



## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Why does my child take tests and which tests are given?**

North Branch Area Public Schools is committed to providing the best possible education for every student. Tests are given for different reasons, depending on the need. Some tests are required by federal and/or state legislation. Other tests are given to measure English language proficiency, progress toward a learning goal or to monitor progress made during a period of time, to measure programs or services. One test cannot fill all needs.

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

Required by the State of Minnesota to measure progress to MN Academic Standards and by federal legislations to comply with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), part of the elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

### **Estimated testing Times (times for online tests)**

- MCA Reading, grades 3-8: 1-2.5 hours
- MCA Reading, grade 10: 1--2.5 hours
- MCA Math, grades 3-8: 1-2.5 hours
- MCA Math, grade 11: 1-2 hours
- MCA Science, .5-1.5 hours
- MTAS: Individualized
- For more information about state testing, go to [Minnesota Department of Education](#)
- For more information about MCA testing, please see this [document](#) from the Minnesota Department of Education
- For more information about MTAS, please see this [document](#) from the Minnesota Department of Education

### **English Learners ACCESS for ELLS and Alternate ACCESS:**

- Required by the State of Minnesota and federal legislation for all English Learners (ELs).
- These tests measure English proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and are usually administered during February and March
- For more information about ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS, please see this [document](#) from the Minnesota Department of Education

- Estimated testing time for ACCESS, Kdg: Individualized, approximately 1 hour
- Estimated testing time fo ACCESS, Grades 1-12: 60 minutes per domain (listening, reading, speaking)
- Estimated testing time for ACCESS Writing, Grades 1-12: 80 minutes
- Estimated time for Alternate ACCESS: 20 minutes per domain
- For more information about ACCESS, please see this [document](#) from the Minnesota Department of Education

### **Fastbridge: aReading, aMath, Early Reading & Early Math:**

- Online math and reading tests administered to all students in grades K-9 and students at-risk in grades 10-12
- Students in K-6 take the FastBridge assessments- aReading and aMath
- Kindergarten and 1st grade- Early Reading and Early Math
- Students in 7-9 and at-risk 10-12 take FastBridge
- Estimated time per subject is approximately 45 minutes for FastBridge tests
- Students performance is reported by achievement level and growth (national and state norms)
- Tests are adaptive, meaning that the items a student will see will adjust in difficulty based on a student's correct response

### **When will I receive results for my child?**

- For all state assessments, for the previous school-year spring results, schools are required to distribute individual student reports by fall conferences. Contact your student's school for specific requests
- For more information about MCA testing results, please view sample ISRs, videos and the [Interpretive Guide for Minnesota Assessments Reports](#)
- For more information about MTAS results, please view sample ISRs, videos and the [Interpretive Guide for Minnesota Assessments Reports](#)
- For FastBridge results, contact your child's teacher for school for results. Results are typically shared with parents at conference times and or student goal setting

### **Opt-out process**

Parents who prefer to opt their child out of state and/or local testing may contact their principal to obtain an MDA Parent/Guardian for Statewide Assessment Form or click the link below. Please return this form to David Treichel, District Data & Assessment Specialist, at 651-674-1055 or [dtreichel@isd138.org](mailto:dtreichel@isd138.org) or Becky Wille, at 651-674-1061 or [bwille@isd138.org](mailto:bwille@isd138.org). If you have questions regarding this form, contact David Treichel or Becky Wille.

The form asks for a deadline of January 15, however, forms will accepted until testing has begun.

[Parent/guardian Refusal for Statewide Testing](#)