

GRAD Purpose Statement

Graduation-Required Assessments for Diploma (GRAD)

The Graduation-Required Assessments for Diploma (GRAD) measure the reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency of high school students. By requiring high school graduates to reach a specified level on each of these assessments, Minnesota is making sure its students are on track to have the essential skills and knowledge necessary for graduation in the 21st century.

GRAD Component of the MCA-II Test Specifications

Available on the MDE website at

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- >Accountability Programs

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http://education.state.mn.us/mde/Accountability_Programs/Assessment_and_Testing/Assessments/GRAD_Component_MCA_II/Test_Specifications/index.html

Minnesota Assessment System Overview

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
3-8 Reading	AYP	AYP	AYP	AYP	AYP
3-8 Math	AYP	AYP	AYP	AYP	AYP
10 Reading	AYP	AYP	AYP/ GRAD	AYP/ GRAD	AYP/ GRAD
11 Math	AYP	AYP	AYP	AYP/ GRAD	AYP/ GRAD
5 Science			NCLB	NCLB	NCLB
8 Science			NCLB	NCLB	NCLB
HS Science			NCLB	NCLB	NCLB
6 Writing		DEV	DEV	DEV	DEV
9 Writing		GRAD	GRAD	GRAD	GRAD
10 Writing	BST	BST			

Minnesota Assessment System Overview

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
3-8 Reading	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II
	TEAE	TEAE	TEAE	TEAE-II	TEAE-II
	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT
3-8 Math	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II
		TEAEM	TEAEM	TEAEM	TEAEM
	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT
10 Reading			GRAD	GRAD	GRAD
	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II
	TEAE	TEAE	TEAE	TEAE-II	TEAE-II
	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT
11 Math				GRAD	GRAD
	MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II	MAC-II	MAC-II
		TEAEM	TEAEM	TEAEM	TEAEM
	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT
5 Science			MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II
			ALT	ALT	ALT
8 Science			MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II
			ALT	ALT	ALT
HS Science			MCA-II	MCA-II	MCA-II
			ALT	ALT	ALT
6 Writing		DWT	DWT	DWT	DWT
9 Writing		GRAD	GRAD	GRAD	GRAD
		ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT
10 Writing	BST	BST			
	ALT	ALT			

Follow The 8th Grader

Student Grade	2005 2006	2006 2007	2007 2008	2008 2009	2009 2010
8 th	MCA-II R & M				
9 th		Writing GRAD			
10 th			MCA-II R + GRAD W Retest W Appeal		
11 th				MCA-II M + GRAD R Retest R Appeal	
12 th					M Retest M Appeal

Graduation-Required Assessments for Diploma (GRAD)

- Written Composition (Grade 9)
- Reading (Grade 10)
- Mathematics (Grade 11)

How the GRAD Writing Test Works

- Looks very much like the BST in writing
- Moves to Grade 9 in 2007
- This year's 8th graders (05-06) will be the first class to take the GRAD in writing
- Scored on a 1-6 point scale
- A score of 3 is passing
- Students scoring 1 or 2 will be domain scored

Composing
Usage/Grammar

Style
Mechanics/Spelling

Sentence Formation

How the Reading or Math MCA-II & GRAD Component Work Together

MCA-II First Administration

		NCLB			
<u>Essential</u>	<u>Common</u>	<u>MCA-II</u>	<u>Field Test</u>		
GRAD Only Items (15)	GRAD & MCA-II Items (25)	MCA-II Only Items (25)	Field Test Items (20)		
GRAD					

GRAD Retests

<u>Essential</u>	<u>Common</u>
GRAD Only Items (15)	GRAD & MCA-II Items (25)
GRAD	

How the GRAD Reading Component Works

- This year's 8th graders (05-06) will be the first class to take the GRAD component in reading in 2008
- Includes benchmarks assessed on the MCA-II plus 3 additional Essential Learning benchmarks
 - Vocabulary using context clues (I.B.G6)
 - Summarize and paraphrase main ideas (I.C.G11)
 - Inferences and conclusions from text (I.C.G12)

MCA-II & GRAD Component Reading

First Administration – Grade 10

MCA-II ONLY COMPONENT	COMMON COMPONENT	GRAD ONLY COMPONENT	FIELD TEST COMPONENT	TOTAL TEST
25 ITEMS	25 ITEMS	15 ITEMS	20 ITEMS	= 85 ITEMS
First Administration only	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration only	Total number of items for the first administration of the MCA-II
I.C.6 & I.C.9 Comprehension I.D.5 Literature I.D.6 & I.D.10 Literature I.D.7 Literature	I.B.2 Vocabulary I.C.3 Comprehension I.C.5 Comprehension I.C.7 Comprehension I.C.8 Comprehension I.D.4 Literature I.D.14 Literature	I.B.G6 Vocabulary I.C.G11 Comprehension I.C.G12 Comprehension	Vocabulary Comprehension Literature	Vocabulary Comprehension Literature

GRAD Component Retest Reading

Retest Administrations

MCA-II ONLY COMPONENT	COMMON COMPONENT	GRAD ONLY COMPONENT	FIELD TEST COMPONENT	TOTAL TEST
0 ITEMS	25 ITEMS	15 ITEMS	0 ITEMS	= 40 ITEMS
First Administration only	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration only	Total number of items for the retest administration of the GRAD
	I.B.2 Vocabulary I.C.3 Comprehension I.C.5 Comprehension I.C.7 Comprehension I.C.8 Comprehension I.D.4 Literature I.D.14 Literature	I.B.G6 Vocabulary I.C.G11 Comprehension I.C.G12 Comprehension		Vocabulary Comprehension Literature

How the GRAD Math Component Works

- This year's 8th graders (05-06) will be the first class to take the GRAD component in math in 2009
- Includes benchmarks assessed on the MCA-II plus 11 additional Essential Learning benchmarks within 4 strands
 - Number Sense (II.B.G7-G10)
 - Patterns, Functions and Algebra (III.A.G6-G7; III.B.G13)
 - Data, Statistics and Probability (IV.A.G8-G9)
 - Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement (V.C.G1-G2)

MCA-II & GRAD Component Math

First Administration – Grade 11

MCA-II ONLY COMPONENT	COMMON COMPONENT	GRAD ONLY COMPONENT	FIELD TEST COMPONENT	TOTAL TEST
25 ITEMS	25 ITEMS	15 ITEMS	20 ITEMS	= 85 ITEMS
First Administration only	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration only	Total number of items for the first administration of the MCA-II
II. Number Sense III. Patterns, Functions and Algebra IV. Data, Statistics and Probability V. Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement	II. Number Sense III. Patterns, Functions and Algebra IV. Data, Statistics and Probability V. Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement	II.G Number Sense III.G Patterns, Functions and Algebra IV.G Data, Statistics and Probability VG. Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement	II. Number Sense III. Patterns, Functions and Algebra IV. Data, Statistics and Probability V. Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement	II. Number Sense III. Patterns, Functions and Algebra IV. Data, Statistics and Probability V. Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement

GRAD Component Retest Math

Retest Administrations

MCA II ONLY COMPONENT	COMMON COMPONENT	GRAD ONLY COMPONENT	FIELD TEST COMPONENT	TOTAL TEST
0 ITEMS	25 ITEMS	15 ITEMS	0 ITEMS	= 40 ITEMS
First Administration only	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration and part of the GRAD	First Administration only	Total number of items for the retest administration of the GRAD
	II. Number Sense III. Patterns, Functions and Algebra IV. Data, Statistics and Probability V. Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement	II.G Number Sense III.G Patterns, Functions and Algebra IV.G Data, Statistics and Probability VG. Spatial Sense, Geometry and Measurement		

Proposed Routes to Graduation

Proficiency on the MCA-II: Achieve at or above proficiency level on the accountability assessment.

Proficiency on the GRAD Component: Achieve a passing score on that portion of the test that measures the essential requirements for success beyond high school.

Proposed Routes to Graduation

Successful Student Performance Appeal:
Demonstrate through course work or other means that a student meets or exceeds the mathematics, reading and/or writing passing requirements of the GRAD Component even though she or he has been unable to pass the test after three attempts. (This proposed policy has yet to be written and approved. A draft is anticipated in the spring of 2006.)

Successful Student Performance on the MDE Alternate Assessment: Demonstrate through the MDE Alternate Assessment and a formal review by the student's IEP team that establishes an appropriate passing standard for the student (e.g., IEP review to establish a Pass Individual).

For more information, contact

Division of Assessment & Testing

mde.testing@state.mn.us

or visit the MDE website at
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