

Dear Parents,

Earlier this spring, ISD 728 students in grades 3-8 and 10 & 11 participated in the statewide assessment program by taking Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) in the areas of Mathematics, Reading, and/or Science. At this time, *preliminary* results for the tests have been uploaded into Infinite Campus and can be viewed through your Parent Portal account. Please note that these results are considered preliminary and could be different than the final results you will receive next fall.

For each tested area, the following information is included:

**Scale Score:** For each Mathematics, Reading, and Science MCA, the scale score can range from G01 to G99, with “G” standing for “Grade.” The first digit (i.e., 3–8) or first two digits (i.e., 10 or 11) represent the student’s grade when tested. The last two digits of the number identify the position of the score on the grade scale. For example, a student in grade 4 could earn a scale score between 401 and 499, while a student in grade 11 could earn a scale score between 1101 and 1199. Note: Although the high school Science MCA can be administered in any grade (9–12) depending on coursework completion, grade 10 is used to represent the grade for the high school scores. Please note that the scale score is based on the specific pattern of responses the student provided for the test, not the total number of correct responses.

**Result Level:** There are four achievement levels on the MCA:

- Exceeds the Standards (E)
- Meets the Standards (M)
- Partially Meets the Standards (P)
- Does Not Meet the Standards (D)

Students are assigned an achievement level based on their scale score. For the MCAs, the cut scores for levels Partially Meets the Standards (P) and Meets the Standards (M) are G40 and G50, respectively. The cut score for level Exceeds the Standards (E) varies by grade and subject.

**Sub-Scores:** The sub-scores for the Mathematics, Reading, and Science strands are the scale scores (reported on a 1 to 9 scale score metric) earned by the student for each strand. Each subject reports sub-scores that are aligned with the state content standards.

**Mathematics Sub-Scores:** The Mathematics MCA sub-scores represent the four Mathematics strands from the 2007 Minnesota Academic Standards in Mathematics. The Mathematics strands are: Number & Operation (grades 3–8 only), Algebra, Geometry & Measurement, and Data Analysis for grades 3-5 and Data Analysis and Probability (grades 6-8 & 11).

**Reading Sub-Scores:** The Reading MCA sub-scores reflect the sub-strands of Literature and Informational Text from the 2010 Minnesota Academic Standards in English Language Arts, which are outlined in the test specifications. All the reading reports have the same sub-score categories. The reading sub-strands include Literature and Informational Text.

**Science Sub-Scores:** The Science MCA sub-scores are for the four strands in grades 5 and 8 and two strands in high school from the 2009 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science and are outlined in the test specifications. The grade 5 and 8 strands include the following: Nature of Science & Engineering, Physical Science, Earth & Space Science, and Life Science. The high school sub-scores represented on the portal include the strands of Life Science and the Nature of Science & Engineering. High School final reports will include information on additional science strands.

**Learning Locator™:** The Learning Locator™ is a code that you can use to extend your child’s learning in Mathematics, Reading, and/or Science. You can visit [Pearson's Perspective website](#) to access learning

materials and other educational resources (<https://mn.pearsonperspective.com/perspective/>). On the website, you can enter the Learning Locator™ and select from the list of online learning materials mapped specifically to your child's test results and use the online materials to guide your student's learning.

We hope that the *preliminary* results of your child's MCA test(s) inform you about the progress of your child in meeting the state's academic standards in Mathematics, Reading, and/or Science. Additionally, we hope that you will utilize the Learning Locator™ information over the summer to enhance the learning of your child. Official MCA results will be released in early August and your child's final report will be shared with you at open house events.

Sincerely,

*Joseph E. Stangler*

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