planning, please submit this form to the student's school no later than January 15 of the academic school year. For students who enroll after a statewide testing window begins, please submit the form within two weeks of enrollment. A new refusal form is required **each year** parents/guardians wish to opt the student out of statewide assessments.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (This form is **only** applicable for the 20\_\_ to 20\_\_ school year.)

Student's Legal First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Legal Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Legal Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Student's District/School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

**Please initial to indicate you have received and reviewed information about statewide testing.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I received information on statewide assessments and choose to opt my student out. MDE provides the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing* on the [MDE website](http://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).

Reason for refusal:

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting the student out of this school year:

\_\_\_\_\_ MCA/MTAS Reading

\_\_\_\_\_ MCA/MTAS Science

\_\_\_\_\_ MCA/MTAS Mathematics

\_\_\_\_\_ ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Contact your school or district for the form to opt out of local assessments.

**I understand that by signing this form, my school and I may lose valuable information about how well my student is progressing academically. As a result, my student will not receive an individual score. Refusing to participate in statewide assessments may impact the school, district, and state's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning; for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, my student will not be considered "proficient."**

**If my student is in high school, I understand that by signing this form my student will not have an MCA score that could potentially save time and money by not having to take remedial, non-credit courses at a Minnesota State college or university.**

Parent/Guardian Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

To be completed by school or district staff only.

Student ID or MARSS Number \_\_\_\_\_

