

Assessment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why does my child take tests and which tests are given?

Phoenix Academy of Arts and Science is committed to providing the best possible education for every student. Tests are given for different reasons, depending on the need. Some tests are required by federal and/or state legislation. Other tests are given to measure English language proficiency, progress toward a learning goal or to monitor progress made during a period of time, to measure programs or services. One test cannot fill all needs.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

Required by the State of Minnesota to measure progress to MN Academic Standards and by federal legislations to comply with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), part of the elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Estimated Testing Times (times for online tests)

- MCA Reading, grades 3-8: 1-2.5 hours
- MCA Math, grades 3-8: 1-2.5 hours
- MCA Science, grades 5 and 8, 0.5-1.5 hours
- MTAS: Individualized
- For more information about state testing, go to [Minnesota Department of Education](#)
- For more information about MCA testing, please see this [document](#) from the Minnesota Department of Education
- For more information about MTAS, please see this [document](#) from the Minnesota Department of Education

Fastbridge: aReading, aMath, Early Reading & Early Math:

- Online math and reading tests administered to all students in grades K-9 and students at-risk in grades 10-12
- Students in K-6 take the FastBridge assessments- aReading and aMath
- Kindergarten and 1st grade- Early Reading and Early Math
- Estimated time per subject is approximately 45 minutes for FastBridge tests
- Students performance is reported by achievement level and growth (national and state norms)
- Tests are adaptive, meaning that the items a student will see will adjust in difficulty based on a student's correct response

When will I receive results for my child?

- For all state assessments, for the previous school-year spring results, schools are required to distribute individual student reports by fall conferences. Contact us for specific requests.
- For more information about MCA testing results, please view sample ISRs, videos and the [Interpretive Guide for Minnesota Assessments Reports](#).
- For FastBridge results, contact your child's teacher for school for results. Results are typically shared with parents at conference times and or student goal setting.

Opt-out process

Parents who prefer to opt their child out of state and/or local testing may contact their principal to obtain an MDA Parent/Guardian for Statewide Assessment Form or [follow this link](#). Please return this form to the principal: james.gagner@phxacademy.org