



Testing Schedule 2026-2027

The MCA tests are annual, summative measurements of student achievement that are used, along with many other school and classroom assessments, to evaluate student learning and skills. The Reading and Math MCAs are given in 3rd through 8th grade, and the Science MCA is given in 5th and 8th grade.

The ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are English language proficiency assessments used to meet federal and state legislative requirements. These assessments are used to monitor English learners' progress as they develop academic language skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

The NWEA is an interim assessment given to all Twin Lakes STEM Academy students three times per year to measure student growth and learning needs. The school uses reading and math sections of the NWEA for K-8, and Science in grades 4-8.

DIBELS is utilized to evaluate early literacy and reading skills for students in K-8, and provides data for potential interventions for students with identified skill needs.

iReady Math Diagnostic is taken by students in the Fall, Winter, and Spring, and provides critical information about academic progress in math for students in K-8.

Source:

The MCAs and ACCESS tests are required by the state of Minnesota. More information about these assessments from the Minnesota Department of Education can be found at: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/fam/tests/>

The NWEA, DIBELS, and iReady Math Diagnostic is required by Twin Lakes STEM Academy, and our authorizer, Volunteers of America. More information about the Volunteers of America charter school authorizing program can be found at <https://www.voa.org>.

Average Time Spent on Assessments:

Students are allowed to take as much time as needed on assessments. The average time that students take on each assessment is:

- MCA Reading: 2.5-3.5 hours
- MCA Math: 1.5-3 hours
- MCA Science: 1.5-2 hours
- ACCESS: 3-4 hours for Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking
- NWEA Reading, Math, and Science: 1 hour each



- DIBELS: 15-30 minutes
- iReady Math Diagnostic: 2-3 hours

Disseminating Results:

Results of the MCA tests will be provided to parents before the first parent-teacher conferences in the following school year.

Results of the ACCESS test will be provided to parents within the first 30 days of the following school year.

Results of all NWEA tests, DIBELS, and iReady Math will be provided to parents with student report cards at the following parent-teacher conferences.

Annual Assessment Calendar:

<i>Assessment:</i>	<i>Grade(s):</i>	<i>Dates:</i>
MCA Reading	3-8	March 29, 2027 - April 2, 2027
MCA Math	3-8	May 3, 2027 - May 7, 2027
MCA Science	5 and 8	May 12, 2027 - May 13, 2027
ACCESS Listening	1-8	February 8, 2027 - February 12, 2027
ACCESS Reading	1-8	February 16, 2027 - February 19, 2027
ACCESS Writing	1-8	February 22, 2027 - February 26, 2027
ACCESS Speaking & Kindergarten	K-8	February 1, 2027 - March 19, 2027
NWEA Reading & Math & Science	K-8	Fall: September 8-18, 2026 Winter: January 11-22, 2027 Spring: May 3, 2027 - May 21, 2027
DIBELS	K-8	Fall: September 8-18, 2026 Winter: January 11-22, 2027 Spring: May 3, 2027 - May 21, 2027
iReady Math Diagnostic	K-8	Fall: September 1-11, 2026 Winter: January 11-22, 2027 Spring: May 3, 2027 - May 21, 2027