

Description of District Assessments Farmington Public Schools

NWEA MAP – Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), developed by the Northwest Evaluation Association, is a computer delivered adaptive assessment that provides immediate results of student achievement and academic level. Farmington Schools administers MAP tests in reading and mathematics 2 or 3 times a year.

Explore – A test for grade 8 or 9 students developed by ACT to assess student achievement in English, mathematics, reading and science as well as career interest. The test is designed to help students plan high school course selection.

PLAN – A test for grade 10 students developed by ACT to assess student achievement in English, mathematics, reading and science as well as career interest. The test is designed to help prepare students for the ACT and plan the remainder of their high school course work.

ACT – College entrance exam. Offered at FHS periodically throughout the year. Contact FHS for test dates.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) - Minnesota state test in reading, math or science, designed to measure student progress towards the Minnesota State Standards. Required by federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Schools and districts are measured by the percent of students meeting proficiency. There are no passing requirements for individual students.

- **MCA II Reading** – Grades 3 – 8 & 10. Paper pencil test. Administered in April each year.
- **MCA II Math** – Grade 11 only. Paper Pencil test. Administered in April each year.
- **MCA III Math** – Grades 3 – 8. Computer test. Administered during a window of testing in April & May.
- **MCA Science** – Grades 5, 8 & 10. Computer test. Administered during a window of testing in April & May.

ACCESS – Minnesota State test for all English Language Learners in grades K – 12. (currently there is no info on MDE site about this test) Administered during a window of testing in February and March.

GRAD – State tests in reading, math & writing required to receive a diploma. The reading and math tests are initially offered in conjunction with the MCA reading and math tests at grades 10 & 11. The GRAD writing is offered in grade 9. Students who have not passed the GRAD have multiple opportunities to take the GRAD-retake tests. The reading and math GRAD re-takes are computer delivered tests offered each month. The GRAD writing retakes are offered every fall, spring and summer.

Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) – An alternate assessment developed for special education students with significant cognitive disabilities. This test replaces the MCAs for those students, measuring progress in general curriculum.

Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) – A quick, accurate, research based reading assessment that allows teachers to identify reading skills and target instruction.

Fluency Probes – A one-on-one timed reading of a grade level passage to assess students' ability to read accurately at an appropriate rate with expression and phrasing.

Spelling Inventory – An assessment that targets students' application of spelling as it relates to letters, patterns, and meaning.

Kindergarten Baseline Assessment – A one-on-one assessment in emergent reading and arithmetic skills that allows the teacher to evaluate the student's instructional level at the start of the school year.

First Grade Math Assessment – A Common Formative Assessment aligned with the Minnesota math standards for grade 1. Designed to ensure students are learning to skills identified in the state standards. A portion of the assessment is given each trimester.