

2014–2015 Testing Schedule Explained

The following information explains the implementation of the assessment system in legislation to ensure all students are prepared for career and college. Students who first enrolled in grade 8 in 2012–2013 will take the career and college assessments to meet graduation assessment requirements.

- Math, Reading, and Science MCA and MTAS will continue in the current grade levels in spring and will be used for state and federal accountability calculations.
- Career and College Readiness Assessments in grades 8 and 10, Explore and Plan, will be administered in fall and will provide a way for educators to shape students' academic and career plans as early as possible.
- Compass is a college placement diagnostic exam that will be given to some students after grade 10 Plan and prior to grade 11 ACT Plus Writing. Students who will participate are determined not yet academically ready for career and college based on their growth on the grades 8 and 10 assessments.
 - For 2014–2015, grade 10 students who are determined not yet academically ready based on their growth in academic achievement between grades 8 and 10 (as determined by performance on the grade 8 Reading and Mathematics MCA and grade 10 Plan) will take the Compass after Plan results are received and prior to the ACT Plus Writing administration.
 - For 2014–2015, some grade 11 students may also take the Compass prior to the administration of the ACT Plus Writing. Districts may administer the Compass to grade 11 students who are not yet academically ready for a career or college based on their growth in academic achievement between grades 8 and 10 (as determined by performance on the grade 8 Reading and Mathematics MCA and grade 10 Reading MCA).
 - MDE will provide further information about determining which students will participate in the Compass.
- The college entrance exam, ACT Plus Writing, will be administered to all grade 11 students.

GRAD Phase-Out Approach

The GRAD will continue to be available as an option to meet graduation assessment requirements for students who first enrolled in grade 8 through 2010–2011 as follows:

- 2014–2015: Online Reading and Mathematics GRAD retests offered every other month beginning in October. Written Composition GRAD retests offered in November and April.
- 2015–2016: Online Reading and Mathematics GRAD retests offered once each quarter. Written Composition GRAD retest offered in November.
- 2016–2017 and beyond: No GRAD retests offered.

Optional Local Purpose Assessment (OLPA) Availability

For 2014–2015, the administrations for Reading and Mathematics OLPA are as follows:

- For mathematics, OLPA will be available for grades 3–8. Grade 11 will be added in the future. There will be up to two testing opportunities available for each student in mathematics.
- For reading, OLPA will be available for grades 3–8 and 10. There will be only ONE testing opportunity for reading.