

Introducing the Student Readiness Tools

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is transitioning to new resources for students to use to familiarize themselves with the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) they will be taking. Keep reading to learn more about the transition and the [Student Readiness Tools \(SRTs\)](#).

Transition Timeline

For the 2022–23 school year, all of the existing student resources (including [item samplers](#) and [student tutorials](#)) will still be available in addition to the SRTs. Beginning with the 2023–24 school year, the SRTs will replace the item samplers and student tutorials.



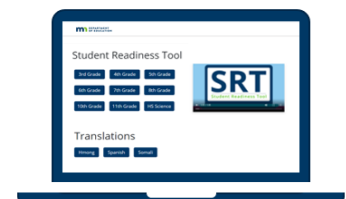
Note that the [stand-alone online calculators](#) and [formula sheets](#) for MCA will continue to be available.

Overview of SRTs

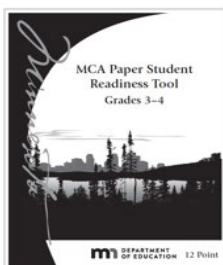
Paper and online versions of the SRTs are available, along with a teacher’s guide for each resource, to provide guidance and tips for educators using the SRTs with their students.

Online SRTs

For the online SRTs, students select their grade level to review instructional videos and then practice how to navigate within the test, how to use tools, and how to answer each item type.



Paper SRTs



For the paper SRTs, students use the SRT that matches the paper test materials they will use to take the MCA in order to learn how to navigate through paper test books and answer different types of items.

Why Student Resources Are Changing

MDE gathered input from a number of educators and students throughout the revision process. Based on this input, MDE determined that educators and students have different needs.

- Educators need to be familiar with *content* that is aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards, and resources that can be used to inform instruction. The Minnesota Questions Tool (MQT) was released in summer 2022 to address educator needs and is available on the [Released MCA Questions](#) page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website.
- Students, however, need to be familiar with the *test format* and *types of items*, rather than the content, since they prepare for the content through daily instruction based on the academic standards. If students are comfortable with the format of the test they will be taking, then they are better prepared to demonstrate what they know and can do related to the academic standards during the MCA. The SRTs meet these needs for students in one resource.

MDE Requirements

MDE requires districts to ensure that all students are familiar with the test they will be taking but does not require that specific resources be used or specify how resources are used.



Each district determines how available resources will be used, and it may vary by school, grade, or student.

Grade three students or students who are new to Minnesota schools, for example, may need to use resources in a different way than grade ten students who have taken a test in previous years. In addition, for this school year, when multiple resources are available, check with your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) on the plan for your district.

Other Materials and Alternate Assessments

Because existing resources are available for all MCA accommodated test materials, braille and script versions of the SRTs are not available this spring. All accommodated test materials will be available for the SRTs in 2023–24. Go to the [Item Samplers page](#) to access braille and script materials for 2022–23.

In addition, SRTs for the new Alternate MCA will be available starting with science in 2024–25, when this assessment replaces the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) alternate assessment. In the meantime, resources to prepare students for the MTAS will continue to be available.

Questions

For questions about student resources, contact Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment at mde.testing@state.mn.us.