

2023-2024 Middle School Testing Schedule

9/4/2023

Tests administered at Cook County Schools include:

- The [Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments \(MCAs\)](#) and alternate assessment, [Minnesota Test of Academic Skills \(MTAS\)](#), are the statewide tests that help districts measure student progress toward Minnesota's academic standards and meet the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Students take one test in each subject. Most students take the MCA, but students who receive special education services and meet eligibility criteria may take the MTAS.
- **Renaissance STAR assessments:** The STAR360 are a set of computer-adaptive tests designed to measure the academic progress of students in the areas of literacy, reading, and math. The name “STAR 360” comes from the fact that the assessment suite provides a complete 360-degree view of a student’s academic progress across these three key subject areas, math, reading, and early literacy.
- **i-Ready** is a mathematics curriculum designed to support all students in becoming critical thinkers, persistent problem solvers, and lifelong learners as they find success in their grade-level content. The Grades K–12 diagnostic testing assessments manifests our core belief that all students can grow and achieve grade-level expectations. Use these diagnostic assessment tools to help educators see where students are, set high—but achievable—expectations for growth, and connect the right instructional tools to help them get there.
- **ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLS** are the assessments developed by the WIDA consortium and administered to English learners in order to measure progress toward meeting Minnesota’s standards for English language development, developed by the WIDA consortium. Most English learners will take the ACCESS for ELLs, but English learners who received special education services and meet the participation guidelines may take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. A link to the WIDA website is provided under Related resources on the right side of the page.

Purposes and Rationales of Statewide Assessments

Test	Purpose	Rationale/Source of the Requirement
MCA and MTAS	To measure achievement on the Minnesota Academic Standards and measure academic progress of students over time	Minnesota Statutes 120B.30 ESEA
College Entrance Exams (ACT and/or SAT)	To provide Minnesota graduates information related to career and college readiness	Minnesota Statutes 120B.30
ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS (ELL only)	To annually assess English language proficiency of all English Learners	ESEA
ACT	To provide MN graduates information related to college and career readiness	Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.30

Cook County Middle School

Grade/Subject	Date	Test	Estimated Times
Sixth Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Math • Fall Reading • Spring Math • Spring Reading • Spring Reading • Spring Math 	Sept 11-29 Sept 11-29 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3	i-Ready Star360 MCA MCA Star360 i-Ready	50-90 minutes 45 minutes 1.5-2.5 hours - MCA Math 2-3 hours - MCA Reading
Seventh Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Math • Fall Reading • Spring Math • Spring Reading • Spring Reading • Spring Math 	Sept 11-29 Sept 11-29 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3	Star360 Star360 MCA MCA Star360 Star360	45 minutes 45 minutes 2-3 hours - MCA Math 2-3 hours - MCA Reading
Eighth Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Math • Fall Reading • Spring Math • Spring Reading • Spring Science • Spring Reading • Spring Math 	Sept 11-29 Sept 11-29 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3 April 15-May 3	Star360 Star360 MCA MCA MCA Star360 Star360	45 minutes 45 minutes 2-3 hours - MCA Math 2-3 hours - MCA Reading 1.5-2 hours - MCA Science
ACCESS for ELLs	March 1-23	ACCESS	Listening - up to 40 minutes Writing - up to 35 minutes Speaking - up to 30 minutes Writing Tier A - 45-60 minutes WRiting Tier B/C - 60-65 minutes