



New Benchmark Reports and Related Resources

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Outcomes of today's session

By the end of this presentation, you will be able to...

- Better understand the purpose of the MCA and what it is designed to do
- Analyze the Benchmark Reports and use them as *one* piece of evidence when making decisions about curriculum and instruction

Minnesota Assessments

Standards-Based
Accountability Assessments

English Language Proficiency
Accountability Assessments

MCA

MTAS

ACCESS for ELLs

**Alternate
ACCESS for ELLs**

Minnesota Assessments: Aligned to Standards

This is the “series number”

Test Names	Standards	Year Adopted
Reading MCA-III and MTAS	Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts	2010
Mathematics MCA-III and MTAS	Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in Mathematics	2007
Science MCA-III and MTAS	Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in Science	2009
ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLS	WIDA English Language Development Standards	2011

What the MCA is designed to do

The MCA provides:

- A snapshot of student achievement toward the MN academic standards at state, district, and building levels.
- Important data for teachers, schools, and districts to help guide instruction and evaluate program effectiveness.



What the MCA is designed to do

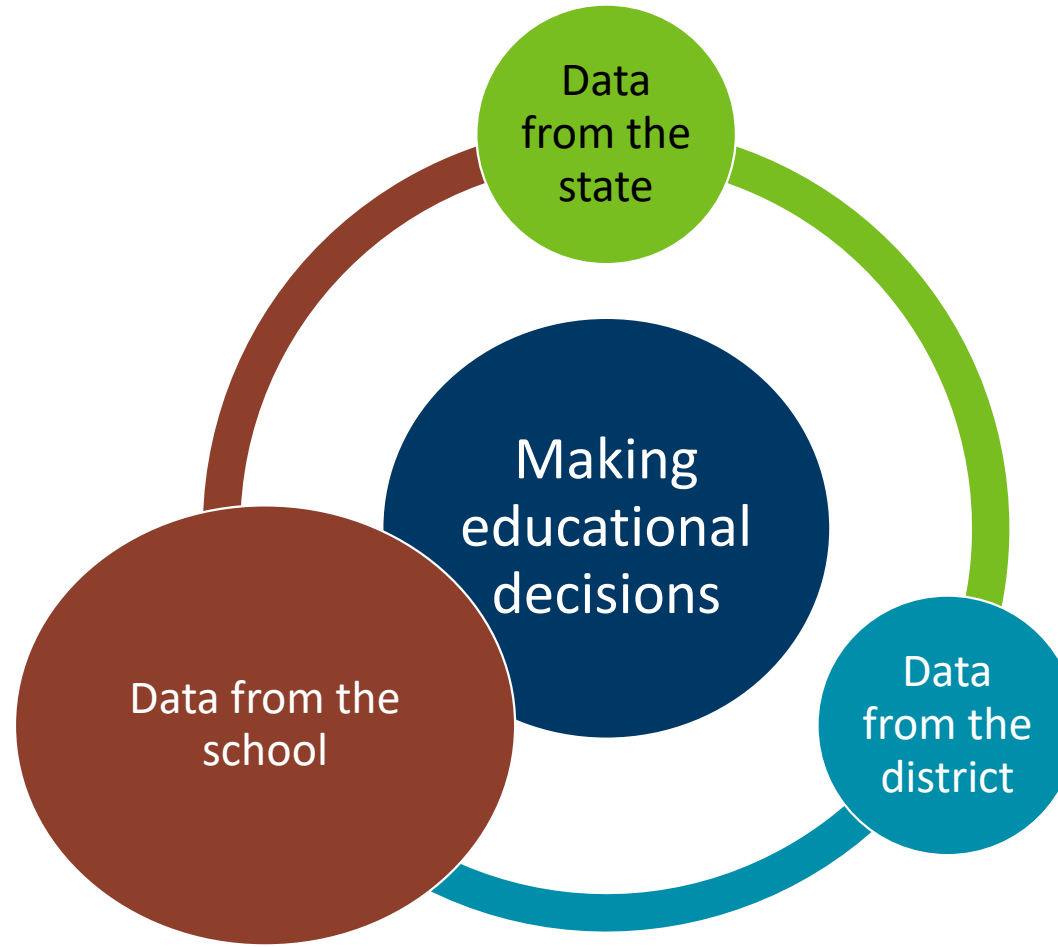
The MCA provides:

- A snapshot of student achievement toward the standards at state, district, and building levels.
- Important data for teachers, schools, and districts to help guide instruction and evaluate program effectiveness.
- The MCA is a “summative assessment,” meaning it measures what students are expected to know and do at specific grade levels and in specific content areas.

A Comparison of Assessment Types

Type	Examples & Frequency	Evidence Produced	Level of Impact	Used by
Formative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily Checks for Understanding• Weekly Quizzes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesson sized learning targets• Retained learning across lessons and achievement level	Used to make immediate decisions about what students currently know, and where to go next	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students• Teachers in classroom
Interim	Midterm Exams that occur 2-3 times per year	Cumulative, longer-term learning retention	Evaluate curriculum effectiveness and used for macro-level planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groups of Teachers• School Leaders
Summative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit Tests or Performance Tasks• State Tests (MCA)	Proficiency of learning compared to the Minnesota Academic Standards and Achievement Level Descriptors	Used for accountability and evaluation of curriculum in regards to the standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Groups of Teachers• School, District Leaders• Policy Makers

Minnesota Assessment Data: One Component



Scale Score Definitions

Theta (θ)

The estimate of “ability” (performance)
Theta range for Minnesota Assessments [-3 to 3]

Scale Score (SS)

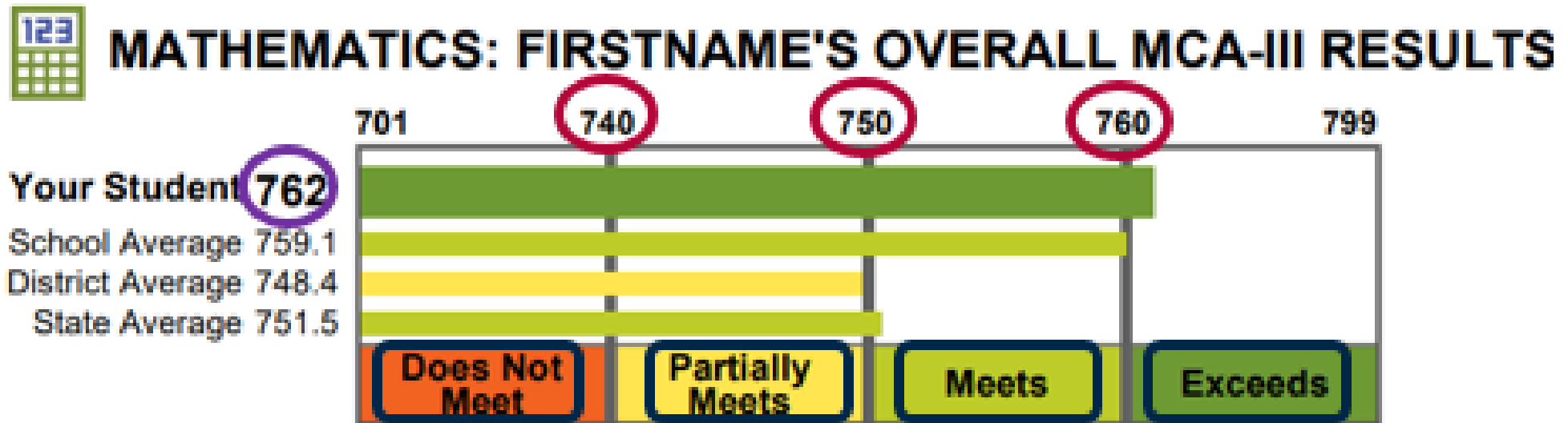
The theta/ability estimate is transformed into the scale score via transformation
MCA-III scale scores are from X01-X99 (X = grade)

Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

Describes the level of student achievement (Does not meet standards, Partially Meets Standards, Meets Standards, Exceeds Standards)

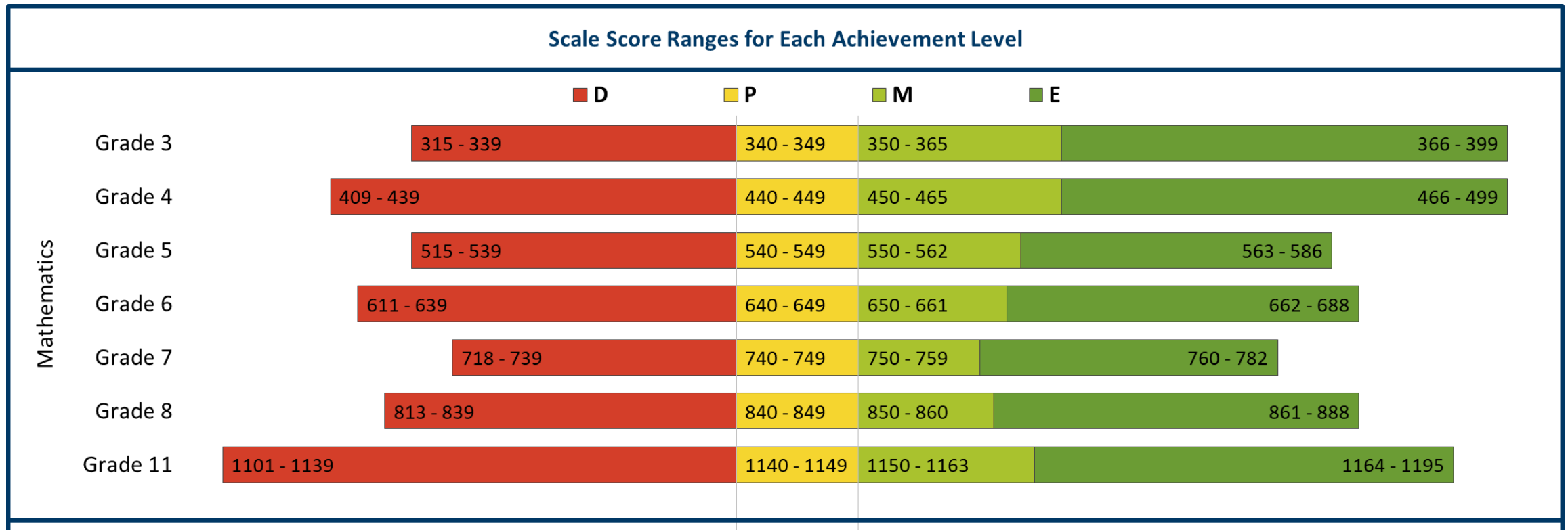
Scale Score (SS)
(theta transformed)

Cut Scores (based on the ALDs)



Scale Scores Continued

<https://testing123.education.mn.gov/test/analyze/report/> > Resources > Understanding MCA Scale Scores



Scale Scores Continued

<https://testing123.education.mn.gov/test/analyze/report/> > Resources > Understanding MCA Scale Scores

Scale Score Ranges for Each Achievement Level				
Reading	Grade 3	301 - 339	340 - 349	350 - 373 374 - 399
	Grade 4	411 - 439	440 - 449	450 - 465 466 - 490
	Grade 5	517 - 539	540 - 549	550 - 566 567 - 591
	Grade 6	606 - 639	640 - 649	650 - 666 667 - 699
	Grade 7	703 - 739	740 - 749	750 - 766 767 - 798
	Grade 8	802 - 839	840 - 849	850 - 866 867 - 898
	Grade 10	1012 - 1039	1040 - 1049	1050 - 1063 1064 - 1094

Appropriate use of Scale Scores

- MCA scale scores are based on grade-level specific content
- In technical terms, this means the scores are not “vertically aligned”
- Scale scores should never be compared across the grades for a particular student, especially when determining if a student has no growth, remained the same, or improved.
- The achievement levels CAN be used to assess whether student growth across grades is demonstrated.

<https://testing123.education.mn.gov/test/analyze/report/> > Resources > Where do Scale Scores Come from?

CAT Item Bank

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MCA Test Structure

Subject and grade level specific Documents
Created from Test Specs and Test Blueprint

Grade Level Assessment Details

Reading	Mathematics	Science
Grade 3	Grade 3	N/A
Grade 4	Grade 4	N/A
Grade 5	Grade 5	Grade 5
Grade 6	Grade 6	N/A
Grade 7	Grade 7	N/A
Grade 8	Grade 8	Grade 8
High School	High School	High School



Test data in the classroom: Assessing, analyzing and taking action

Plan and Teach ▾

1. Assess ▾

2. Analyze ▾

3. Take Action ▾

Standards Based Learning Goals

Success Criteria

MCA Test Structure

MCA Content Resources

Released MCA Questions

ce for Teachers

reliable data use it to eliminate
the classroom instruction. This
e teachers with relevant

<https://testing123.education.mn.gov/test/plan/structure/>

MCA Test Structure (2)

Each document is content and grade specific from test specs

Useful for planning Scope & Sequence, Pacing Calendars, curriculum alignment, etc.

Caution: This is only *one* resource to help with pacing and should not be the only resource

Grade 9-12 Science MCA-III (Operational Form)

Strand	Approximate Number of Points	Approximate Percent of Points
Nature of Science and Engineering (NSE)	24-28	38
Life Science (LS)	40-44	62
Total	68	100

Grade 9-12 Points by Substrand

Grades 9–12 Points by Substrand

1. Nature of Science and Engineering (24–28)

1. The Practice of Science (8–10)
2. The Practice of Engineering (8–10)
3. Interactions among Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Society (8–10)

4. Life Science (40–44)

1. Structure and Function in Living Systems (9–11)
2. Interdependence Among Living Systems (8–10)
3. Evolution in Living Systems (11–13)
4. Human Interactions with Living Systems (7–10)

Overview of Reports

Levels of Data - Levels of Use



Overview of Reports

Results file or Report	Level of Data	Format and Purpose	Location	Availability
On-Demand Reports (preliminary results)	Student-level	PDF download, initial roster of all students score and achievement level	PearsonAccess Next > On-Demand Reports	60 minutes after testing
Final Roster Report	Student-level	PDF download, final roster of all students score and achievement level	PearsonAccess Next > Published Reports	Late summer
Individual Student Reports (ISRs)	Student-level	Districts receive paper copies to distribute to parents, PDF available for download	PearsonAccess Next > Published Reports	Late summer
School Student Report (SSR)	Student-level	Excel file download	MDE Data Center > Secure Reports	Late summer
District Student Report (DSR)	Student-level	Excel file download	MDE Data Center > Secure Reports	Late summer
Test Results Summary Files	School and district	Excel file download	MDE Data Center > Secure Reports	Late summer
Benchmark Reports by grade and subject	School and district	PDF download	PearsonAccess Next > Published Reports	Early fall

District Assessment Coordinator

Contact your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) to download the reports

To find your DAC, visit [MDE-ORG](#)

- MDE Homepage > Data Center > Schools and Organizations (MDE-ORG) > Contact Lists > District Assessment Coordinator

Your local DAC is a great resource and should be your first point of contact for assessment questions.

Accessing Data from MDE

Minnesota Report Card

- MDE > Data Center> Minnesota Report Card
- Public data at the school, district, and state levels

Public Access

Accountability and Assessment

- MDE Public Files, summary data, suppression rules applied

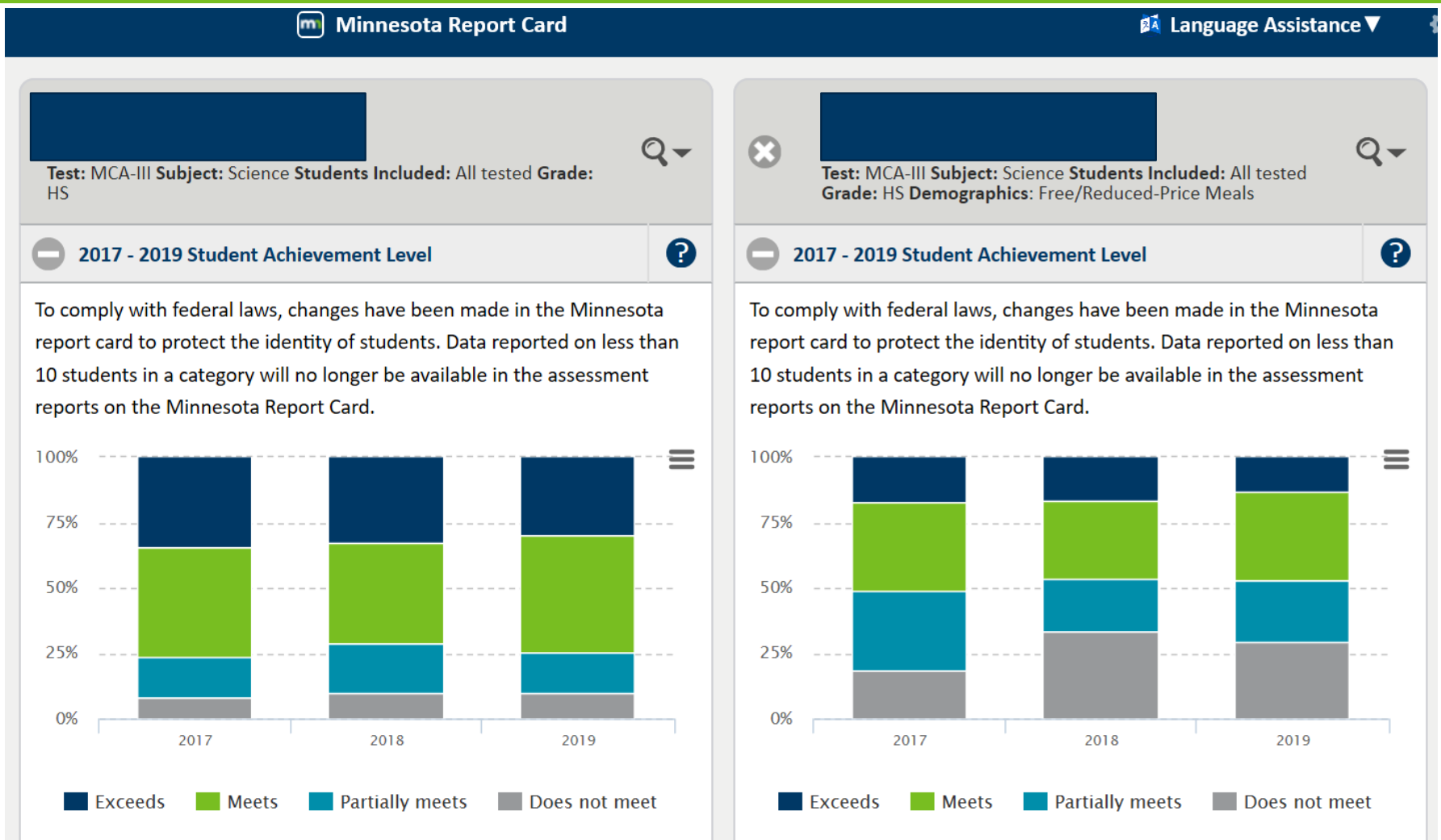
MDE Secure Reports

- MDE > Data Center>Secure Reports>Assessment Secure Reports

PearsonAccess Next Reports

- PearsonAccess Next > Reports

MN Report Card



Historical Reports

- PA Next > Select Year and Test > Reports > Longitudinal Reports > Organization Name
- Provides assessment history for individual students currently or previously enrolled in the district
- [Historical Student Data User Guide](#)

PearsonAccess^{next} Minnesota

Tasks for Students

View Historical Student Data

STUDENTS	ASSESSMENTS
ANDERSON, CONTROL J (5555000000380)	ANDERSON, CONTROL J (5555000000380)
BAILEY, CONTROL E (55550000002335)	Administration Organization Name
BAND, CONTROL (5555033333331)	MTAS 2018 CFL ELEMENTARY 101 (5555-09-101)

ASSESSMENTS

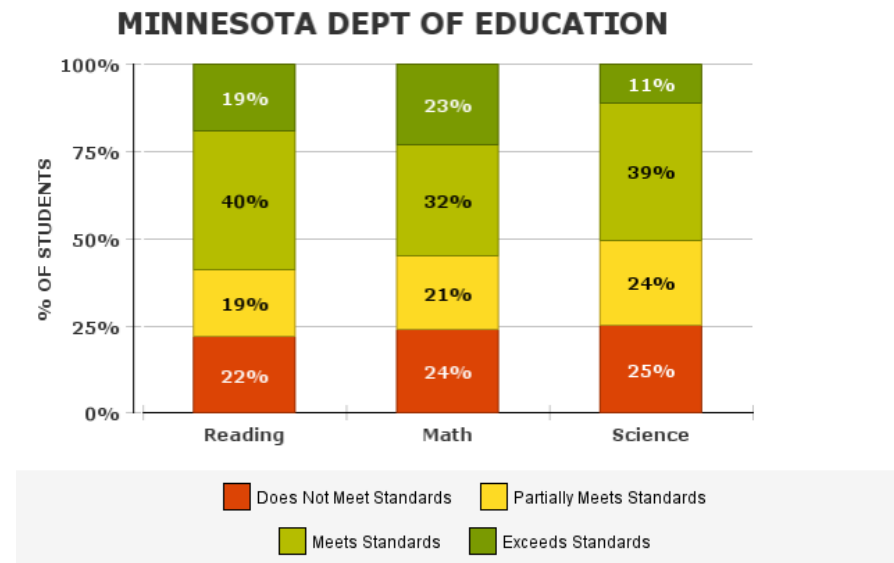
ANDERSON, CONTROL J (5555000000380)

Print

Administration	Organization Name	Subject	Grade	Score	Achievement Level
MTAS 2018	CFL ELEMENTARY 101 (5555-09-101)	Reading	06	210	Exceeds Standards
Test Details		Performance Details			
District				Points Earned	Points Possible
CFL CONTROL DISTRICT 5555 (5555-09-000)				6	8
Total Points Earned				9	9
27				9	9
Total Points Possible				3	3
27				3	3
MTAS 2016	CFL ELEMENTARY 101 (5555-09-101)	Math	06	204	Exceeds Standards
MCA 2017	CFL ELEMENTARY 101 (5555-09-101)	Math	06	NA	Not Attempted
OLPA 2016-2017	CFL ELEMENTARY 101 (5555-09-101)	Math	06	186	Does Not Meet Standards

Longitudinal Reports

- PA Next > Select Year and Test > Reports > Longitudinal Reports > Organization Name
- Provide a graphical display of historical results to compare across years, schools, and student groups
- Overall and average scale score, achievement level, strand performance detail and student groups



Benchmark Report Overview

New Benchmark Reports

The Benchmark Reports were redesigned for 2019

They organized into three sections:

1. Overall performance
2. Strand performance
3. Benchmark performance

What are benchmarks?

What are benchmarks?

The purpose of benchmarks is to provide details about "the academic knowledge and skills that schools must offer and students must achieve to satisfactorily complete" the standards (Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (2008)).

Benchmarks are intended to "inform and guide parents, teachers, school districts and other interested persons and for use in developing tests consistent with the benchmarks" (Minn. Stat. § 120B.023 (2008)).

What are benchmarks?

- Each of the Minnesota Academic Standards are divided into benchmarks.
- Each item on the MCA is aligned to an appropriate benchmark.
- Some benchmarks are not assessed on the MCA in a given year, and some can be assessed only in the classroom and not on a standardized assessment.
- However, all tests meet the required “blueprints,” or requirements, specified in the test specifications.

The new standards still have “Benchmarks”

Grade	Strand	Substrand	Standard	Content Area	Benchmark
9-12 Life Science	3 Developing possible explanations of phenomena or designing solutions to engineering problems	3.2 Constructing explanations and designing solutions	3.2.1 Students will be able to apply scientific principles and empirical evidence (primary or secondary) to explain the causes of phenomena or identify weaknesses in explanations developed by the students or others.	LS: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes	9L.3.2.1.1 Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the structure of DNA determines the structure of the proteins that carry out the essential functions of life. (P: 6, CC: 6, CI: LS1).
9-12 Life Science	3 Developing possible explanations of phenomena or designing solutions to engineering problems	3.2 Constructing explanations and designing solutions	3.2.1 Students will be able to apply scientific principles and empirical evidence (primary or secondary) to explain the causes of phenomena or identify weaknesses in explanations developed by the students or others.	LS: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes	9L.3.2.1.2 Construct and revise an explanation based on evidence for how various elements combine with carbon to form molecules that form the basis for life on Earth. (P: 6, CC: 5, CI: LS1) <i>Emphasis is on using evidence from models and simulations to support explanations. Examples of molecules may include proteins, lipids, carbohydrates and nucleic acids.</i>

Objectives of the Benchmark Reports:

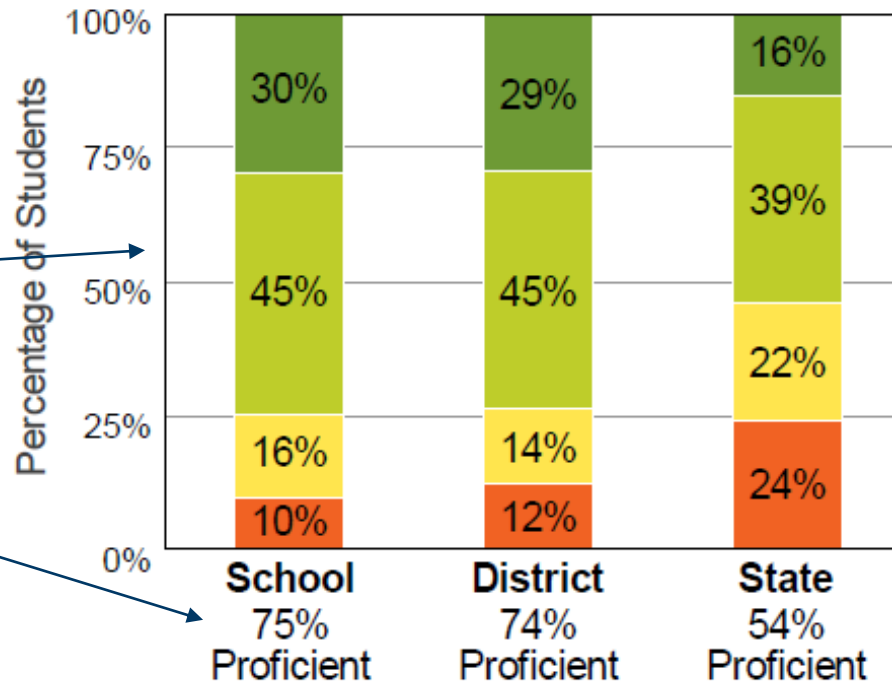
- A “System Check” for districts and schools
 - *How well are our systems servicing student learning?*
- Provide information about school or district performance on each benchmark that can more easily be connected back to the Minnesota academic standards.

1. Overall School/District Performance

- Number of all students tested with valid and reportable scores
- Shows percentage of students at each achievement level
- Percent proficient is total “Meets” and “Exceeds”

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE PERFORMANCE

Number of high school students in Science with valid scores for your school: 619



Exceeds (1063 and above)
Meets (1050-1062)
Partially Meets (1040-1049)
Does Not Meet (1039 and below)

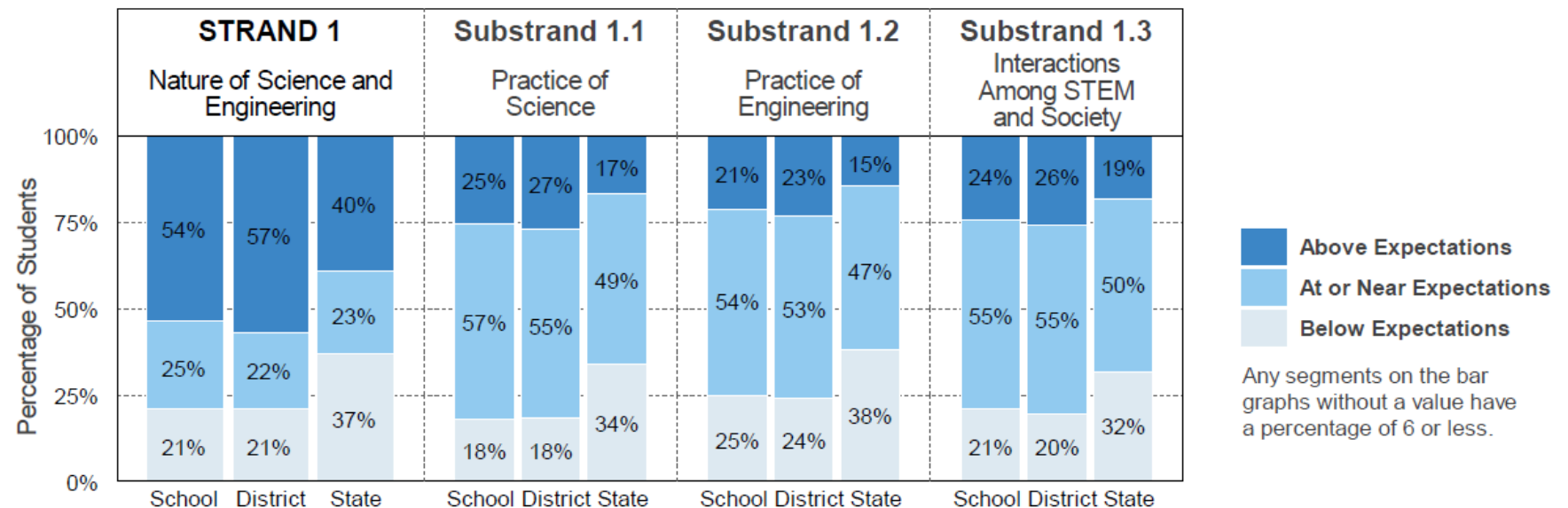
Any segments on the bar graphs without a value have a percentage of 6 or less.

2. School/District Performance

HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE PERFORMANCE BY STRAND AND SUBSTRAND

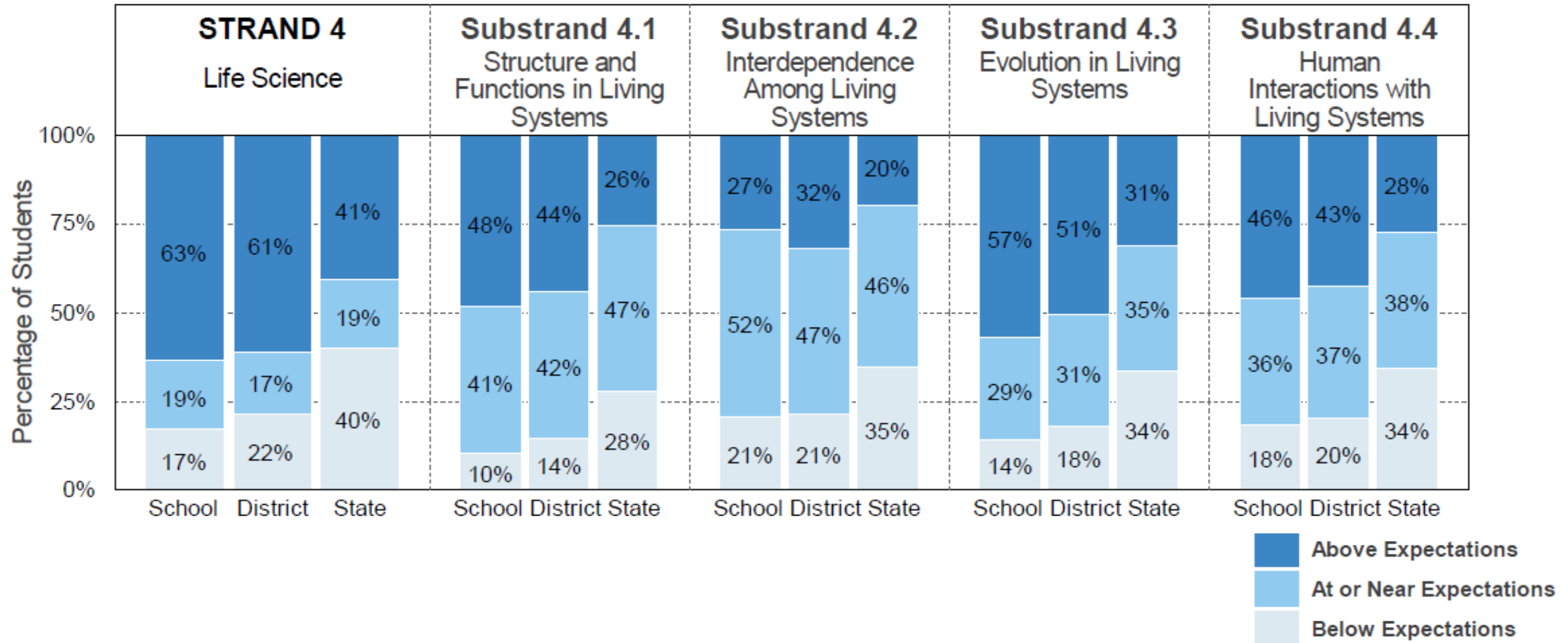
For the High School Science MCA-III, the content area strand and substrand results are categorized as: Below Expectations, At or Near Expectations, or Above Expectations. Expectation is defined as the school performance on each strand compared to the "Meets" achievement level.

The graphs below show the percentage of students in each performance level for the strand and each substrand calculated by aggregating the individual student strand and substrand performance levels at your school, at your district, and at the state level.



- Expectation is defined as performance on each strand/substrand compared to “Meets” level cut score

2. School/District Performance











3. Benchmark Performance

Performance Symbols are determined by calculating:

- *average student performance on test questions aligned to each benchmark*





Compared to:

- *the “Meets” achievement level cut score expected performance*

 School performance on this benchmark is less than the "Meets" achievement level.	 School performance on this benchmark is similar to the "Meets" achievement level.	 School performance on this benchmark is greater than the "Meets" achievement level.	 less than 20 student responses on a benchmark
STRAND 1: THE NATURE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING			
SUBSTRAND 9.1.1: THE PRACTICE OF SCIENCE			
Compared to "Meets" Achievement Level	Benchmark		
Standard 9.1.1.1	Understand that science is a way of knowing about the natural world and is characterized by empirical criteria, logical argument and skeptical review. <i>Benchmarks 9.1.1.1.1 and 9.1.1.1.2 were not assessed on this year's test.</i> <i>Benchmark 9.1.1.1.4 is not assessed on the MCA-III.</i>		
	9.1.1.1.3	Explain how the traditions and norms of science define the bounds of professional scientific practice and reveal instances of scientific error or misconduct. For example: The use of peer review, publications and presentations.	
	9.1.1.1.5	Identify sources of bias and explain how bias might influence the direction of research and the interpretation of data. For example: How funding of research can influence questions studied, procedures used, analysis of data, and communication of results.	
	9.1.1.1.6	Describe how changes in scientific knowledge generally occur in incremental steps that include and build on earlier knowledge.	
	9.1.1.1.7	Explain how scientific and technological innovation –as well as new evidence– can challenge portions of, or entire accepted theories and models including, but not limited to: cell theory, atomic theory, theory of evolution, plate tectonic theory, germ theory of disease, and the big bang theory.	

Read slides [35-42](#) for more detail about the performance symbol calculation method

Other information you may see:

Standard 9.1.3.4	<p>Understand that science, technology, engineering and mathematics rely on each other to enhance knowledge and understanding.</p> <p><i>Benchmark 9.1.3.4.1 is not assessed on the MCA-III.</i></p> <p><i>Benchmark 9.1.3.4.6 was not assessed on this year's test.</i></p>
	<p>9.1.3.4.2 Determine and use appropriate safety procedures, tools, computers and measurement instruments in science and engineering contexts. For example: Consideration of chemical and biological hazards in the lab.</p>
	<p>9.1.3.4.3 Select and use appropriate numeric, symbolic, pictorial, or graphical representation to communicate scientific ideas, procedures and experimental results.</p>
	<p>9.1.3.4.4 Relate the reliability of data to consistency of results, identify sources of error, and suggest ways to improve data collection and analysis. For example: Use statistical analysis or error analysis to make judgments about the validity of results.</p>
	<p>9.1.3.4.5 Demonstrate how unit consistency and dimensional analysis can guide the calculation of quantitative solutions and verification of results.</p>

Caveats to keep in mind

The performance symbols only compare to the Meets cut score, not a *partial* or *exceeds* cut score like the scale scores calculated at the student level.

The calculation for the overall performance (calculate individual student scores first and then aggregate to the organization level) and benchmark (only calculated at the organization level) are different, so benchmark performance indicators and overall achievement levels are not directly comparable.



School performance on this benchmark is less than the "Meets" achievement level.



School performance on this benchmark is similar to the "Meets" achievement level.



School performance on this benchmark is greater than the "Meets" achievement level.

Cautions with interpretation

- Benchmark performance indicators and symbols **do not** correspond to overall achievement or performance levels because they are calculated differently.

Does Not Meet the Standards	Partially Meets the Standards	Meets the Standards	Exceeds the Standards
Students at this level succeed at few of the most fundamental skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.	Students at this level partially meet the subject's skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.	Students at this level meet the subject's skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.	Students at this level exceed the subject's skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.

- The color/shape of each marker does not reflect benchmark difficulty.



School performance on this benchmark is less than the "Meets" achievement level.



School performance on this benchmark is similar to the "Meets" achievement level.



School performance on this benchmark is greater than the "Meets" achievement level.

Resources to use with Reports

Keep these resources open on your computer:

1. [MCA test specifications](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Test Specifications)
2. [Achievement Level Descriptor Maps](#) (testing123.education.mn.gov > Plan and Teach > Success Criteria)
3. [Released Items and Passage Sets](#) *for Reading and Mathematics only* (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Released items and Passage Sets)

Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)


- **ALDs outline the appropriate achievement expectations for each content strand from the Minnesota Academic Standards for every subject and grade level.**

Does Not Meet the Standards	Partially Meets the Standards	Meets the Standards	Exceeds the Standards
Students at this level succeed at few of the most fundamental skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.	Students at this level partially meet the subject's skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.	Students at this level meet the subject's skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.	Students at this level exceed the subject's skills for the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.

<https://testing123.education.mn.gov/test/plan/success/> > ALDs

How to Use Report with ALDs

Example Science Benchmark:

Standard 9.1.2.2	Understand that engineering design is an analytical and creative process of devising a solution to meet a need or solve a specific problem.
	9.1.2.2.1 Identify a problem and the associated constraints on possible design solutions. For example: Constraints can include time, money, scientific knowledge and available technology.

ALD Maps:

Strand	Does Not Meet Students at this level of science succeed at few of the most fundamental science skills of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Some of the skills demonstrated may include:	Partially Meets Students at this level of science partially meet the science skills of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Some of the skills demonstrated may include:	Meets Students at this level of science meet the science skills of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Some of the skills demonstrated may include:	Exceeds Students at this level of science exceed the science skills of the Minnesota Academic Standards. Some of the skills demonstrated very consistently may include:
Nature of Science and Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determines the appropriate safety procedures for a scientific investigation Understands what a hypothesis is Identifies the benefits of using scientific models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies sources of error in an investigation Understands that engineering designs are continually checked so that they can be improved Recognizes that scientific knowledge occurs in steps that build on prior knowledge Selects appropriate graphical representations to communicate results Identifies a scientific hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes how changes in scientific knowledge usually builds on earlier knowledge Explains how bias might influence how research is done and the interpretation of data Recognizes that risk analysis is used to evaluate consequences of an engineered solution Evaluates possible solutions to an engineering problem at a local and regional level Uses appropriate numeric, or graphical representations to communicate a scientific idea Suggests ways to improve data collection Designs and conducts an experiment to test a hypothesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulates a hypothesis and conducts an experiment to test this hypothesis Supports a conclusion with evidence from the investigation Develops possible solutions to an engineering problem in a global context

Model How to Use Report with Test Specs

Standard 9.4.1.1

Understand that organisms use the interaction of cellular processes as well as tissues and organ systems to maintain homeostasis.



9.4.1.1.1 Explain how cell processes are influenced by internal and external factors, such as pH and temperature, and how cells and organisms respond to changes in their environment to maintain homeostasis.

Test Specs:

Item Specifications

- Internal and external factors or stimuli include pH, temperature, light, gravity and concentration
- A cell's response to maintain homeostasis may include single-celled organisms or individual cells of organisms
- An organism's response to maintain homeostasis may include responses such as gravitropism and phototropism in plants and shivering or sweating in animals
- Items may address both voluntary and involuntary responses.
- Items will NOT address the mechanisms of specific organ systems
- Items will NOT require students to distinguish between innate and learned behaviors

Model How to Use Report with Test Specs



9.4.1.1.2 Describe how the functions of individual organ systems are integrated to maintain homeostasis in an organism.

Test Specs:

9.4.1.1.2

Describe how the functions of individual organ systems are integrated to maintain homeostasis in an organism.

Item Specifications

- Items may be placed in contexts referring to body temperature, breathing and pulse rate as homeostatic disruptions of the human body or any context that addresses symptoms or disruptions of homeostasis
- Organ systems in animals are limited to digestive, respiratory, circulatory and nervous systems
- Organ systems in plants may include the function of vascular tissue and leaves
- The functions of individual organ systems in plants include nutrient uptake, gas exchange and material transport
- Items will NOT require students to identify specific plant structures, such as xylem or stoma, but may require students to understand their function
- Items will NOT address positive feedback in homeostasis

Dig into Benchmark Data with Colleagues

Materials You Need: Benchmark report, Benchmark Analysis Handout, [Achievement Level Descriptor Maps](#), [MCA test specifications](#), [Released Items and Passage Sets](#)

Directions: (20 minutes)

1. Preview the questions on your handout
2. Individually reflect on questions with your benchmark report
3. In pairs or with table group, discuss your responses to the questions
4. Prepare to share out 1-2 takeaways from your reflections with the whole group

Then: If you finish early, take a look at more benchmarks that you would like to dig deeper on. Compare them to the Achievement Level Descriptors for that benchmark

Performance Symbol Calculations Explained

Benchmark Report Calculations: 3 Steps

Benchmark performance indicators for a school (or district) report are determined by the following:

1. The average performance for students within the school (or district) on test questions aligned to each benchmark is calculated
2. A “Meets Range” is calculated based on the performance *expected* of students on each benchmark. This is based on students who perform at the “Meets” achievement level cut score.
3. The value from step 1 is compared to the “Meets Range” values to determine if student performance at the school is less than, similar to, or greater than the “Meets” achievement level expectation.

1. Student performance calculation

School or district benchmark performance is measured by finding the observed average probability correct (p value) for all students in organization across all items measuring a particular benchmark.

https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=MDE087482&RevisionSelectionMethod=latestReleased&Rendition=primary

1. Student Performance Calculation

The calculation uses the same psychometric process as calculating student scores.

- The “observed” performance is how the students did on the actual test questions that were administered for a particular benchmark.

Example: 4 students in School A each answered 2 questions aligned to the same benchmark.

A total of 8 attempts. Six of the attempts were correct. **Observed p-value = $6/8 = 0.75$**

School A	Item 1 Score	Item 2 Score	Item 3 Score
Student 1	1		1
Student 2	0	1	
Student 3		1	1
Student 4		1	0

How are the performance symbols calculated?

- The actual test questions administered to students may be limited in terms of the number of questions assessed at the benchmark level.
- Therefore, the actual student performance at a school or district level needs to be compared to an “expected” performance level
- The “expected” performance is based on the actual test questions that were administered for a particular benchmark.
- A range, called the expected “Meets” range, is calculated based on how students performing at the “Meets” achievement level would be expected to perform on the same questions that were administered to the school or district.

The [Benchmark Report Calculations Resource](#) has further details on the calculation.

2. Meets Range Calculation

- In these reports, “proficient” means at the “meets standards” or “exceeds standards” achievement level.
- The theta cut score at the “Meets” achievement level is therefore used to calculate the expected performance ranges.
- The “meets range” used to compare to the observed performance of a school is calculated by the following:
- The theta cut score at the “meets” level is transformed to the scale score
 - (e.g. the theta score cut at the “Meets” achievement level for MCA Math G3 is -0.52 and the scale cut score at the “Meets” achievement level for MCA Math G3 is 350).

2. Meets Range Calculation

- The expected “Meets” range, is based on how students performing at the “Meets” cut score would be expected to perform on the same questions that were administered to the students at the particular school/district
- The range has an upper and lower expected based on the questions the students were administered within that benchmark
- Example: Observed $6/8 = 0.75$ lower 0.471 upper 0.596

If Observed p-value < lower expected < upper expected, then Less than the "Meets" achievement level

If lower expected ≤ Observed p-value ≤ upper expected, then Similar to the "Meets" achievement level

If lower expected < upper expected < Observed p-value, then Greater than the "Meets" achievement level

Calculation interpretation examples

- The performance symbols are determined by calculating the average student performance on each benchmark at your school, and then comparing it to the performance *expected* of students who score at the “Meets” achievement level.



School performance on this benchmark is similar to the “Meets” achievement level.

- A blue “similar to meets” symbol indicates the average student performance at your school on this benchmark is within the range of where a student testing at the “meets” level is expected to perform.
- A red “below meets” symbol indicates that average student performance on this benchmark at your school is *less than* the expected range for a student who scores at the “meets” level.



School performance on this benchmark is less than the “Meets” achievement level.

Calculation difference from old reports

In other words, the “meets” level is the baseline used to compare student performance and determine these symbols, *not* the school’s unique expected performance.

The “meets” level performance expectation is therefore the *same* for every school and district across the state, it does not change based on the school or district’s average student performance.

Additional Resources

Want to help write questions for the MCA?

We need educators to review and approve new items for the MCA at all grades.

Benefits:

1. You will see questions that will appear on upcoming MCAs.
2. You will be paid (if non-teaching day).
3. Opportunity to improve test for students
4. Meals and travel accommodations provided



<http://www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/EdExc/Testing/RegAdvPanel/index.html> (or scan the QR code)

Visit the link above to submit your email to the Educator MCA Review database

If you would like to receive updates about information relevant to teachers, please use the following QR code to enter your information.

You can also send an email request to kendra.olsen@state.mn.us



Testing 1, 2, 3

The screenshot shows the Testing123 website. At the top left is the logo "TESTING 123" with the tagline "Test data in the classroom: Assessing, analyzing and taking action". To the right is the "mn DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" logo and a navigation bar with "Glossary" and a search box. Below the navigation bar is a horizontal menu with "Plan and Teach", "1. Assess", "2. Analyze", "3. Take Action", and "Get Involved". The main content area features the heading "Testing 1, 2, 3: A Resource for Teachers" and a paragraph: "Educators empowered with reliable data use it to eliminate learning barriers and evaluate classroom instruction. This website is an effort to provide teachers with relevant assessment and data resources that support an equitable learning environment where all students can achieve at high levels." In the center is a circular diagram with three steps: "1. Assess" (top, blue circle with a checklist icon), "2. Analyze" (right, green circle with a magnifying glass icon), and "3. Take Action" (bottom, dark blue circle with a person icon). Below the diagram is a horizontal bar with three segments: "1. Assess" (green), "2. Analyze" (light green), and "3. Take Action" (light green).

1. Promote Assessment and Data Literacy in the classroom
2. Resources for interpreting state test data
3. Teacher involvement opportunities

Testing123.education.mn.gov

Have these resources open as we look at Benchmark data:

View the benchmarks in the [MCA test specifications](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Test Specifications)

View the Using Data in the Classroom: [MDE Testing 1,2,3](https://testing123.education.mn.gov) (<https://testing123.education.mn.gov>)

View the [Frameworks for the Minnesota Science & Math Standards](http://scimathmn.org/stemtc/) (<http://scimathmn.org/stemtc/>)

View [Released Items and Passage Sets](#) for Reading and Mathematics (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Released items and Passage Sets)

View the [Minnesota Academic Standards](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards (K-12))

Thank you!

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