

- [Test Specifications](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/test/spec/) - Test specifications are specific rules and characteristics that guide the development of a test's content and format. They indicate which strands, sub-strands, standards and benchmarks will be assessed on the test and in what proportions. Test specifications are excellent tools for gaining an in-depth understanding of the content and format of the tests. However, they are not meant to be used as the basis for curriculum and instruction. Some concepts in the academic standards can only be assessed in the classroom and not on a standardized statewide assessment.
- [Understanding Statewide Assessment Resources: Test Specification](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/test/spec/000094) - This document was created to help educators understand the purpose and application of the Test Specifications.
- [Depth of Knowledge \(DOK\)](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/test/spec/000089) - Cognitive complexity refers to the cognitive demand associated with a test question. The level of cognitive demand is dependent upon the number of cognitive processes involved in determining the correct answer to a question. Levels of cognitive complexity for MCA-III are based on Norman L. Webb's Depth of Knowledge levels.
- [Understanding Statewide Assessment Resources: Depth of Knowledge](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/test/spec/000093) - This document was created to help educators understand how to use and apply Webb's Depth of Knowledge.

General Resources

- [**MCA-III Test Specifications: Mathematics, Grades 3-8, 11 \(2007 standards\)**](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/test/spec/)
- Online Calculators** - The Academic Standards committee identified several

benchmarks across grades 3–8 that students should master without using a calculator. Since the MCA-III are aligned with the Minnesota academic standards, the items assessing benchmarks identified as non-calculator will be assessed within a non-calculator segment of the test.

- For Grade 11, there are no non-calculator benchmarks. Calculators will be available for student use on all items of the Grade 11 MCA-III.
- Students may use stand-alone versions of [online calculators](http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/stand-alone-calculators/) to practice using the same versions that appear in the online test. These calculators also appear in the [>Student Readiness Tools \(SRTs\)](https://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/readiness-tools/).
- MCA Formula Sheets**—In grades 5–8 and 11 students have access to a [>formula sheet](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fminnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com%2Fformula-sheets%2F&data=04%7C01%7CKendra.Olsen%40state.mn.us%7Cf7249cd624ca41dce15b08d8be4d45cf%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637468586371054221%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=FdqZ7C9nfhRm%2BaJw450FOynhlHncyegTBQSII4qYQew%3D&reserved=0) based on their grade level. These formula sheets also appear in the [>Student Readiness Tools \(SRTs\)](https://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/readiness-tools/).
- [>MathBits](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mctmmathbits.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CKendra.Olsen%40state.mn.us%7Cf7249cd624ca41dce15b08d8be4d45cf%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637468586371054221%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&p;sdata=m8Aw89qVPTT1zp6orZPycPVgpYYFa611N1PyhZ9guys%3D&reserved=0) is a monthly publication of articles put out by the [>Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics \(MCTM\)](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmctm.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CKendra.Olsen%40state.mn.us%7Cf7249cd624ca41dce15b08d8be4d45cf%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637468586371054221%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=wFdYSzYRPxOxmUVSFJFvJzoP9nC1GAjGz5FmUopK90E%3D&reserved=0).
- [>Tag: MCA](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mctmmathbits.org%2F%3Ftag%3Dmca&data=04%7C01%7CKendra.Olsen%40state.mn.us%7Cf7249cd624ca41dce15b08d8be4d45cf%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C637468586371054221%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=RLO4Ra2V%2FP9WWZiVzCDuAjRn6btXZM0Un0fc54kvY6Q%3D&reserved=0) shows all of the MathBits articles written by MDE Math Assessment Specialists on various aspects of the Math MCA.

Math Resources

- [MCA-III Test Specifications: Reading, Grades 3–8, 10 \(2010 standards\)](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/test/spec/)

Reading Resources

- [>MCA-IV Test Specification: Science, Grades 5, 8, and high school \(2019 standards\)](https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/test/spec/)—The Science MCA-IV Test Specifications document provides information on the assessment of the 2019 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in Science on the Science MCA.
- Science MCA-IV Released**

