

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
1	Should districts still continue to give GRAD retests? Is there guidance MDE can provide on offering retests going forward?	<p>It is a district decision whether individual students will meet graduation assessment requirements by meeting the GRAD requirements in reading, mathematics, and written composition; by taking the WorkKeys job skills assessment, the Compass college placement test, the ACT assessment for college admission, or a nationally recognized armed services vocational aptitude test (otherwise known as the ASVAB or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery); or by receiving a score on an equivalent assessment. Refer to Table 1b of the <i>Minnesota Assessment System and Requirements Overview 2013–2016</i> document, which is posted to the Test Administration page of the MDE website. View the Test Administration page.</p> <p>While a district may choose not to include GRAD retests on the testing calendar, an individual student who requests a GRAD retest must be provided the opportunity to retest.</p>	Revised 8/28/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
2	Can alternate routes to meeting GRAD requirements (pass at individual rate, ELL exemption, mathematics alternate pathway, or pass other state) still be granted for students? For how long? For example, mathematics alternate pathway was through 2014.	<p>Yes, for at least as long as the GRAD retests are offered, students can meet graduation assessment requirements through alternate routes depending on when they were first enrolled in grade 8.</p> <p>For students first enrolled in grade 8 through 2009–10, graduation assessment requirements can be met through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass at individual rate • ELL exemption • Mathematics alternate pathway • Pass other state (reciprocity) <p>For students first enrolled in grade 8 in 2010–11 or 2011–12, graduation assessment requirements can be met through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass at individual rate • ELL exemption • Pass other state (reciprocity) <p>This information is also provided in Table 1b of <i>Minnesota Assessment System and Requirements Overview 2013–2016</i>.</p>	6/12/13
3	Do students have to achieve a specific score on WorkKeys, Compass, ACT, or ASVAB or just take it?	Students who take WorkKeys, Compass, ACT, or the ASVAB should provide proof that they have taken one of these assessments, such as the individual student report. There is not a specific score required for these assessments.	6/12/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
4	<p>The “alternative, equivalent assessments determined by the school district” (e.g., SAT, ACCUPLACER) requires a score. What score is required?</p> <p>Are there any other requirements for picking a test, like grade? For example, could our district determine that the EXPLORE administered in grade 8 is the equivalent assessment?</p>	<p>The selection of an equivalent assessment is a district decision, but the subjects covered by the assessment must be consistent with the guidance provided below in question 5.</p> <p>The requirement for a specific score is a district decision.</p> <p>In terms of grade, to be equivalent with the Minnesota Assessment System, the district-determined assessment must be administered in grades 10, 11, or 12.</p>	Revised 8/28/13
5	<p>Do students only need to take parts of the other assessments (WorkKeys, Compass, ACT, ASVAB, district-determined test) if they only needed to pass one subject of GRAD? For example: if a student only needed to pass Reading GRAD, can they take only a reading component of one of the tests?</p> <p>What if a student hasn’t passed any of the GRAD subjects?</p>	<p>For WorkKeys and Compass, students are only required to take the applicable subject(s) where they have not met the GRAD requirements. For WorkKeys and Compass, the following subject components will be eligible for reimbursement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WorkKeys: Applied Mathematics, Business Writing, and Reading for Information. • Compass: Reading, Writing Essay, and Mathematics. <p>ASVAB is a composite test, so students taking this test have met the requirements for all subjects. The ACT is also a composite test, but if a student has not met the GRAD requirements in written composition, the student must take the ACT Plus Writing.</p> <p>The same requirement for district-determined equivalent tests applies in terms of subjects required.</p>	Revised 11/6/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
6	<p>When will the state start paying for students to take ACT? What about the other tests (WorkKeys, Compass, or ASVAB)?</p> <p>Will the costs for students over age 21 also be covered? Or will that be the responsibility of the school district?</p>	<p>Until the career and college assessments begin to be administered in 2014–2015, the plan is that districts will pay for the applicable tests for the student and request reimbursement from MDE. Districts will only be reimbursed for students who had not previously met graduation assessment requirements through the GRAD subject(s). Either ACT (a composite test) or Compass and/or WorkKeys (component tests where subjects are administered individually) per student will be reimbursed. The test must be administered after the end of the legislative session, May 20, 2013. See question 22 below for additional information.</p> <p>The system for requesting reimbursement is still being developed, but the test administered and the administration date will be entered in the GRR system by subject (beginning in mid-November). Further details on the reimbursement system will be provided as they are available.</p> <p>The ASVAB is free. If this is the best course of action for a student, the student or district is responsible for scheduling the armed services test administration.</p> <p>For students over age 21 who are no longer eligible for a free public education, the district or the student is responsible for covering the costs of the other assessments since they are no longer considered public school students.</p>	Revised 11/6/13
7	<p>In order to meet the assessment requirements, must a student have already taken the ACT (or one of the other assessments) or do districts have the flexibility to decide whether it would be acceptable for a student to be scheduled to take the ACT?</p>	<p>The requirement is that a student takes one of these assessments prior to graduation in order to meet graduation assessment requirements. The intention to take the test in the future would not meet the graduation assessment requirement.</p>	6/12/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
8	Do districts have to indicate to MDE how a student met the requirement (e.g., passed GRAD, GRAD alternate routes, ACT, district-required test)? How will this be collected – through the Graduation Requirements Record (GRR) system?	<p>Districts will indicate how students met graduation assessments through the GRR system. In addition to entering other routes to meeting GRAD requirements (like individual passing score, ELL exemption, and mathematics alternate pathway), the system will be updated to collect information by subject for students who met through ACT, WorkKeys, Compass, ASVAB, and district-determined equivalent assessments.</p> <p>Once the GRR system is updated (mid-November), the information collected will be used to inform the to-be-developed reimbursement system. Further details on the reimbursement system will be provided as they are available.</p>	Revised 11/6/13
9	Will the Graduation Data List be updated to reflect the new requirements? Or will it continue to display GRAD only?	Once the GRR system is updated (mid-November), any indications made for the ACT, WorkKeys, Compass, ASVAB, and district-determined equivalent assessments will be reflected in the Graduation Data List.	Revised 11/6/13
10	What are the requirements for the transcript for students meeting the graduation assessment requirements? Do they have to indicate whether a student met the requirement or not? Does a score need to be indicated?	<p>For students in grade 8 through 2011–12, the requirements for record keeping (outlined in Minnesota Rule 3501.0130) have been removed. Districts are no longer required to indicate pass or not pass on student transcripts for graduation assessment requirements.</p> <p>For students first enrolled in grade 8 in the 2012–2013 school year and later, a school, district, or charter school must record on the high school transcript a student’s progress toward career and college readiness, and for other students as soon as practicable. The specifics of this process will be determined with input from various stakeholders.</p>	6/12/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
11	Do the changes in the new legislation mean that 6 weeks for remediation are no longer required between GRAD retests?	Although remediation is always recommended prior to retesting, there is no longer a remediation requirement and eligible students will be included in precode each month the retests are offered beginning in August.	Revised 6/26/13
12	<p>For purposes of meeting graduation assessment requirements for students in grade 8 prior to 2012–2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the ACT, WorkKeys, and Compass administrations be offered by MDE? • Will there be a state testing window in the spring for ACT, WorkKeys, and Compass (pending contract completion) or will we have to follow national testing dates for those assessments? 	<p>MDE will not enter into a contract with ACT for state administrations of the ACT, WorkKeys, and Compass for graduation assessment purposes for these students, but MDE will reimburse districts; please refer to question 6 above. Since there will not be a contract for state administrations, there will not be a state testing window for 2013–2014.</p> <p>Districts will determine what assessments to offer that best fit each student's need to meet graduation assessment requirements, and districts or students will arrange for those administrations.</p>	Revised 8/7/13
13	In 2013–2014, will the ordering and scheduling of EXPLORE and PLAN be the same as it has been in the past since it's still optional?	Yes. For public school districts, the state of Minnesota will continue to fund these optional assessments for students in grades 8 and 10 for districts that decide to participate. The ordering process, administration, and testing windows are anticipated to be the same as they have been in the past.	6/12/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
14	Beginning in 2014–2015, what tests will be given in grade 8, 10, and 11 that align to Minnesota academic standards and include career and college readiness benchmarks? Will they be administered in the fall or spring?	As required in legislation “...using a request for proposal process, [MDE] shall contract for a series of assessments that are consistent with this subdivision, aligned with state academic standards, and include career and college readiness benchmarks.” The Minnesota Assessment System and Minnesota Career and College RFPs were released on July 29.	Revised 8/7/13
15	In 2014–2015, are students in grades 8, 10, and 11 taking two tests?	As outlined in table 1a of the <i>Minnesota Assessment System and Requirements Overview 2013–2016</i> document, students in these grades will be taking both the MCA or MTAS and the career and college assessments because the career and college assessments must be federally approved to meet ESEA requirements. Because they cannot be approved prior to the first administration, students must take a test that is already approved (the MCA or MTAS) in addition to the new tests. If approved, students will only take the career and college assessments in grades 8, 10, and 11 beginning in 2015–2016.	6/12/13
16	Do all students still take the MCAs or can they be totally replaced with other options like ACT, PLAN, EXPLORE, or Compass? For example, I am wondering if we administer the ACT EXPLORE if that will cover everything for grade 8 and high school math and reading testing. Will we still administer the grade 8 and high school Reading and Mathematics MCA?	<p>The Title I section of the ESEA requirement that all public school students be assessed in grades 3–8 and once in high school in reading and mathematics still exists. The <i>Minnesota Assessment System and Requirements Overview 2013–2016</i> document Table 1a outlines the assessments required to meet ESEA. Beginning in 2014–2015, new assessments will begin to be administered for grade 8 and high school. Table 1b of the same document outlines the assessments available for a student to meet graduation assessment requirements.</p> <p>Even if students in grades 10 and 11 have already met their graduation assessment requirements, they must still participate in the Title I assessments (MCA, MCA-Modified, or MTAS) this spring for accountability purposes.</p>	Revised 11/6/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
17	We have students who have finished grade 8 for 2012–2013 and there was no career and college assessment available for them to take. According to table 1a of the <i>Minnesota Assessment System and Requirements Overview 2013–2016</i> document, these students will not be in compliance with this legislation because the test was not available. What will need to be done in place of that assessment?	When it is available beginning in 2014–2015, grade 8 students will need to take that assessment. Further guidance on how or if students complete the sequence of the career and college assessments is still to be determined (e.g., students who could not take the assessment in grade 8 when it was not available, students who move in to Minnesota in grade 12).	6/12/13
18	How long will districts still be able to choose paper administration mode for the MCAs?	For 2013–2014, districts will still determine for each school whether the Reading and Mathematics MCA will be administered online or on paper. To meet statutory requirements of off-grade, adaptive testing, only the online administration mode will be available starting in 2014–2015. Paper accommodated test materials (e.g., large print and Braille test books) will still be available.	Revised 8/7/13
19	When is the off-grade adaptive testing for grades 3–7 starting?	The off-grade adaptive assessments will begin to be administered to students in grades 3–7 in 2015–2016.	6/12/13
20	Why isn't there a grade 9 writing test any longer?	Students enrolled in grade 8 in 2012–2013 or later will no longer meet graduation assessment requirements through the GRAD assessments so they do not need to take the grade 9 writing test. Refer to Table 1b of <i>Minnesota Assessment System and Requirements Overview 2013–2016</i> .	6/26/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
21	If a student took the ACT, WorkKeys, Compass, or ASVAB in another state, do they need to take it again in Minnesota? What documentation is required?	<p>Since the ACT, WorkKeys, Compass, and ASVAB are nationally recognized assessments, students do not need to take them again in Minnesota to meet graduation assessment requirements. Districts will submit the <i>Request for Reciprocity</i> form along with a copy of the student's score report to show students who have already taken one of these assessments in another state. For district-determined equivalent assessments taken in another state (e.g., SAT), the district may also request reciprocity but must provide a written statement indicating which assessments have been determined by the district to be equivalent in addition to the form and student report.</p> <p>Once reviewed, MDE will enter the Pass Other State code in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system so the student will no longer be pulled for GRAD retests.</p> <p>The updated <i>Request for Reciprocity</i> form is posted to the GRAD Resources page of the Minnesota Assessments portal until the updated <i>Procedures Manual</i> is posted. View the GRAD Resources page.</p> <p>Districts will not be reimbursed for students who take one of these assessments out of state.</p>	Revised 8/28/13
22	In 2013–2014, what other options should districts offer to students to meet graduation assessment requirements? Is there any guidance MDE can provide in terms of what will be reimbursed?	<p>Students in grade 10 and below will have the opportunity to participate in the career and college assessments beginning in 2014–2015 and will therefore take the assessment(s) needed to meet their graduation assessment requirements as part of the Minnesota Assessment System. Students who participate in the career and college assessments as part of the Minnesota Assessment System will not have other assessments reimbursed.</p> <p>Students in grades 11 and 12 in 2013–2014 will not participate in the career and college assessments as part of the Minnesota Assessment</p>	Revised 11/6/13

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
		<p>System and will need to meet their graduation assessment requirements through other routes. MDE recommends prioritizing these groups of students as your district makes plans for what assessments will be offered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each district will determine how individual students will meet graduation assessment requirements and what assessments are most appropriate for the student. • For reimbursement purposes, the reimbursement request would not be approved unless the student had not met GRAD assessment requirements in at least one subject. • Per student, either ACT or Compass/WorkKeys will be reimbursed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACT or ACT Plus Writing ○ Compass and/or WorkKeys: students can take any combination of Compass or WorkKeys components to meet requirements and the subject components may be administered at separate times • Since grade 11 students will have an opportunity to meet graduation assessment requirements in mathematics this spring through the MCA/MCA-Modified/MTAS, any reimbursement requests submitted prior to results being available for mathematics would only be approved if the student had not met requirements in reading and/or writing, was not proficient in reading or had not passed writing. <p>The intent of providing these additional assessments was to provide options for individual students to meet graduation assessment requirements. It was not intended for a district to implement a district-wide assessment for all students rather than selecting the appropriate assessment(s) for each student.</p>	

Number	Question	Answer	Date Added
23	<p>What happens if a student meets the graduation assessment requirements using the assessments offered in our district and transfers to another district that is offering or requiring different assessments? Does the student need to take additional assessments?</p>	<p>Each district is independent and will determine (especially for district-determined assessments) what will be used to meet requirements since they issue the diploma.</p> <p>For example, if district A is using the ACCUPLACER as a district-determined equivalent assessment, and a student transferred in having taken another district-determined equivalent assessment (e.g., SAT), district A could decide to have the student take the ACCUPLACER or determine that the assessment the student took meets the requirements.</p> <p>Please note that a reimbursement will only be issued for a student one time and if another assessment is not already on record as having met the graduation assessment requirement.</p>	<p>Added 8/28/13</p>