



Higher
Ground
Academy

2025–2026 State Mandated & District Testing Schedule

Elementary Academy (K–5) · Junior High Academy (6–8) · Secondary Academy (9–12)

ASSESSMENT YEAR	MCA TESTING WINDOW	ACCESS TESTING WINDOW	MCA & ACCESS RESULTS	FASTBRIDGE RESULTS
2025–2026	March 3 – May 2, 2026	January 30 – March 24	Mailed to families in early September	Sent home with student at year end

■ Elementary Academy · Grades K–5 ■ Junior High Academy · Grades 6–8 ■ Secondary Academy · Grades 9–12

I Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-III) & MTAS

STATE MANDATED

SOURCE OF REQUIREMENT	ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT	WINDOWS & REPORTING
State Assessment — State Mandated. Administered to measure student progress toward Minnesota’s academic standards and to meet the requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).	MCA-III. The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment is an online assessment containing multiple choice and technology enhanced items. MTAS. Students will take assessments on grade level days.	Reading: Grades 3–8 and 10. Mathematics: Grades 3–8 and 11. Science: Grades 5, 8 and High School. State window begins March 3 and ends May 2 . Results are mailed to parents in early September.

MCA Reading

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	TEST DATES	MAKE-UP DATES
Elementary Academy	3 rd	April 20 & 21, 2026	April 22 & 23
	4 th	April 20 & 21, 2026	April 22 & 23
	5 th	April 20 & 21, 2026	April 22 & 23
Junior High Academy	6 th	April 20 & 21, 2026	April 22 & 23
	7 th	April 20 & 21, 2026	April 22 & 23
Secondary Academy	8 th	April 22 & 23, 2026	April 24
	10 th	April 23 & 24, 2026	April 24

MCA Mathematics

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	TEST DATES	MAKE-UP DATES
Elementary Academy	3 rd	April 27 & 28, 2026	April 29 & 30
	4 th	April 27 & 28, 2026	April 29 & 30
	5 th	April 27 & 28, 2026	April 29 & 30

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	TEST DATES	MAKE-UP DATES
Junior High Academy	6 th	April 27 & 28, 2026	April 29 & 30
	7 th	April 27 & 28, 2026	April 30 & May 1
Secondary Academy	8 th	April 29 & 30, 2026	May 1
	11 th	April 29 & 30, 2026	May 1

MCA Science

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	TEST DATES	MAKE-UP DATES
Elementary Academy	5 th	May 4 & 5, 2026	May 6 & 7
Junior High Academy	8 th	May 4 & 5, 2026	May 6 & 7
Secondary Academy	HS	May 4 & 5, 2026	May 6 & 7

Note: High school students will take the MCA Science test after they have successfully completed life science instruction.

II

FastBridge Screening & Dyslexia Screening

DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

SOURCE OF REQUIREMENT District Assessment. Administered three times per year to measure the instructional level and growth of students in reading and mathematics.	ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT FastBridge. A state-aligned computerized adaptive test. Estimated assessment time is 40–60 minutes per administration.	REPORTING Results are sent home with the student at the end of the year.
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aReading & aMath Screening Windows

Fall, Winter and Spring administrations, Grades K–12

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	AREADING			AMATH		
		FALL	WINTER Title I & After School	SPRING	FALL	WINTER Title I & After School	SPRING
Elementary Academy	K	Sept. 8 – Sept. 26	Title I only · Dec. 13–14	April 12 & 13	—	—	May 12
	1 st	Sept. 2 – Sept. 19	Title I only · Dec. 13–14	May 11	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	—	May 12
	2 nd	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	Dec. 15 – Dec. 16	May 11	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	—	May 12
	3 rd	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	Dec. 15 – Dec. 16	May 11	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	—	May 12
	4 th	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	Dec. 15 – Dec. 16	May 11	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	—	May 12
	5 th	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	Dec. 15 – Dec. 16	May 11	Sept. 2 – Sept. 5	—	May 12
Junior High Academy	6 th	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	Dec. 15 – Dec. 16	May 11	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12
	7 th	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	Dec. 15 – Dec. 16	May 11	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	AREADING			AMATH		
		FALL	WINTER Title I & After School	SPRING	FALL	WINTER Title I & After School	SPRING
Secondary Academy	8 th	Sept. 9	—	May 11	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12
	9 th	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12
	10 th	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12
	11 th	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12
	12 th	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 13	Sept. 9 – Sept. 11	—	May 12

Measures: Grades K–1 are administered earlyReading and earlyMath; Grades 2–12 are administered aReading and aMath. **Winter window:** Title I and After School participants only, as noted. An em dash (—) indicates no scheduled window for that grade and season.

III ACCESS for ELLs & Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

STATE MANDATED

SOURCE OF REQUIREMENT State Assessment — State Mandated. ESEA and Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.59, require that all English learners be assessed in grades K–12 in English language proficiency. ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, developed by the multi-state WIDA Consortium, are used to meet this federal requirement.	ABOUT THE ASSESSMENT ACCESS is an English language proficiency accountability assessment based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards. The Listening and Reading tests are adaptive and contain multiple choice and technology enhanced items. The Speaking test consists of prompts delivered online; students respond through their headset microphones and responses are recorded and sent to DRC for scoring. The Writing test contains a set of tasks to which students respond.	WINDOWS & REPORTING Test window: January 30 – March 24. Alternate ACCESS tests are administered on the same days as other ACCESS tests. Results are mailed to parents in early September.
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Kindergarten Administration

The domains of listening, reading, speaking and writing are assessed within the context of two stories. The test is individually administered, materials include manipulatives and an activity board, and the test is scored by the Test Administrator.

Reading — up to 40 min

Writing — up to 65 min

Listening — up to 40 min

Speaking — up to 30 min

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	APPROX. TIME	READING	WRITING	LISTENING	SPEAKING	MAKE-UP
Elementary Academy	K	See Kindergarten note	—	—	—	—	—
	1 st	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 23
	2 nd	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 2 – Feb. 12	Feb. 23
	3 rd	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 20
	4 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 20	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 20
	5 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 4 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 9 – Feb. 19	Feb. 20

ACADEMIC DIVISION	GRADE	APPROX. TIME	READING	WRITING	LISTENING	SPEAKING	MAKE-UP
Junior High Academy	6 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 22
	7 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 27
Secondary Academy	8 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 27
	9 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 27
	10 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 27
	11 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 27
	12 th	2 hr. 50 min	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 16 – Feb. 26	Feb. 27

ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR HIGH CAMPUS

1381 Marshall Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

SECONDARY CAMPUS

1471 Brewster Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108

Rooted In Community. Shaping Tomorrow.

HIGHER GROUND ACADEMY · EST. 1999