

Questions and Answers about the Graduation Assessment Requirements

What are graduation assessment requirements?

In order to be eligible for a diploma from a Minnesota public high school, all students must fulfill graduation assessment requirements. Based on the revisions to Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.30, the graduation assessment requirements have changed. There are different routes to meeting graduation assessment requirements depending on what year students were first enrolled in grade 8. Parents/guardians should contact their child's school for further information.

With the changes to the graduation assessment requirements, additional details and information will continue to be provided on the MDE website as needed. [Please refer to the Just for Parents section of the MDE website for the most up-to-date information.](#) (Go to Just for Parents > Testing Information.)

What are routes to meeting state graduation assessment requirements?

Grade 12 Student and Older in School Year 2014–2015 (first enrolled in grade 8 in 2010–2011 or earlier)

These students can meet the graduation assessment requirements in reading, mathematics, and writing through any combination of the three options outlined below as long as requirements are met in each subject.

1. Meet graduation assessment requirements through Graduation-Required Assessments for Diploma (GRAD) in reading, mathematics and written composition, which include:
 - Earning a proficient score. If students are proficient (achieve Meets or Exceeds the Standards) on the grade 10 Reading Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) and the grade 11 Mathematics MCA, they have met their graduation assessment requirement for that subject.
 - This also applies to students who take the high school MCA-Modified or Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) in place of the MCAs.
 - Earning a passing score on the Written Composition GRAD or Reading and Mathematics GRAD retests.
 - The Minnesota Alternate Assessment: Writing can be administered to students who need an alternate assessment to meet the requirements for writing.

- Meeting GRAD alternate routes, which may include the following:
 - Receive an individual passing score (for students on an IEP or 504 plan)
 - Receive an English learner (EL) exemption
 - Pass an accountability assessment from another state approved by MDE (reciprocity)
 - Meet mathematics alternate pathway requirements (note that this is available for students who are likely older than grade 12, because it is an option only for students first enrolled in grade 8 through 2009–2010)

OR

2. Students can take the ACT assessment for college admission; the WorkKeys job skills assessment, the Compass college placement test, or the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (or ASVAB) to meet graduation assessment requirements in reading, mathematics, and/or writing.

OR

3. A school district may also substitute a score from an alternative, equivalent assessment to satisfy the graduation assessment requirements.

Grade 11 Student in School Year 2014–2015 (first enrolled in grade 8 in 2011–2012)

These students will take the grade 11 ACT plus Writing (college entrance exam) during the statewide administration in 2014–2015 in writing, reading, and mathematics to meet graduation assessment requirements.

However, if a student is unable to participate in the grade 11 ACT Plus Writing in 2014–2015, students can meet the graduation assessment requirements in reading, mathematics, and writing through any combination of the three options outlined above under “Grade 12 Student and Older in School Year 2014–2015.”

Grade 10 Student and Younger in School Year 2014–2015 (first enrolled in grade 8 in 2012–2013 and later)

These students will meet graduation assessment requirements through participating in the series of career and college assessments, which will first be administered in school year 2014–2015:

- Take Grade 8 ACT Explore career and college assessment (Note: this assessment was not available statewide for grade 8 students in school year 2013–2014.)

AND

- Take Grade 10 ACT Plan career and college assessment

POSSIBLY

- Take ACT Compass (college placement diagnostic assessment)
 - Students not yet academically ready for a career or college based on their growth in academic achievement between grades 8 and 10 (as determined by performance on the available grade 8 and 10 assessments) must take the college placement diagnostic exam before taking the college entrance exam in the spring.

AND

- Take Grade 11 ACT Plus Writing statewide administration (college entrance exam)

Additional information about the participation of students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), as well as students in special circumstances (for example, students who move in after the administration of a career and college assessment) will be provided on the MDE website as available.

For more information, contact:

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