![Charting the Cs logo — Cooperation . Communication . Collaboration]

Charting the Cs Conference 2025:

To Literacy and Beyond

Cooperation
Communication
Collaboration

Assistive Technology Meets Minnesota Statewide Assessments

April 29, 2025, 1:30-2:30 pm

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Minnesota Statewide Assessments

Minnesota

ACCESS
Alternate ACCESS
English language development standards assessments.

MCA
MTAS
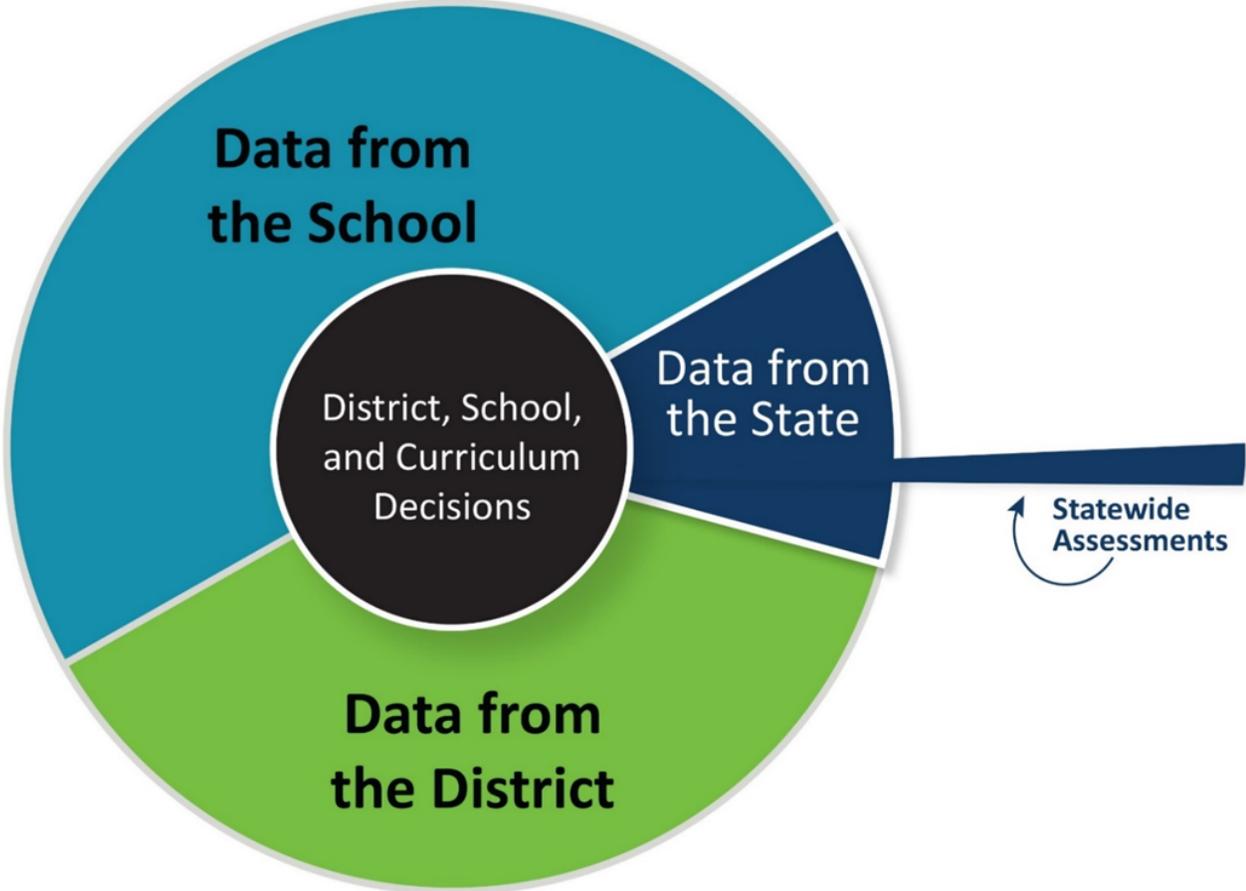Academic standards accountability assessments.

Federal

National Assessment of Educational Progress

NAEP

NAEP framework-based academic learning assessment.

Assessment Data Sources

Alternate MCA Redesign Timelines

Date	Science	Reading	Math	Administration Mode
Spring 25	* Alternate MCA	MTAS	MTAS	MTAS – paper only Alternate MCA – Online, paper or hybrid available
Spring 26	* Alternate MCA	* Alternate MCA	MTAS	MTAS – paper only Alternate MCA - Online, paper or hybrid available
Spring 27	* Alternate MCA	*Alternate MCA	MTAS	MTAS – paper only Alternate MCA - Online, paper or hybrid available
Spring 28	* Alternate MCA	* Alternate MCA	* Anticipated Alternate MCA	Online, paper or hybrid available

Assistive Technology Definition

The term assistive technology device means "any item, piece of

equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability. The term does not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, or the replacement of such device.

IDEA 2004 for Part B—now requires student planning teams (e.g., IEP, ITP) to consider whether AT devices and services are needed for each student who qualifies for special education services (34 C.F.R. §300.324(a)(2)(v)).

Assistive Technology Test Forms

Separate TestNav forms allow AT devices to interact directly with the test in order to maintain, increase or improve the functional capabilities of a student with disabilities:

- Screen reader AT form

- Non-screen reader AT Form

Assistive Technology Screen Reader Form

Details of the Screen reader AT From

- Limits item types and online tools to those that are keyboard operable and supported by screen readers
- Designed to be used with Screen readers and Braille Devices
- Need to verify that the AT device will work with TestNav by using the AT Checker
- Can include AT devices or software/tools that interact with the TestNav form
- Braille materials are designed to be used with the AT Form
- Script can be used

Assistive Technology Non-screen Reader Form

Details of the Non-screen reader AT From

- For use with AT devices other than Screen Readers and Braille Devices

- Need to verify that the AT device will work with TestNav by using the AT Checker

- Can include AT devices or software/tools that interact with the TestNav form

- Braille materials are designed to be used with the AT Form

- Script can be used

- Common devices include switches, head mouse, screen magnification tool

Science Alt MCA Assistive Technology

Examples of AT available for the Science Alt MCA

- Assistive Technology Forms

  o Screen Reader and Non-screen reader forms

- Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices

- Eye Gaze Technology Devices

- Switches

- Head Mouse

Science MCA Assistive Technology Devices and Software

Examples of AT available for the Science MCA

- Assistive Technology Forms
  - o Screen Reader and Non-screen reader forms
- Switches
- Head Mouse
- Electronic Calculators
- CoWriter / Read&Write for short response items
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices
- Eye Gaze Technology Devices

Considerations for Using Assistive Technology Devices and Software for the Science MCA

Guidelines to consider for using AT devices on the Science MCA

- Individual setting is needed due to test security

- Check memory-enabled devices before testing and disable any stored programs and applications

- Record use of device and the person deleting the test content on the Test Administration Report (TAR)

- Student owned devices require MDE approval

- Bluetooth is allowed for AT use

When Does an AT Device need approval for the Science MCA?

These are the approved uses of AT devices for the MCA:

- Used for scratch paper

- Used as a calculator

- Electronic notetaker for braille

- Used with an AT form

All other uses of AT devices and student owned devices need to have MDE approval. Email mde.testing@state.mn.us to request approval or ask questions.

Guidelines for Using Assistive Technology Online Forms

- Student AT devices need to be checked with TestNav to ensure the device is compatible and functions as expected

- Students should practice using their device with TestNav to be familiar with how the device functions

- District Assessment Coordinators need to create test tickets for TestNav

- Access the Guidelines for Using Assistive Technology Online Forms and PearsonAccess Next Training Center

  - https://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/assistive-technology/

2026 Reading MCA-IV Updates

The Reading MCA-IV will include new accommodations for students:

- Screen Reader Assistive Technology version will be an approved accommodation for a small number of students with documented blindness or vision impairments that severely limits or prevents them from accessing printed text and have not yet learned braille.

2026 Reading MCA-IV Updates, continued

The Reading MCA-IV will include new accommodations for students:

- Read aloud accommodations (human script, Text to Speech) will be an approved accommodation for a small number of students:
  - with documented blindness or vision impairments that severely limits or prevents them from accessing printed text and have not yet learned braille that do not use screen readers.
  - with deafness or a hearing impairment whose print disability is due to a documented history of early and prolonged language deprivation.

New Reading MCA-IV Accommodations in 2026

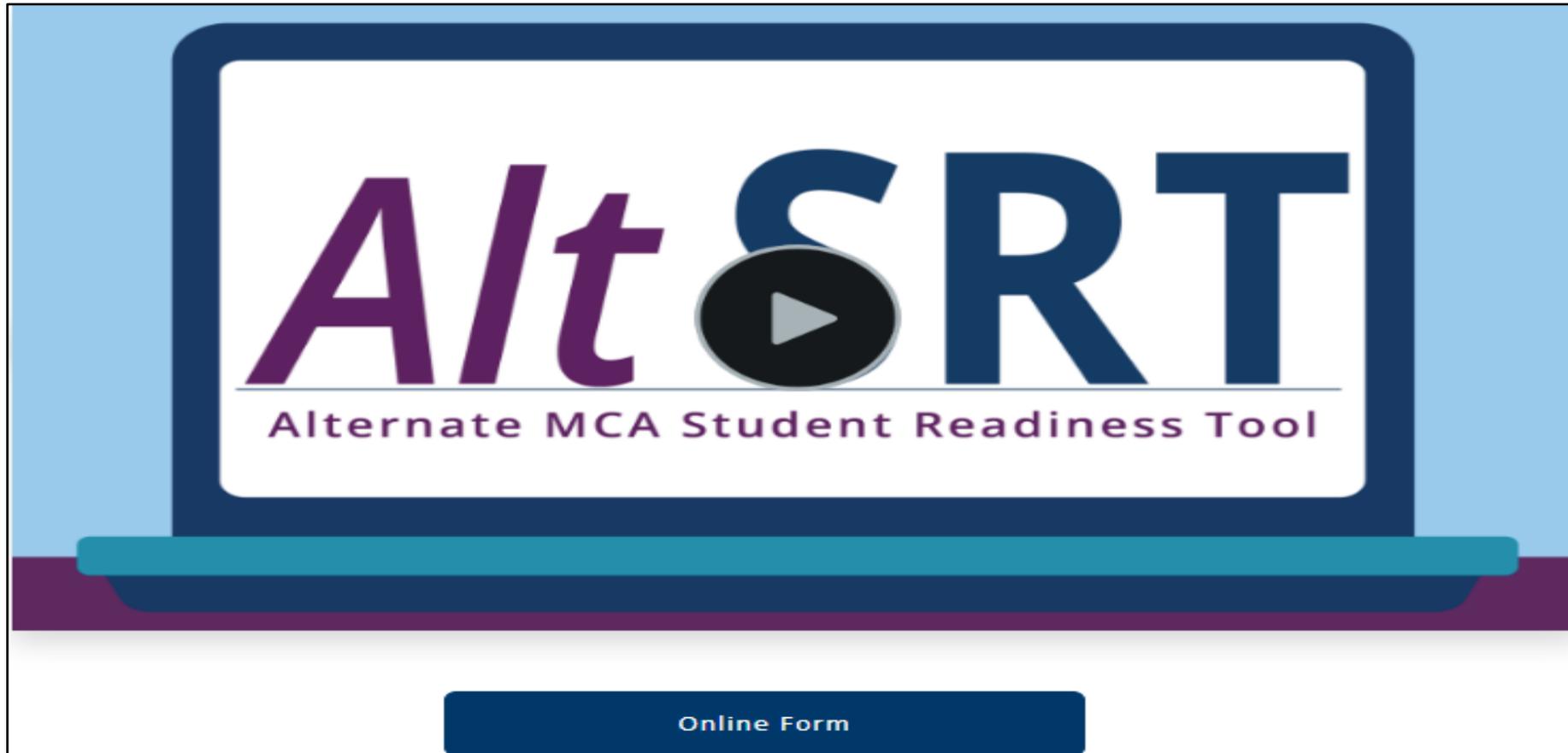**New accommodation for all students who use assistive technology that interacts with the test form:**

- A Non-Screen Reader version for use with other AT devices (ex. using switches or a head mouse)

2026 Alt MCA Updates

Reading Alt MCA will have Assistive Technology Forms

- Screen Reader version

- Non-Screen Reader version for use with other AT devices

Student Readiness Tools (SRT)

Accessing the Student Readiness Tools (SRT)

- Access the Science Alt MCA SRT Video and Online Test Form

  - https://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/readiness-tools/

  - Scroll down to the Online Alternate MCA Student Readiness Tools (SRTs) button and select, then select the play arrow on the SRT Image. Select the "Online Form" button below the video to access the Online test form.

Thank you!

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