

Introduction to the Student Readiness Tools

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has transitioned to new resources, the [Student Readiness Tools \(SRTs\)](#), to familiarize students with the format of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs). The SRTs have replaced the item samplers and student tutorials.

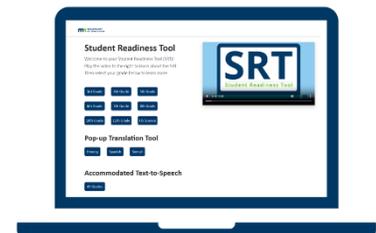
Based on input from educators and students, MDE developed the SRTs to meet student needs. Because students already prepare for the *content* of statewide assessments through daily instruction aligned to the academic standards, it is essential to provide students with resources that focus exclusively on the *functionality* of the test and types of questions. If students are comfortable with the format of the test, they are better prepared during testing to demonstrate what they know and can do related to the academic standards. The SRTs meet these student needs in one resource.

Overview of SRTs

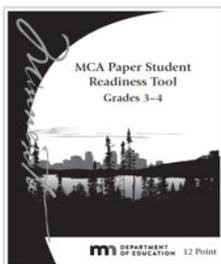
Paper and online versions of the SRTs, along with a teacher's guide for each resource, provide guidance and tips for educators using the SRTs with their students. In addition, [stand-alone online calculators](#) and [formula sheets](#) that appear in the MCA are available for students to use outside of the SRTs and their test.

Online SRTs

For the online SRTs, students select their grade level to review instructional videos and then practice navigating within the test, using the tools and test supports, and indicating answers for each type of question.



Paper SRTs



For the paper SRTs, students select the SRT that matches the paper test materials they will use to take the MCA. They will become familiar the look and feel of the paper test materials and how to indicate answers for each type of question.

Alternate Assessments

The 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 on the Student Readiness Tools page.

MDE Requirements

MDE requires districts to ensure that all students are familiar with the test they will take but does not require that specific resources be used or specify how those 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. Check with your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) on the plan for your district.

Additional Resources for Educators

Based on input from educators, MDE understands that educators need to be familiar with content that is aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards and have access to resources that can be used to inform instruction. The Minnesota Questions Tool (MQT) is available to address these educator needs and is available on the [Released MCA Questions](#) page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website.

Questions

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