

How the MCAs and Alt MCAs are Created

Process for Creating New Assessments

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) partners with educators and community members to revise [academic standards](#) every 10 years.



MDE partners with educators to write [test specifications](#).



MDE develops test content annually with educators and community members.



After the first year a new assessment is administered, standard setting is conducted. In this process, educators recommend the minimum knowledge and skills students need to show on the assessment for each [performance level](#).



Assessments are annually administered to Minnesota students, scored and reported to families, schools, and the public.



Process for Developing New Test Content

Test content is written.

Educators review test content for equity and alignment.

Community members review test content for fairness and cultural sensitivity.

Content is added to student tests and field tested, with no impact on scores.

Educators review data from student responses to determine which test questions accurately measure knowledge and skills.

Approved test content becomes eligible for future tests and counts towards final scores.