

MCA Scores and Data are here...NOW WHAT?

Your students have or soon will receive their MCA scores (our children's report came in the mail a few weeks ago). As an educator, you may find yourself asking "What, if anything, can I do with this information?" Especially since the MCA information you have is from last year and from students who have moved on to the next grade.

When reviewing statewide assessment results, it is important to remember the following:

- Results are one piece of a district's assessment system. Information from each system layer (classroom, district, state) works together to guide teaching and learning of the standards.
- Results represent a snapshot of student learning of the standards. They are broader in scope than information produced in the classroom, where the learning takes place.
- Results should be used at the summarized level (across student groups, grades, school buildings) to help identify underlying inequities and highlight promising practices.
 - As such, it is inappropriate to use MCA Scores for student placement. They do not provide the full picture of the student.
- Results should always be used alongside additional evidence of student learning when used for data-based decision-making.
- Results should **not** be subtracted from two different years to determine "growth" (e.g., 548 – 438 does not mean an improvement of "10"). Growth on the MCA cannot be measured that way.

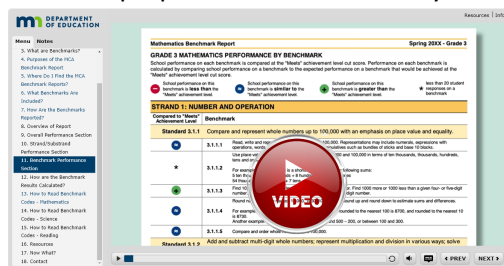
Subtraction to show growth does not work because the scores are not on the same scale for any two grade-level tests. This is because each test is independent of a previous or subsequent grade. [Here's the chart for math:](https://testing123.education.mn.gov/cs/groups/communications/documents/document/zxn0/mdaw/~edisp/test000472.pdf) (<https://testing123.education.mn.gov/cs/groups/communications/documents/document/zxn0/mdaw/~edisp/test000472.pdf>)



For example, notice 5th grade compared to 4th grade. The lowest and highest possible scores differ quite a bit for these two grades, but there are differences across all of the grades. Please share this with parents, and with school and district leaders.

Here are 3 suggestions for using 2021-2022 MCA score information this year. These are not listed in any particular order.

1. Review your school and/or district [benchmark report](#) (here's a [video](#) about them) with a group of educators. You will have to ask [your District Assessment Coordinator](#) for these reports. These reports are a good place to come up with questions about instructional materials. When reviewing these reports go through a [Notice and Wonder](#) process. Some other questions to ask are: Which strands and benchmarks did students, overall, do well in? Which ones were not well understood? Is this because of materials? Scope-and-sequence? This information is also available for the 2018-2019 school year. Do you see any similarities? Differences? [Here are some other questions to consider](#) (<http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/resources/additional-services/2022%20MCA%20Mathematics%20Benchmark%20Reports%20Quick%20Guide.pdf>).
 - a. Review **your grade-level** benchmark report to reflect on last year's instruction and materials.
 - b. Review **the prior grade-level** benchmark report to reflect on how instruction this year be [accelerated](#) based on trends.
 - c. Review the **subsequent grade-level** benchmark report and reflect on what can be addressed in this year's instruction to further prepare students for next year.



2. When meeting or communicating with parents share the [Understanding the MCA ISR Video](#) (or Quick Guide) to help them understand and dispel misunderstandings of what the scores mean.



Also, remember to share with them the chart mentioned above. [Here's a file to share with others](#) (<https://testing123.education.mn.gov/cs/groups/communications/documents/document/zxn0/mdaw/~edisp/test000472.pdf>).

3. Ask parents and students what questions they have about their student's scores. They may not know what to ask but have wonderings. [Here are some questions to prompt a conversation](#) (<https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/groups/educ/documents/basic/mdaw/mdmx/~edisp/031107.pdf>) If you get a question you're not sure of please send us an email (mde.testing@state.mn.us) and we'll help answer it!

Remember that we were all in a pandemic for multiple years and **grace is necessary**. Angela's own children missed an entire month straight in the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID. That doesn't mean they can't do what was missed, or shouldn't complete unfinished learning... it's just what happened. You can do this! ALL of your students can do this! It's not easy, but 100% possible.

We welcome your questions, concerns and requests for clarification about this or other MCA related topics.

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