

## Test Preparation Suggestions for Parents and Teachers

The following suggestions for parents and teachers will help students get ready for a statewide assessment:

### General Preparation

- Students should take courses that address the Minnesota Academic Standards. Most schools also make appropriate educational opportunities available to students who are at risk for not succeeding on these tests.
- Share your enthusiasm and interest in reading, mathematics, and science with your children.
- Make sure students have had the opportunity to become familiar with the format of the test.
  - Item samplers help students become familiar with the format of the test and provide examples of the types of questions that are on the test. You can find item samplers for each grade and subject of paper and online assessments on the Minnesota Assessments portal ([www.mnstateassessments.org](http://www.mnstateassessments.org)). [View the item samplers on the Minnesota Assessments portal.](#)
  - For online assessments, student tutorials show students how to navigate in the test, use online test tools, and answer different types of test questions. [View online student tutorials on the Minnesota Assessments portal.](#)
- Encourage students to answer all test questions.
- Have students get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast before taking a test.
- Provide students with a study area.
- Encourage students to practice good study habits. Students should set aside time every day for homework.

### Reading Tests

- Read to students and encourage them to read to you.
- Have students try crossword puzzles and news quizzes in your local newspaper.
- Encourage students to read the daily newspaper and general interest magazines.
- Discuss the events and stories you read about in the newspaper.

## Mathematics Tests

- Encourage students to use mathematics every day. They can practice by creating a grocery budget, explaining charts and graphs from newspaper and magazine articles, dividing food portions, using rulers to measure objects, measuring a recipe or adding prices on a shopping trip.
- Play games that involve numbers or computation.
- Encourage students to connect what they are learning in mathematics class to their hobbies, other classes and everyday life.

## Science Tests

- Use science articles from news publications to show that science is an ongoing, active process.
- Have students use inquiry skills by participating in science competitions, fairs and other activities.
- Explore science outside the classroom – nature centers, zoos and science museums.

## Using a Calculator

Talk to your child's classroom teacher to find out how calculators are typically used in the classroom. Students can't share calculators with other students during the Minnesota assessments or use any calculator manuals. You can get more information on using a calculator for testing from your school.

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*For more information, contact:*

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