

The MSA – Maryland's School Assessment

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) is used to determine how well Maryland's elementary and middle school students are doing. Maryland gives MSA tests annually to its grade 3 – 8 students. The MSA tests student mastery of the Maryland Content Standards. The Content Standards contain descriptions of all the subjects, information, and skills that Maryland students are expected to learn at each grade level. These standards, or criteria, are defined primarily by classroom teachers and educational specialists from within the Maryland Department of Education.

The MSA is made up of several sub-tests in Reading, and Mathematics. The results of the MSAs are used by parents and teachers to help determine if the student has met the criteria and mastered the curriculum for their grade. The MSA is not the only measure of academic progress but it is very important and a significant part of your student's evaluation. To find out the latest information on the MSA, <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/testing/msa>

To find out what the MSA Reading Test will look like, visit Maryland's State Department of Education website located at: http://www.mdk12.org/mspp/k_8/reading.html

To find out what the MSA Math Test will look like, visit Maryland's State Department of Education website located at: http://www.mdk12.org/mspp/k_8/mathematics.html

The federal “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) Act of 2001 mandated that all states test their students against their state standards for Reading and Math in Grades 3 – 8 and once again in high school. NCLB also mandated Science testing once at each level: elementary, middle, and high school, effective 2006. Included in NCLB is the requirement that state compliance and school performance be reported to the public. This is known as “accountability.” To see Maryland's NCLB-related information, <http://www.mdreportcard.org>