

Saint Paul Public Schools District-wide Assessments

The following assessments are coordinated by the SPPS
Department of Research, Evaluation and Assessment (REA)

Basic Skills Tests (BSTs) in Reading, Mathematics and Writing

SPPS administers the BSTs in accordance with State graduation requirements. In the next few years these tests will be phased out as the students needing to pass them for graduation meet this requirement. See The Test of Written Composition and MCA-II/GRAD information for updated graduation requirements.

In 2007-2008 students in grades 11-12 who have not passed the Reading or Mathematics BSTs will continue to test using the BST to fulfill their graduation requirement. A scale score of at least 600 is required to pass.

In 2007-2008 students in grade 9, and any students in grades 10 -12 who need to pass, will take the Writing BST/GRAD. A score of 3.0 is needed to pass this graduation requirement.

The Test of Written Composition – GRAD in grade 9

Students have their first opportunity to take the GRAD Test of Written Composition in grade 9. A passing score of 3.0 on this test is required for graduation. Students will have additional opportunities to take the GRAD Writing in grades 10-12.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-II (MCA-IIs)

SPPS administers the MCA-IIs in accordance with State graduation requirements and Federal accountability laws. The MCA-IIs measure if students are learning what is expected of them at their grade level. MCA-IIs are used to determine if schools are making adequate yearly progress (AYP).

Grades 3-8, Reading and Math

Grades 5, 8 and High School, Science

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments-II/Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (MCA-II/GRAD)

SPPS administers the MCA-IIs in accordance with State graduation requirements and Federal accountability laws. The MCA-IIs measure if students are learning what is expected of them at their grade level. These assessments are also used to determine if schools are making adequate yearly progress (AYP).

The GRAD is a component of the 10th grade reading MCA-II and the 11th grade mathematics MCA-II. Students in these grades take the MCA-IIs, and in the process are also taking the GRAD component. Students who are not proficient on these tests or who don't pass the GRAD component will retake the GRAD component at a later date.

Grade 10-Reading

Grade 11, Mathematics

Stanford Achievement Test, Tenth Edition (SAT10)

This test is used by the district to measure each student's or group's progress from year to year. The data may be used to compare student achievement against a nationwide sample of students in reading and math. Individual data from these tests help teachers determine a student's strengths and weaknesses. Summary class, school or district level, data may be used to identify instructional needs for that group. SAT10 data is also used for grant submissions and to meet grant requirements for trend data on student achievement district-wide.

Grade 9– Reading and Mathematics

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Test of Emerging Academic English (TEAE) and the Minnesota Student Oral Language Observation Matrix (MNSOLOM)

SPPS administers the TEAE/MNSOLOM in accordance with State ELL funding and Federal NCLB Title III accountability laws. Data from the TEAE give information to parents and teachers about how quickly students are learning reading and written academic English. The MNSOLOM is a teacher evaluation of students' listening and speaking skills in English.

Grades 3-12 – TEAE in reading and writing in English

Grades K-12 – MNSOLOM in listening and speaking in English

Northwest Evaluation Association - Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Beginning in 2007-2008, SPPS will use this state-aligned computerized adaptive testing program to assess some students in reading and mathematics. Students in grades 2-12 at eleven of the district's Alternate Learning Centers (ALCs) will participate in these assessments. MAP will provide educators with growth and achievement data to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvements.

The following assessments are coordinated by other SPPS departments as indicated.

Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test (NNAT)

SPPS uses the NNAT to identify students who are eligible for gifted services with the school district. This assessment is coordinated by the SPPS Center for Academic Excellence.

Grades K & 2

Pre-Language Assessment Scale (Pre-LAS)

The Pre-LAS consists of one-on-one oral and pre-literacy tests used to determine eligibility for Kindergarten Language Development Model programs and other district English Language Learners (ELL) services. Kindergarten students with a Home Language Questionnaire classification of "not English" or "is Spanish" are eligible to take this assessment which is coordinated by the SPPS ELL department.

Grade K

Language Assessment Scale (LAS)

The LAS is used to determine placement for ELL services and measures student progress. Students with a Home Language Questionnaire classification of "not English" or "is Spanish" are eligible to take this assessment which is coordinated by the SPPS ELL department.

Grades 1-12

For more information on these assessments, go to the following web sites:

<http://www.ell.spps.org/> - TEAE/MNSOLOM, Pre-LAS and LAS

<http://www.gifted.spps.org/> - NNAT

<http://www.rea.spps.org/> - BST, MCA-II, MCA-II/GRAD, TEAE/MNSOLOM, MAP and SAT10

<http://education.state.mn.us> - MN Department of Education for BST, MCA-II, MCA-II/GRAD, TEAE/MNSOLOM