

Test Preparation Suggestions for Parents and Teachers

The following suggestions for parents and teachers will help students get ready for statewide assessments.

General Preparation

- Students should take courses that address the Minnesota Academic Standards. Most schools also make appropriate educational opportunities available to students who are at risk for not succeeding on statewide assessments.
- Share your enthusiasm and interest in reading, mathematics, and science with your children.
- Provide students with a study area at home.
- Encourage students to practice good study habits. Students should set aside time every day for homework.
- Make sure students have had the opportunity to become familiar with the format of the test.
 - Item samplers help students become familiar with the format of the test and the types of questions that are on the test.
 - Student tutorials for online tests provide information on using the online tools and describe navigation and item types.
 - [Go to the Item Samplers page on the MDE website for information on accessing the item samplers and student tutorials.](#) (Go to Educator Excellence > Testing Resources > Item Samplers.)
- Ensure students get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast before taking a test.
- Encourage students to answer all test questions.

Reading Tests

- Read to students and encourage them to read to you.
- Have students try crossword puzzles and news quizzes in your local newspaper.
- Encourage students to read the daily newspaper and general interest magazines.
- Discuss the events and stories you read about in the newspaper.

Mathematics Tests

- Encourage students to use mathematics every day. They can practice by creating a grocery budget, explaining charts and graphs from newspaper and magazine articles, dividing food portions, using rulers to measure objects, measuring a recipe, or adding prices on a shopping trip.
- Play games that involve numbers or computation.

- Encourage students to connect what they are learning in mathematics class to their hobbies, other classes, and everyday life.

Science Tests

- Use science articles from news publications to show that science is an ongoing, active process.
- Have students use inquiry skills by participating in science competitions, fairs, and other activities.
- Explore science outside the classroom – nature centers, zoos, and science museums.

Using a Calculator

Talk to your child's classroom teacher to find out how calculators are typically used in the classroom. Students cannot share calculators with other students during the Minnesota assessments or use any calculator manuals. Your child's school has more information about when and how a calculator may be used for testing.

For more information, contact:

Statewide Testing
mde.testing@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113-4266
<http://education.state.mn.us>

December 2015