

# State Tests

The **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments Series II & III (MCA-II's & III's)** are reading, mathematics, writing and science tests that help schools and districts measure student progress toward the state's academic standards. MCA's are administered in:

- Grade 3 Reading & Math
- Grade 4 Reading & Math
- Grade 5 Reading, Math, & Science
- Grade 6 Reading & Math
- Grade 7 Reading & Math
- Grade 8 Reading, Math, & Science
- Grade 9 Writing
- Grade 10 Reading & Science
- Grade 11 Math

The **Graduation-Required Assessments for Diploma (GRAD)** are reading, mathematics, and writing tests that students must pass to receive a diploma from a public high school. The writing test is first administered in 9th grade. The reading test is administered in 10th grade and the math test in 11th grade. Students who need to re-take any of these tests can do so three times each year and four times in 12th grade.

**Graduation-Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD)** measures the reading, writing, and mathematics proficiency of high school students. Students must reach a specified level on each of these assessments in order to receive a high school diploma.

The **Minnesota Test of Emerging Academic English (TEAE)** and Student Oral Language Observation Matrix (SOLOM) are designed to assess the progress of students with limited English proficiency in the acquisition of English skills. Students who are identified as English Language Learners (ELL) are administered the TEAE and SOLOM test on a yearly basis. Results from the TEAE and SOLOM assist the district in making appropriate placements for students who are acquiring English skills.

**ACCESS for ELLs**--Minnesota has joined the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) Consortium. As a member of the WIDA consortium, Minnesota districts will be administering the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment to all Limited English Proficient (LEP) identified students in grades K–12. Starting in the spring of 2012, the ACCESS for ELLs® will replace the Test of Emerging Academic English (TEAE) and the Minnesota Student Oral Language Observation Matrix (MN SOLOM) in fulfilling the Title III requirement for assessing English language proficiency.

ACCESS for ELLs® stands for Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners. This large-scale test addresses the academic English language proficiency (ELP) standards at the core of the WIDA Consortium's approach to instructing and evaluating the progress of English language learners.

Spring 2011 was the last administration of the TEAE and MN SOLOM. The TEAE was a reading and writing language proficiency test for English learners in grades 3-12, designed to assess progress in acquiring the academic English language. For K-2 learners, reading and writing was assessed with a teacher observation rating. The MN SOLOM was a teacher observation matrix used to assess the listening and speaking skills of K-12 English learners.