

MCA Exams Will take place on Wednesdays March 17 through April 28.

Sophomores take the MCA Reading - March 17 through April 14

Juniors take the MCA Math - April 21-28

Students taking Biology (primarily Juniors) take the MCA Science - March 17 through April 7

The most common question about MCA(Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment) exams is "Why?." Our "why" for administering the MCA is to give us student learning data. Data this year is especially important since MCAs were cancelled last year. Our goal is to collect student learning data from the MCA to help us understand the impact of teacher instruction on student learning, especially in Reading, Math and Science. This data is also intended to provide teachers with baseline data for student growth.

Standardized data points are meant to help us evaluate the effectiveness of our systems. It is not meant to identify the capacity of our students or individual teachers. At the system's level, MCA data helps us to evaluate our current curriculum and practices in terms of teaching Minnesota standards. As a standardized assessment, this data allows our system to identify areas of strength and places for growth.

St Louis Park High School currently has the highest opt out rate for MCAs among seven districts in our local area. This means that we don't have good data to tell us if our system is on the right track for helping all of our students learn grade level standards. This is especially true for our students that have been the most marginalized - racially, linguistically and socioeconomically - in our system. Our system needs standardized student learning data so that we can continue to evaluate the effectiveness of our system.

MCA testing helps us have the data we need to help our teachers maintain the high standard parents expect from St Louis Park Schools.

To maintain COVID safety protocol this year MCA testing will take place on Wednesdays in March and April. Students will be asked to school in groups of approximately 100 students and tested in classrooms with approximately 10 students.

Students will be assigned a date and time and contacted through the Student Connect App with the date, time and location of their test. Exact details are still pending.

Please see ASSESSMENT, RESEARCH & EVALUATION on the District Website for further information about MCA testing. <https://www.slpschools.org/domain/500>