

Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses of Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) Results

Appropriate Uses



Look at overall performance for a grade, school, and/or district

Why: To evaluate the implementation of the Minnesota Academic Standards



Look at student groups and their performance

Why: To focus on equity by asking why differences exist



Look at performance over time for student groups, grades, schools, and/or the district

Why: To support the evaluation of curriculum and instruction



Use as one of multiple data points for school and district decision-making

Why: To strengthen the decision-making process by using multiple pieces of evidence

Inappropriate Uses



Use as a mandatory indicator for program placement

For example: Making decisions about gifted and talented programming



Focus only on individual student scores for planning and instruction

For example: Considering only Student A's results and not the group as a whole



Use scale scores to calculate individual student growth

For example: Do not subtract scale scores and interpret the difference as how much a student has improved



Use results, in isolation, to prioritize which students receive instructional support

For example: Intervention programming



Use in isolation to evaluate teacher effectiveness

For example: Only using MCA scores and no local considerations or data

Questions?

Contact Statewide Student Assessment
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