



EMBARGOED UNTIL
July 27, 2010 at 12:01 AM

Contact: Christine Dufour
(651) 582-8720

Minnesota Science MCA-II Scores Show Steady Improvement

Roseville - Science MCA-II online assessment results released by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) today show steady improvement over last year's results. Overall, the percentage of students proficient on the 2010 MCA-II Science assessment increased 1 to 5 percentage points over last year.

"Minnesota's focus on rigorous science education is showing steady gains in student achievement," Minnesota Education Commissioner Alice Seagren said. "These are encouraging gains for minority students in eighth grade and high school students. Yet, we must continue our efforts to prepare all Minnesota students for success after high school."

On the 2010 online Science MCA-II:

- For high school, 51.8 percent of students were proficient on the Science MCA-II compared to 49.5 percent in 2009.
- Eighth-graders improved 5 percentage points to nearly 48 percent of students who were proficient, compared to 43 percent in 2009.
- Forty-six percent of fifth-grade students were proficient, compared to approximately 45 percent in 2009.
- Encouraging gains were made in minority test results, including a 5 percentage point gain by African American eighth-grade students and a 4 percentage point increase by Hispanic eighth-grade students, a 3 percentage point increase by American Indian eighth-grade students.

This spring, a total of about 178,500 students in grades 5, 8 and high school took the Science MCA-II, which measures student performance on Minnesota's Academic Standards. The science standards define what students should know and be able to do in a particular grade and are developed in partnership with Minnesota educators. Each student earns a score in one of four achievement levels: Does Not Meet Standards, Partially Meets Standards, Meets the Standards or Exceeds the Standards. Students who Meet or Exceed standards are proficient. Currently, results from the science assessment do not impact Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The Science MCA-II is interactive and allows students to investigate science phenomena online.

Minnesota was nation leading with the introduction of the online Science MCAs and will continue progressing into online assessments. Next year, districts will have the ability to assess students online in mathematics in grades 3-8 using a test design that is similar to the science test – including technology-enhanced items that use the computer to assess a greater depth-of-knowledge. [View results.](#) [View results summary.](#)

###