

Science Alt MCA Individual Student Report (ISR) Quick Guide

Individual Student Reports (or ISRs) are generated for every student who is expected to take a statewide assessment. The ISR provides information about your student's performance and learning of the Minnesota Academic Standards.

The Science Alternate MCA (Alt MCA) may be taken in place of the MCA for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The Alt MCA is administered in grades 5 and 8 and in the year of high school life science coursework completion.

Each subject and test appears on a separate ISR. If your student did not participate, the ISR shows why results are not included (for example, absent or not completed).

1. **Student Information**—Your student's name, grade, school, district, testing year, and assessment.
2. **Administration Mode**—The Science Alt MCA can be administered online, on paper, or a hybrid of both. The mode used by your student is indicated. If your student's test was ended early, that is also indicated here.

Alt MCA Sr Gr 8

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Firstname M. Lastname
MDE Assessment Middle School
MDE Assessment Control District

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Spring 2026
Grade 8

These are Firstname's results from the Science Alternate Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (Alt MCA) taken in the spring of 2026.

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Firstname took the majority of the Science Alternate MCA using online test materials with Test Administrator guidance and support.

Firstname engaged in some or all of the questions using educational objects or manipulatives as part of their test materials (for example: using math counters or models to show food webs, life cycles or other science topics).

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Science: Firstname's Overall Alt MCA Results

Firstname's score of 227 shows evidence of learning at the **Advanced** level for grade-level expectations in science. The Science Alternate MCA measures learning of the extended benchmarks based upon the Minnesota Academic Standards in Science.

A grade 8 student with a score at the Advanced level needs minimal levels of support and scaffolding of skills when completing academic tasks and shows evidence of being able to:

- Interpret data or a model to identify atmospheric patterns that result in changing weather, use data or evidence to assess how solutions impact the environment, and identify which questions to ask about causes of temperature change over time.
- Use data or a model to predict the effects of the availability of food, shelter, and water on populations within an ecosystem, use data or a model to describe the cycle of matter or flow of energy among parts of an ecosystem, and use information to interpret patterns of interactions within ecosystems (for example: invasive species, mutualism).
- Assess the positive and negative impacts on society of using natural resources to make synthetic materials.

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Scores in the **Meets** and **Advanced** performance levels demonstrate proficiency in grade-level standards

Student Results Video

Scan the **QR code** to access a video of your student's results or contact your student's school for a link to the video. Your student's school can provide information on how to use these results.

English Video / مقطع فيديو باللغة العربية

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education.mn.gov

MARSS/SSID:1234567890123

LocalUse#: 1234567890

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3. **Use of Educational Objects**—Description included if objects or manipulatives were used during administration.
4. **Overall Results**—A description of your student's performance and learning of the extended benchmarks of the Minnesota Academic Standards.
5. **Performance Level**—The bar graph shows your student's overall score in the range of performance levels. There are four performance levels: Beginning, Intermediate, Meets, and Advanced.
6. **Student Results Video**—Students with a test score have a personalized video ISR with a summary of their performance on the test available by scanning the unique QR code on the report. The video may also be available in a home language based on student enrollment data if reported to your student's school or district.



Information for students and families is available on the **MDE Statewide Testing Students and Families Assessment Results** website (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing > Assessment Results).

Grade 8 Science Alt MCA: Percentage of Students Demonstrating Proficiency

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In spring 2026, 45% of the grade 8 students in Minnesota who took the Science Alt MCA performed at the meets and advanced levels. Performing at these levels demonstrates proficiency in the knowledge and skills described in the extended benchmarks of the academic standards.



Performance Related to Cognitive Complexity

On the Science Alt MCA, each task has three questions that have an increasing level of cognitive complexity. Question complexity can depend on many variables, including how many answer options there are and how much support the question provides with pictures or graphs. This section shows how your student is doing on questions with increasing levels of complexity. Complexity levels are reported as points earned out of points possible.

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Complexity Level	Content Descriptions	Points Earned/ Points Possible
Low	Questions at this level generally require students to: - Identify weather conditions. - Identify producers, consumers, and decomposers within an ecosystem. - Identify that synthetic materials are made from natural resources. - Identify what indicates a chemical change. - Identify human activities that affect temperature over time. - Identify human impact on the environment. - Identify that plants and animals are made of cells and are different. - Identify the predator of a given animal. - Identify that living things need food, water and shelter to survive.	5 / 9
Middle	Questions at this level generally require students to: - Identify patterns resulting in weather changes. - Identify a solution that minimizes human impact on the environment. - Identify the effects of the availability of food, water and shelter on a living thing. - Identify the movement of energy among living things within a food chain or web. - Compare plant and animal cells. - Determine if chemical reactions have occurred. - Use a data set or food web to predict competition between plants and/or animals. - Determine how variables within human activities and natural processes affect changes in temperature over time. - Describe the risks and benefits of using natural resources to make synthetic materials.	4 / 9
High	Questions at this level generally require students to: - Use data to identify atmospheric patterns that result in changes in weather conditions. - Assess solutions that minimize human impact on the environment. - Describe the cycling of matter and/or movement of energy among parts of an ecosystem. - Use information from various cultural communities to interpret patterns of interactions within an ecosystem, including invasive species impacts and/or mutualism. - Compare questions about changes in temperature over time. - Describe the steps of an investigation that demonstrates that plants and animals are made of different types of cells and/or either one cell or many cells.	3 / 9

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How to request this report in a translated language or an alternative format:

If a QR code is present on page 1, a video summary of your student's results may be available. If a home language was reported to your student's school or district, an audio translation with captions may be available. This report may also be made available in an accessible format, such as large print, braille, or as an audio file. Contact MDE by email at mde.testing@state.mn.us or by phone at 651-582-8674. TTY users may call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711.

- State Proficiency—At the state level, the percentage of students demonstrating proficiency in grade-level standards. Scores in the Meets and Advanced performance levels demonstrate proficiency.

Performance Related to Cognitive Complexity

- Complexity Level—The Science Alt MCA tasks each have three questions with increasing levels of cognitive complexity of low, medium, and high.
- Content Descriptions—This section shows how your student is doing on questions with increasing levels of complexity.
- Points Earned/Points Possible—For each complexity level, the number of points earned out of points possible for the questions is reported.
- Contact Information—To request the report in an alternative format or translated language, please contact the Minnesota Department of Education by email at mde.testing@state.mn.us, by phone at 651-582-8674, or visit the MDE Statewide Testing website (education.mn.gov > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing).