

# Returning Secure Test Materials

## Overview

This guide provides information on returning secure test materials for MCA and MTAS/Alt MCA.

After tests are administered and MCA student responses and MTAS/Alt MCA student responses or scores are entered online, the District or School Assessment Coordinator is responsible for collecting, packaging, and shipping secure test materials to Pearson via UPS **no later than May 11, 2026**. Secure test materials can be returned once tests have been administered and data entry is complete; districts do not have to wait until the end of the testing window to return secure test materials.

Test materials may be returned from either the district or the school, regardless of the location where they were received (for example, even if shipped to the district, materials can be returned by the school). Return labels are located in the Coordinator Kit, which was sent to the original shipping location (district or schools). If additional Pearson or UPS return labels are needed after the additional order window closes, call the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or [submit a help desk request](#) (Minnesota Assessment Hub > Support).

Note: If any secure test materials are missing, the District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) must continue to work with the school to locate the missing test materials. Refer to Chapter 10 of the [Procedures Manual](#) (Minnesota Assessment Hub > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures) for more information about the actions that need to be taken, based on the circumstances surrounding the missing materials and whether they are located. Contact MDE at [mde.testing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us) with questions.

### Secure Test Materials to Collect and Return

| MCA Secure Test Materials  | MTAS/Alt MCA Secure Test Materials   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>12-point regular print passages, phenomena, and test books</li><li>Large print (18- and 24-point) passages, phenomena, and test books</li><li>Braille test books and <i>Braille Test Administration Notes</i></li><li>Reading, Mathematics and Science scripts</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Task Administration Manuals</li><li>Presentation Pages</li><li>Visual Descriptions</li><li>Adaptations to Presentation Pages</li><li>Passages, Scenarios, and Phenomena Books</li><li>Braille materials and <i>Braille Test Administration Notes</i></li></ul> |

Note: MTAS/Alt MCA Response Option Cards (used or unused) and any other materials used by students during test (for example, scratch paper, student testing tickets, translated word lists) must be securely disposed of. The secure disposal must be completed no more than 48 hours after the closing of the testing window.

## Damaged or Defective Test Materials

Secure test materials that contain a defect, or that are torn or damaged, should be returned in a plastic bag or envelope with secure test materials. If the security number is illegible or the secure test material has been destroyed, report the security number of the affected material(s) to the Pearson help desk.

Any test materials that are damaged by vomit or blood must have the responses entered online, if possible. Document the secure barcode on the security checklist, destroy or securely dispose of (for example, shredding, burning) the test materials damaged in this manner, and report the security number of the destroyed test materials to the Pearson help desk. These test materials should not be returned to Pearson.

## Collecting and Returning Secure Test Materials

- Use the security checklists to ensure all secure test materials have been collected.
- Place secure test materials in the shipping boxes that the materials arrived in (or other boxes, as needed).
  - MCA and MTAS/Alt MCA test materials can be returned together in the same boxes.
  - Boxes may be consolidated (that is, fewer boxes used) for the return of materials.
  - Materials shipped to different sites can be returned in the same box (for example, materials shipped to different schools can be returned together).
  - *Braille Test Administration Notes* must be placed on top of the braille test books or materials when packaging for return to Pearson and should not be placed inside the test books.
- Attach both a **magenta** Pearson and **white** UPS Return (RS) label to each applicable box.
  - Attach a **magenta** Pearson return label to each box of secure test materials. If reusing boxes in which test materials arrived, the return label should be affixed so that it covers the original label on the shipping box.



### Sample Label Placement when Reusing Boxes



- Attach a **white** UPS Return Shipping (RS) label to each applicable box using clear plastic shipping tape over the entire label making sure that it is not applied across the box flap seam. **Do not** send any boxes via UPS without a UPS-RS label.
  - Keep records of your shipments to Pearson by keeping the bottom portion of the UPS return label that contains the tracking number. In addition, note the date and number of boxes picked up.
  - Districts may also create their own methods of documenting return shipment information.



- Arrange for a pickup by calling UPS at 800-823-7459. (Do **not** call the UPS general pickup number found on the UPS website.)
  - Schedule a date and time for pickup. Inform UPS there are UPS-RS labels attached to the boxes being returned. **Schedule the pickup at least one day in advance. Same-day service is not available in all areas.**
  - Tell the UPS service representative the tracking numbers printed on the UPS-RS labels. The service representative will use these numbers to bill Pearson for the charges.
  - Note: If you are unable to arrange UPS pickup, you may also drop boxes off at a UPS pick up location. Retain a receipt from the location and track the package from pick up to delivery.
- Ensure that staff are aware of the location of boxes for pickup and that materials are kept secure until picked up. Secure test materials may be picked up along with any other UPS shipments from the district/school, but any Pearson shipments must be set apart for the driver.
- If there is a question or problem with the UPS pickup process, call the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659.
- Provide a copy of the completed *School Security Checklist* to the DAC; do not return them to Pearson. Security checklists must be kept on file in the district for two years after the end of the academic school year in which testing took place.
- Refer to [Accessing the Secure Materials Status Report](#) (Minnesota Assessment Hub > Resources & Training > User Guides) for information on tracking the secure test materials received.