

# Alternate MCA Student Readiness Tool

## Supplemental Information

---

### Alt MCA SRT Overview

This guide is intended to provide test administrators with additional detailed information about the Alternate MCA online testing platform (TestNav) and the layout, tools, and test settings covered in the online Alternate MCA Student Readiness Tool (SRT) overview video. For 2024–25, Science Alt MCA SRTs are available for students taking online, paper, or hybrid administrations of the Science Alt MCAs. Additional versions of the Alt MCA SRT will be available for the first administrations of the Reading Alt MCA in 2025–26 and the Mathematics Alt MCA as determined by the standards revision schedule. This guide currently reflects information specific to the Science Alt MCA content.

To locate a term or interface element, press Ctrl + F and enter it into the search bar of the Find box. For example, if searching for information about the Progress Bar, type “Progress Bar” into the search bar of the Find box and hit Enter. The document will jump to that section of the guide, or you may have to select the Previous or Next buttons to navigate to the applicable section.

Note: Standard text-to-speech (TTS) is available throughout the online SRTs for students who want or need audio support.

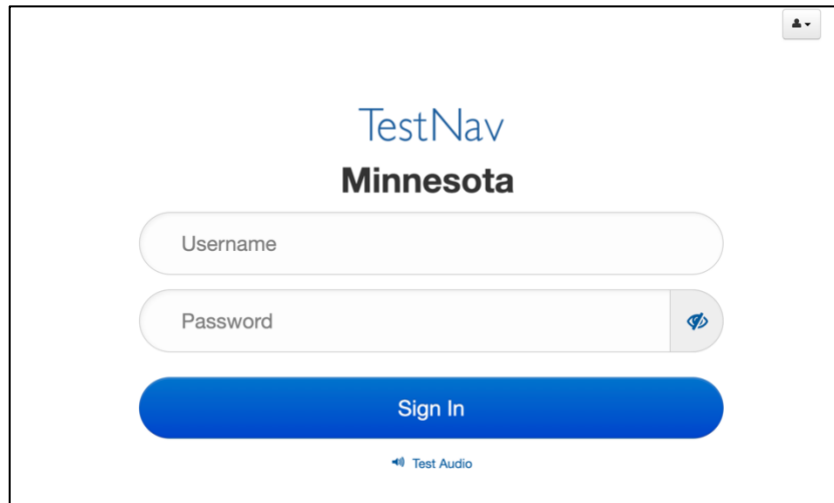
### Alt MCA SRT Layout

The Alt MCA SRT includes an overview video and a sample test that provides students and test administrators opportunities to interact with the navigation, sample test content, tools, and test settings to prepare students for an online administration of the Alt MCA. Test administrators may also review the Alt MCA SRT to help them make decisions about student administration formats and to prepare for test administration of the Alt MCA. Alt MCA SRT users will watch the overview video, and then select the Online Form button to open the sample test to interact with the form shown in the video. Users can review the overview video at any time.

### General Overview of the Alt MCA

The Alt MCA SRT provides an overview of the Alt MCA and how students and test administrators will progress through the test from start to finish. The table below provides general information about each step of testing.

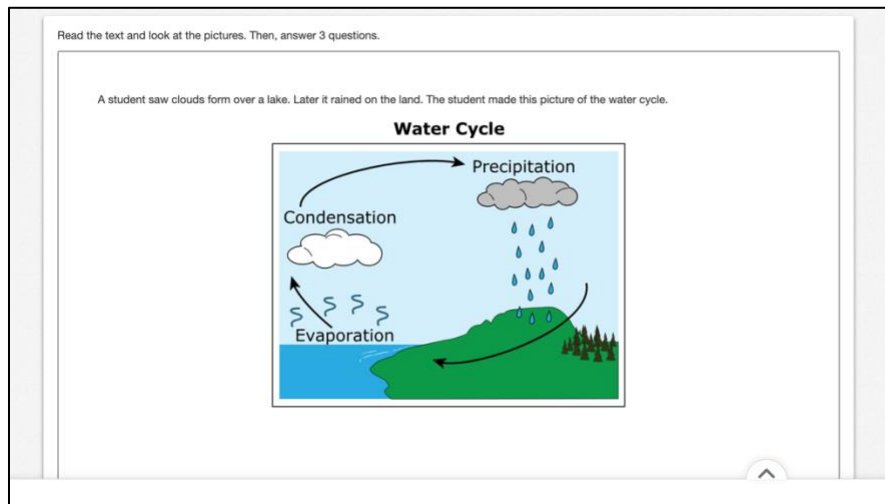
Testing Steps
<b>Login and Set Up</b> The Alt MCA SRT video contains instructions for logging in to the online Alt MCA. However, users will not be able to practice logging in to the online Alt MCA SRT.



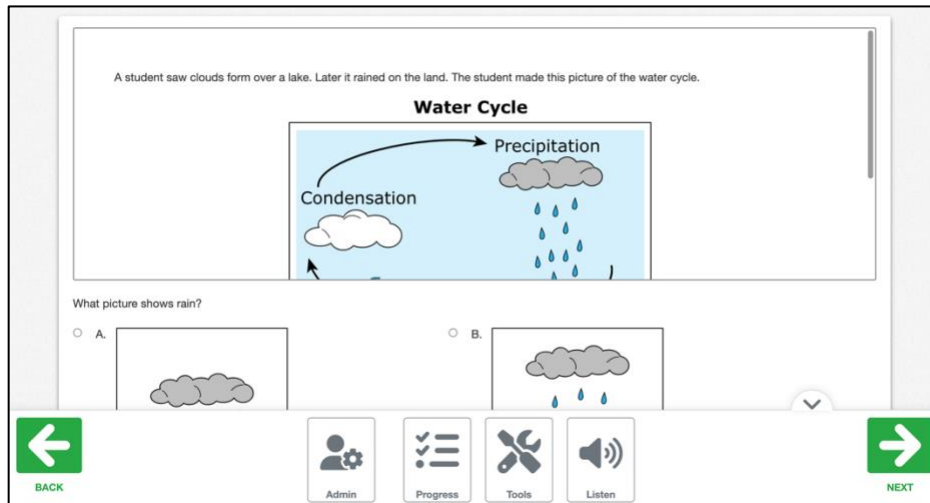
After logging in, test administrators will select accessibility and tool settings on the [Test Settings](#) screen.

## Test Layout and Components

An independent phenomenon containing text and graphics appears first with instructions included at the top. This page is followed by a set of related questions, with the phenomenon repeated above each question.



The student or test administrator (test navigator) will first read the instructions and the independent phenomenon. The test navigator will then advance in the test using the Next button to view and respond to the related questions in order. The phenomenon is repeated in a scrollable box above each test question so test navigators can reference it while responding to the questions. Although the Back button is available for test administrators, students are not allowed to return to previously answered questions to view or change their responses; students must respond to the questions in the order presented in the Alt MCA.

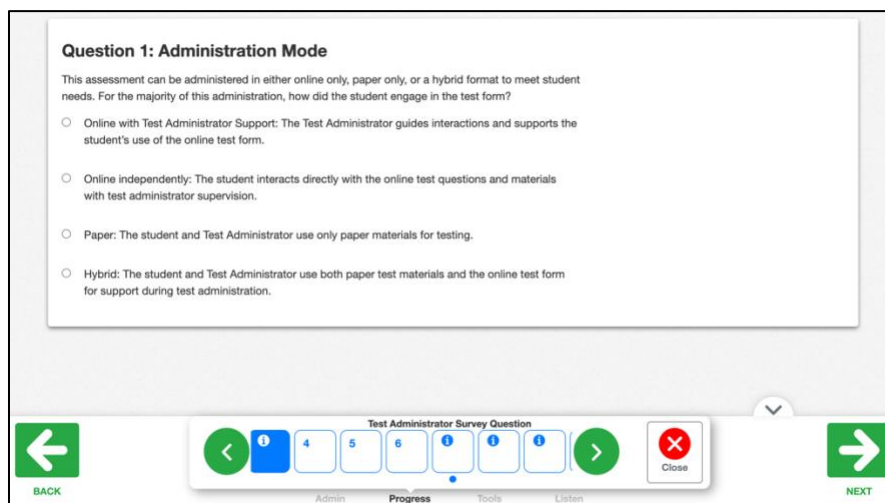


In the [Progress Bar](#), each phenomenon is marked with an info icon, and each test question is marked with a number. Phenomena and test questions that have been viewed are shaded in. Test administrators can see which phenomena and test questions have been viewed using the Scroll backward and Scroll forward arrows on either side of the list; however, students must respond to the questions in order and cannot return to previously answered questions to view or change their response.



## Test Administrator Survey

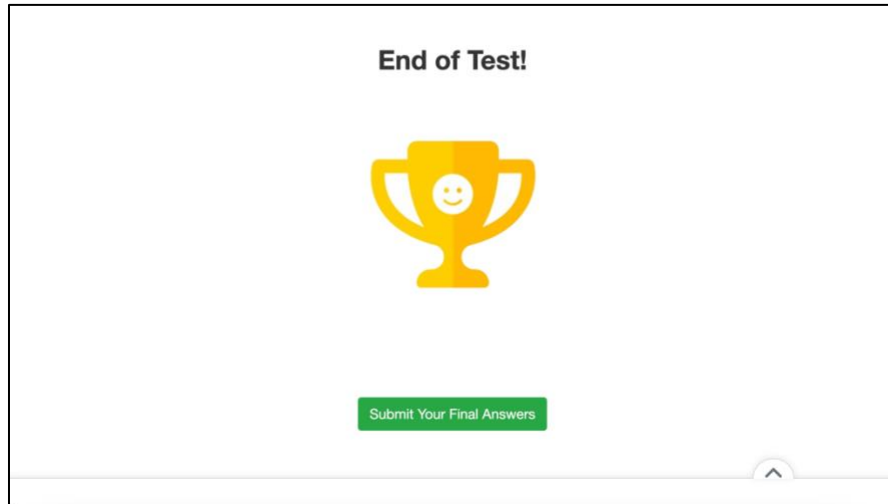
After the student has provided a response to all test questions, the test administrator will answer two questions about how the test was administered to the student. There is also a section for the test administrator to provide feedback on future test administration needs.



## Submitting Answers

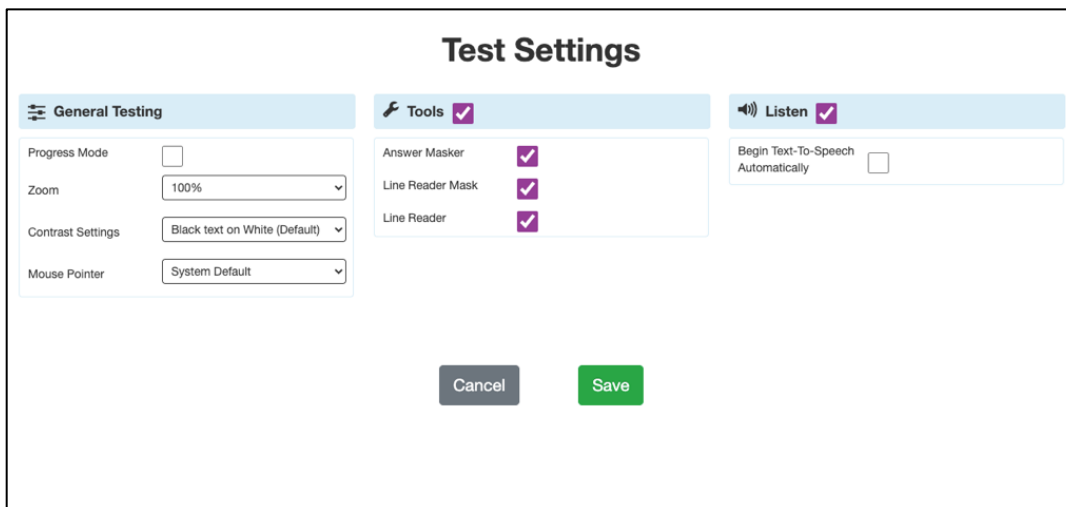
When all student and test administrator questions have been given a response, all answers must be submitted to complete the test.

On the End of Test screen, select Submit Your Final Answers, then confirm by selecting Yes, Submit Final Answers.



## Test Settings

After logging in, the Test Settings screen appears. Test administrators can adjust the various settings to tailor the testing experience to meet the student's individual needs. These settings affect the accessibility and functionality of the test, such as the test's appearance and which tools are available.



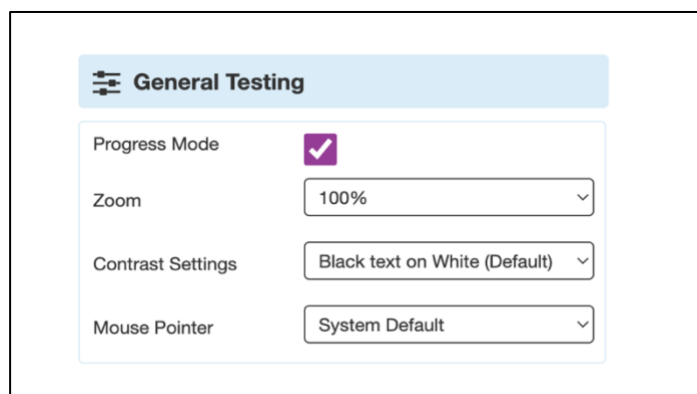
The Test Settings screen can be revisited at any time during the test by selecting the Admin button in the Test Panel and then selecting Test Settings.

## Test Settings

### General Testing Settings

General Testing includes accessibility settings that affect the appearance of the test and provide access to the Progress button in the Test Panel.

- Progress Mode: Select the checkbox to enable access to the [Progress Bar](#) via the Progress button in the Test Panel.
- Zoom: Select the magnification level (100%–500%) of the test content. The recommended maximum magnification level is 200% for compatibility with all tools.
  - The Alt MCA SRT video contains information on Zoom settings. However, users will not be able to practice using the Zoom dropdown in the Alt MCA SRT Online Form as shown in the video. Test navigators will be able to engage with these Zoom features on the Alt MCAs.
  - Test navigators using a device with an external keyboard can use zoom shortcuts to more precisely control the level of magnification (For PC: Ctrl+, Ctrl-, Ctrl0; For Mac: Cmd+, Cmd-, Cmd0). Test navigators using a touchscreen device can pinch the screen to zoom.
- Contrast Settings: Select from a variety of foreground and background color combinations to enhance clarity and readability of the test content.
- Mouse Pointer: Select the size and color of the pointer on the test.



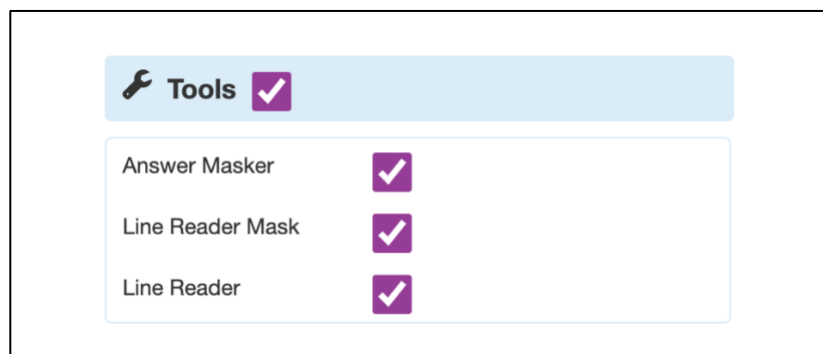
The screenshot shows a settings panel titled "General Testing" with a list of four settings:

Setting	Value
Progress Mode	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Zoom	100%
Contrast Settings	Black text on White (Default)
Mouse Pointer	System Default

### Tools Settings

Select the checkbox next to each tool to enable or disable it. When one or more tools are enabled, the [Tools button](#) appears in the Test Panel.

Uncheck the Tools header checkbox to disable all tools and hide the Tools button in the Test Panel.



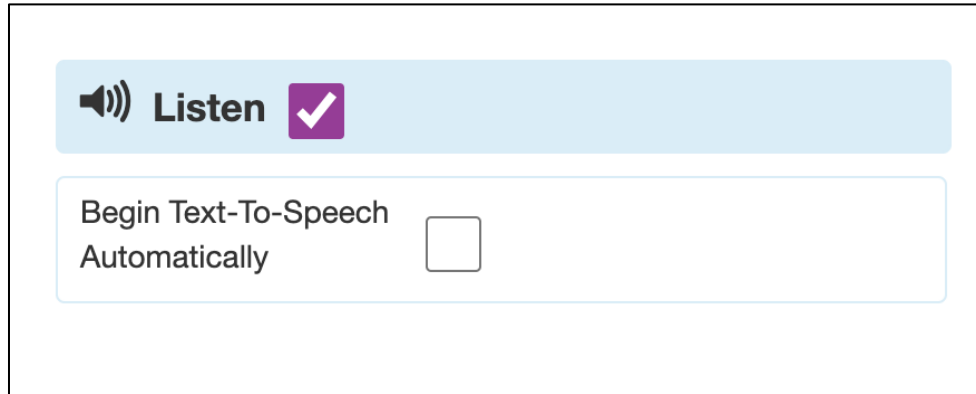
The screenshot shows a settings panel titled "Tools" with a list of three tools, each with a checked checkbox:

Tool	Enabled
Answer Masker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Line Reader Mask	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Line Reader	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Listen Settings

Select the Listen header checkbox to enable text-to-speech (TTS) on the test.

Begin Text-to-Speech Automatically: Select the checkbox to enable this feature. When this setting is enabled, each question is automatically read aloud when a new phenomenon or question is first opened.



[Additional listen settings](#) are available during testing.

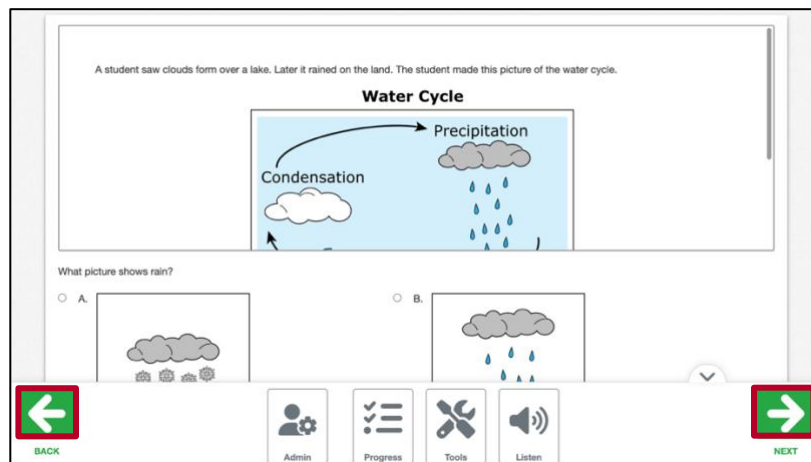
## Test Panel

The Test Panel contains all navigational, administrative, and test feature buttons available during testing. It is located at the bottom of the test. By default, the Test Panel appears open.

### Navigation

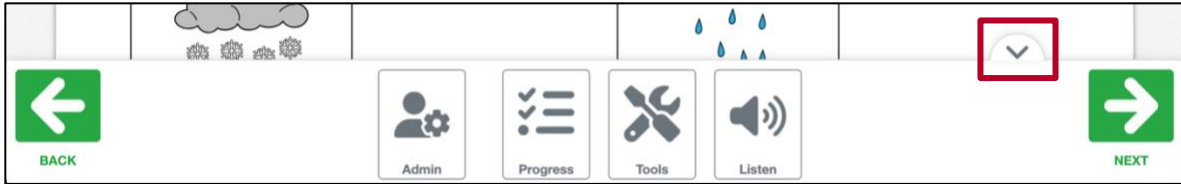
#### Next and Back Buttons

The Next and Back buttons are on each side of the Test Panel. Both buttons are always enabled. Although the Alt MCA does not require students to answer a question to advance to the next question, a response should be indicated for each question and the questions should be administered sequentially. Students are not allowed to return to previously answered questions to view or change their responses.



## Close/Open Arrow

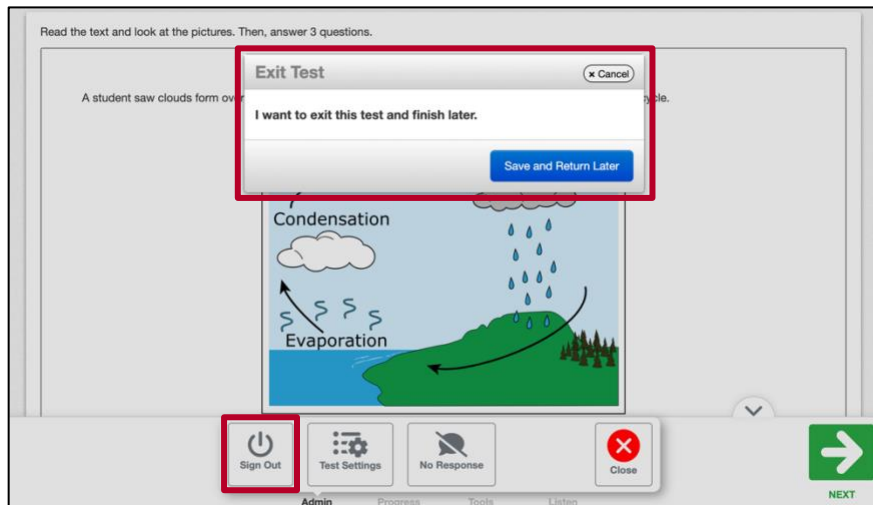
Select the Close/Open arrow at the top of the Test Panel to hide it. It is recommended to hide the Test Panel while students engage with the question to avoid distraction or visual clutter.



## Admin Menu

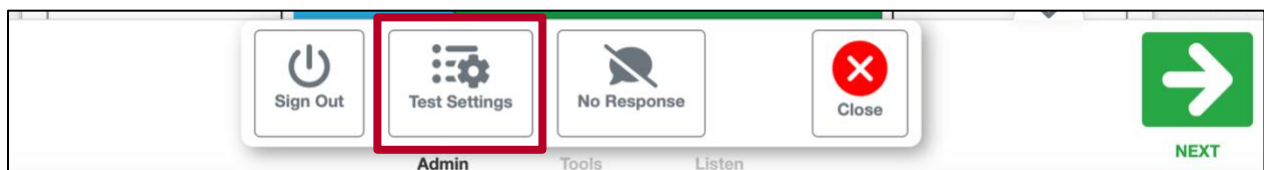
### Sign Out

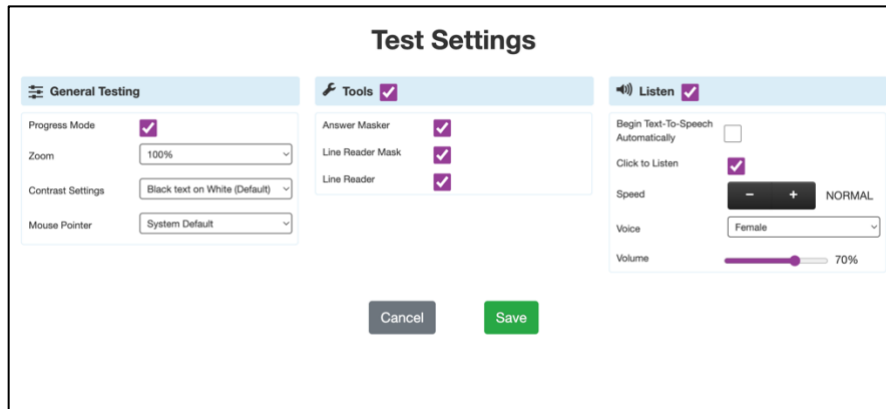
If the student must stop testing before completing the test, select Sign Out. An Exit Test message appears prompting test administrators to cancel the action and return to the test or to confirm. To confirm, select Save and Return Later to save the student's responses for the next available testing time.



### Test Settings

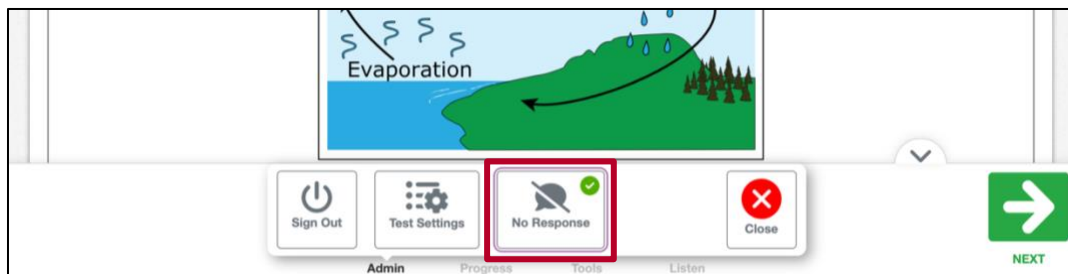
Select the Test Settings button at any time during testing to adjust accessibility settings, tools, or [text-to-speech settings](#).





## No Response

If a student is not engaging with a question, re-present the question to the student. If your attempts to refocus the student's attention are unsuccessful, select No Response. A checkmark appears on the No Response button to indicate that it's enabled. The question will also be marked as NR in the Progress Bar.

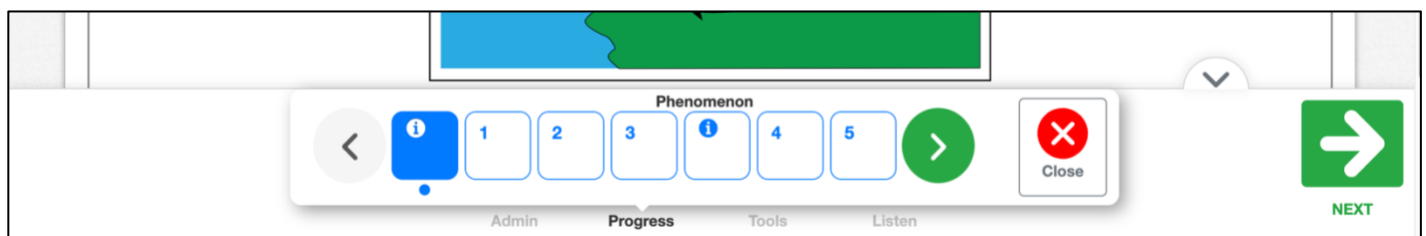


## Progress Bar

### Progress Bar

Select the Progress button in the Test Panel to view the Progress Bar. The Progress Bar displays the total number of test questions, which question the student is on, which questions have been answered, and those that need to be answered.



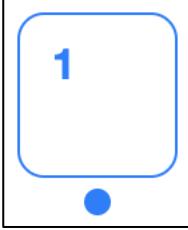


If you do not see the Progress button in the Test Panel, select the Admin button, select Test Settings, and then select the Progress Mode checkbox.



Questions, phenomena, and survey questions are represented as squares with either a number or info icon in the corner. Use the Scroll backward and Scroll forward arrows on either side of the list to scroll through the content. Select the squares to view the question, phenomenon, or survey question.



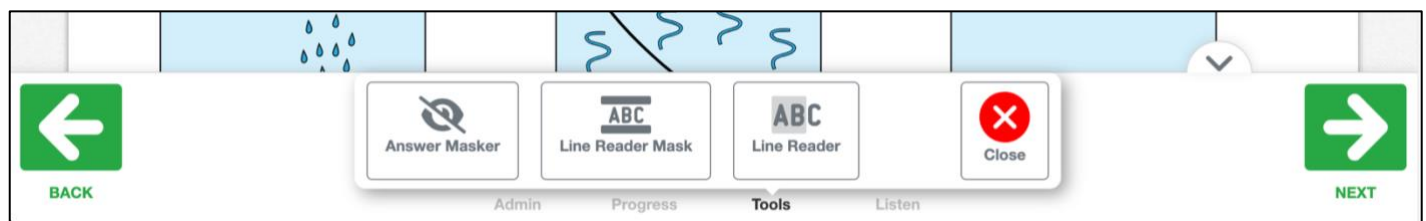
Shading or symbols reflecting the status of each question, phenomenon, and survey question will appear within or below the box.

Phenomenon	Not Answered	Current Question	Answered	No Response
 <p>Phenomena and Test Administrator Survey questions are labeled with an info icon. Once this content has been viewed, the box appears shaded-in.</p>	 <p>Questions that have not been provided a response appear empty.</p>	 <p>The question currently being viewed is indicated with a dot below the square.</p>	 <p>Answered questions are shaded in and labeled with a smiley face.</p>	 <p>Questions marked as No Response by the test administrator are shaded in and labeled with NR.</p>

## Tools

### Toolbar

Select the Tools button in the Test Panel to view the toolbar. Each tool appears as a button. When any tool button is selected, a checkmark appears to indicate that it has been turned on. Select the button again to turn it off.

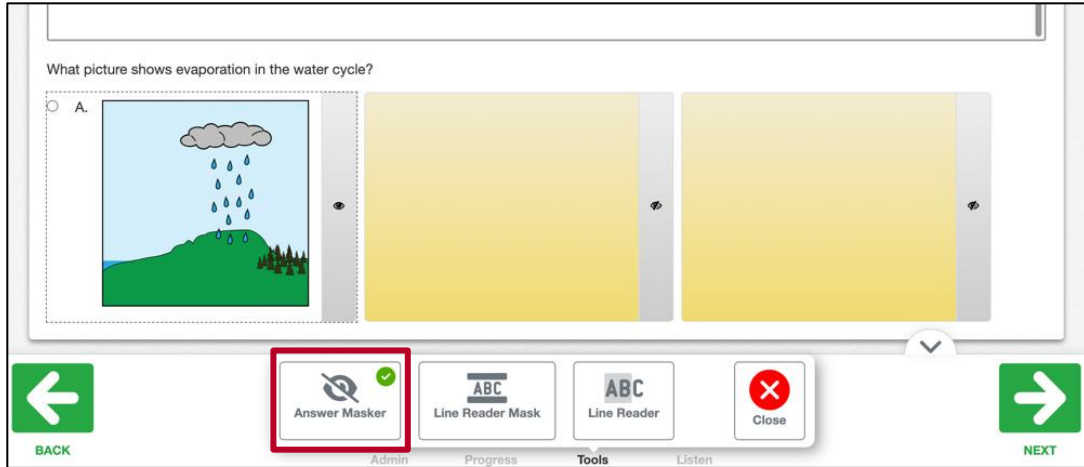


Multiple tools can be used in conjunction, such as the Answer Masker and Line Reader Mask.

If you do not see the Tools button in the Test Panel, select the Admin button, select Test Settings, and then select the Tools header checkbox.

## Answer Masker

The Answer Masker hides answers on the test until the student is ready to view them. This tool may help with maintaining focus, reducing distractions, and managing information overload.

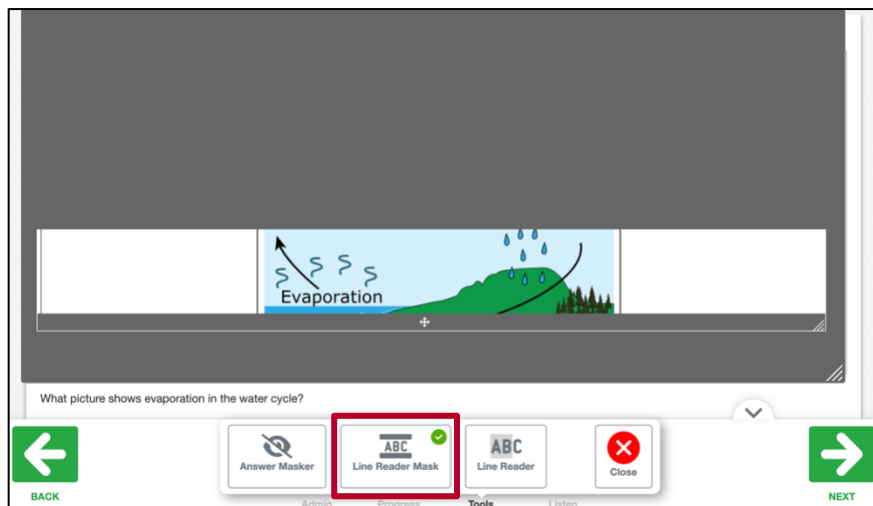


Select the eye icon on each answer choice to hide or view it. Once an answer choice has been selected, the eye icon is disabled, and the answer choice can no longer be hidden.

The Answer Masker does not appear in the toolbar when viewing independent phenomena because no answer choices are present on these pages.

## Line Reader Mask

The Line Reader Mask allows you to hide large parts of the test so students can view smaller portions through a window. This tool may help with concentration, minimizing visual clutter, and supporting students who benefit from a structured or guided reading approach.

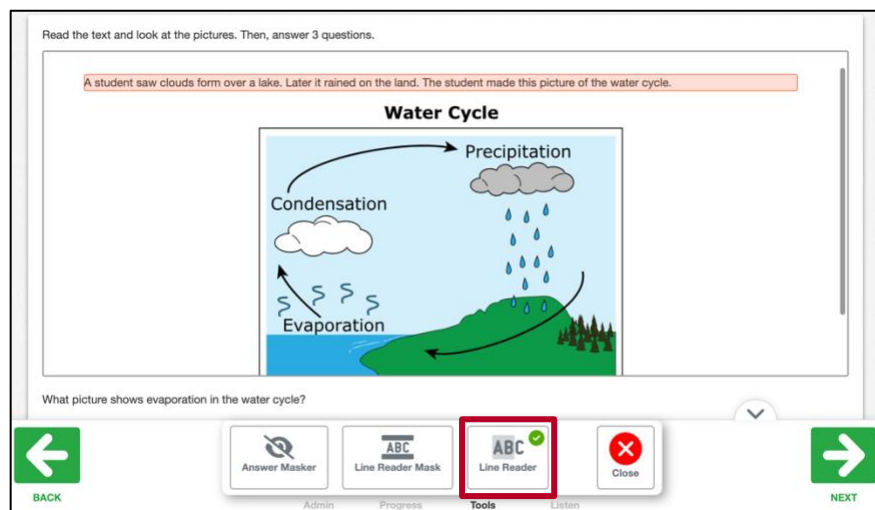


Select and drag the entire tool to move it around the screen. Adjust the size of the mask and window by selecting and dragging the bottom right corners. Select and drag the arrows to move the window as the student reads or views the test content.

Test navigators can continue to scroll through the phenomenon and respond to the questions while the Line Reader Mask is enabled.

## Line Reader

The Line Reader highlights each line of text as it is selected. This tool may help students who benefit from a structured or guided reading approach to focus on or “track” specific lines of text.

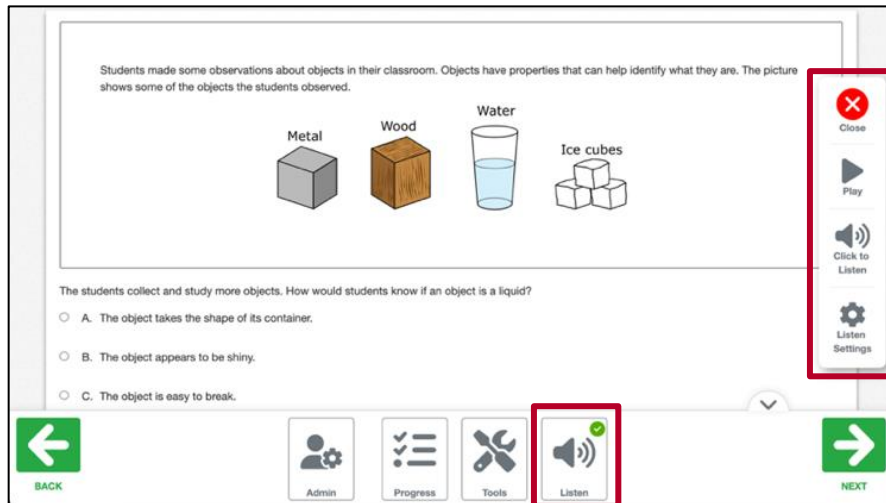


Use the pointer to select different lines of text or use the keyboard arrows to move the Line Reader up and down on the screen. The selected line of text will be highlighted with a lightly shaded box.

## Listen (Text-to-Speech)

### Listen Player

Select the Listen button in the Test Panel to open the Listen player. If you do not see the Listen button in the Test Panel, select the Admin button, select Test Settings, and then select the Listen header checkbox.

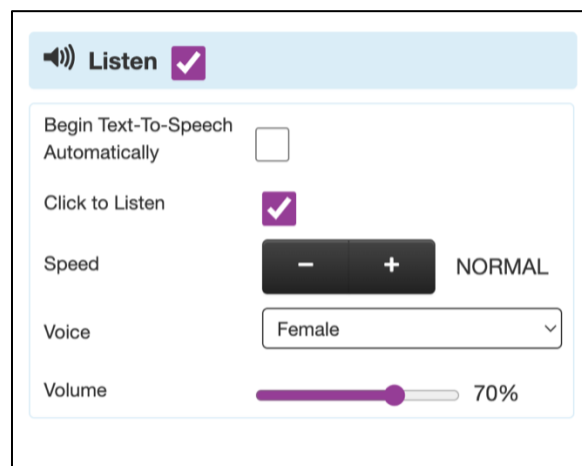


Select the Play/Stop button to hear the test read aloud. Each sentence is highlighted as it is read.

When Begin Text-to-Speech Automatically is enabled, test navigators do not need to select the Play button to start text-to-speech on each question; text-to-speech will automatically play. To disable this feature, select the Admin button in the Test Panel, select Test Settings, and uncheck the Begin Text-to-Speech Automatically box.

## Listen Settings

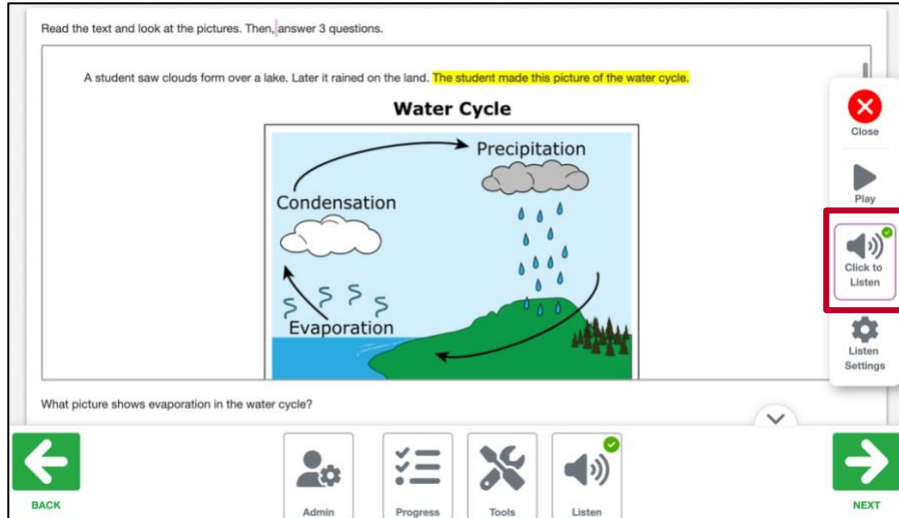
Select Listen Settings at the bottom of the Listen player to see additional text-to-speech settings.



- **Begin Text-to-Speech Automatically:** Select the checkbox to have text-to-speech automatically played for phenomena and questions.
- **Click to Listen:** Select the checkbox to enable the Click to Listen button to appear in the Listen player.
- **Speed:** Select the minus or plus signs to adjust the text-to-speech speed to Slow, Normal, or Fast. The default speed is Normal.
- **Voice:** The text-to-speech default voice is Female; this setting cannot be changed.
- **Volume:** Drag the slider to adjust the volume of the text-to-speech voice.

## Click to Listen

Select the Click to Listen button, then select a line of text. Text-to-speech will begin reading the test content from that point. This feature allows the test navigator to control what is read and when it is read.



Select the Stop button at any time to stop listening.

## Listen Bubble that Appears above Highlighted Text

When a test navigator highlights text with their pointer, a Listen bubble appears above the highlighted text. Select this Listen bubble to hear that sentence read aloud.

Test navigators can highlight multiple lines of text at once and then select the Listen bubble to hear all highlighted text read aloud. Text-to-speech will read from the beginning of the sentence that the highlighted text appears in.

Unlike Click to Listen, this feature only allows the text-to-speech to read the highlighted text; text-to-speech will stop reading automatically after the highlighted text has been read.

