

Where the *heck* are those math item samplers?

Thanks for asking!

On June 30, 2023, the item samplers and student tutorials were permanently removed from [PearsonAccess Next](#). The [Student Readiness Tool - SRT](#) will be the new resource available to prepare students for MCA tests. In addition, to review previous MCA questions aligned to the Math Standards, [the Minnesota Questions Tool \(MQT\)](#) is the place to go.



[Minnesota Questions Tool \(MQT\)](#)

- Hundreds of released test questions and data from past MCA-III tests
- Educators can use to see how the MCA questions are aligned to the [Academic Standards](#)
- Check out the MathBits Article → [“Minnesota Question Tools with Released MCA Items”](#)



[Student Readiness Tool \(SRT\)](#)

- Learn about navigation, tools, and the item types
- Learn about math specific tools available at each grade level, such as calculators and straightedge tool.
- A chance to practice independently in a guided setting
- Questions about the SRT can be sent to mde.testing@state.mn.us

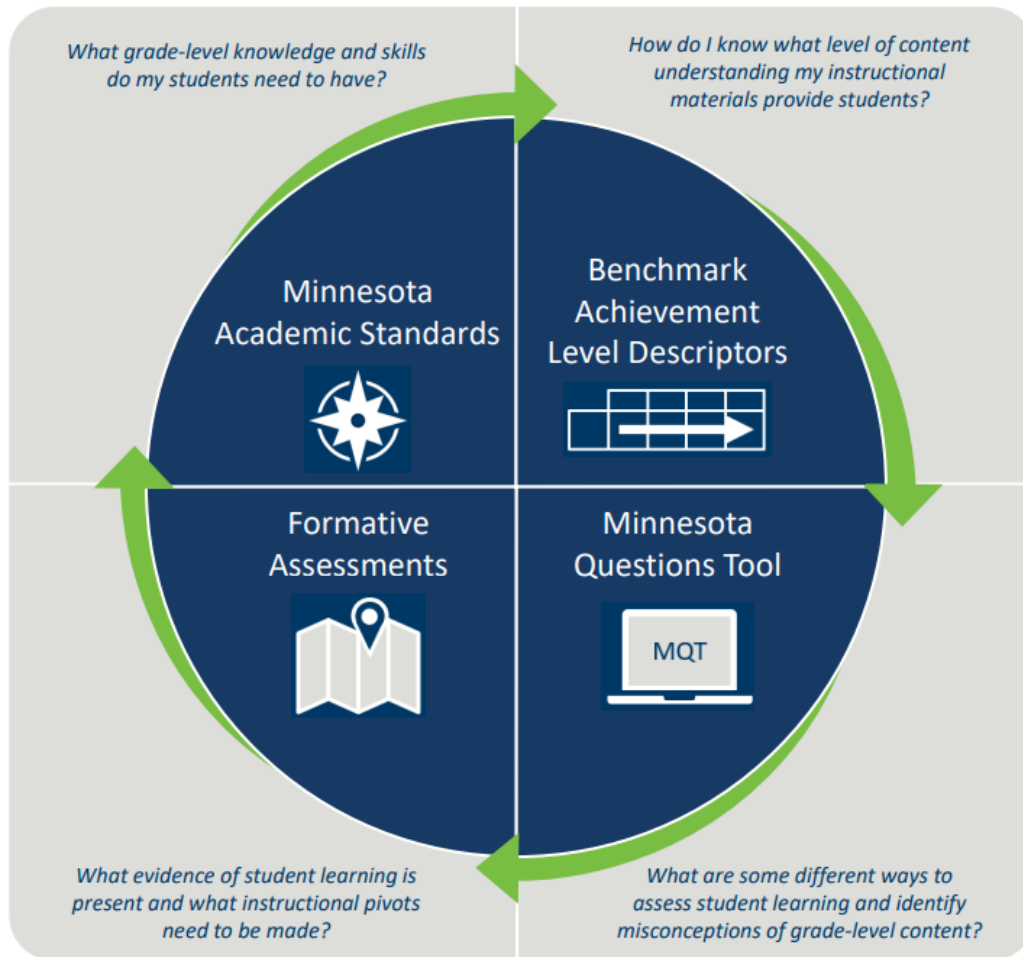
The replacement of the item samplers and student tutorials may be a bit of a shock as they have been available for a number of years. However, there are now several hundred MORE test questions available than the old item samplers in the MQT, and the new SRTs have flexibility and important information that is easier to access, timely and presented more appropriately for students than before. But we get it... Change is hard and uncomfortable.

Real-life parent story from Angela about this: Last school year (2022-23) my daughter took the MCAs for the first time, and I wanted to make sure she was ready. I mean, I work on the MCA so I should do something, right? I decided to make sure she went through the **Grade 3 SRT**. I did this because of all the research I’ve seen around the positive impact of being comfortable with the testing platform and interacting with it. It didn’t even cross my mind to show her the item samplers, and they were still available at that time.



All of that said ... Are you looking for more [Standards-Aligned Planning Resources?](#)

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) offers a guide that outlines some of the instructional tools and learning resources that are aligned to the English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science Minnesota Academic Standards. Here’s a glimpse at the guide:



Check out the full [Standards-Aligned Planning Resource](#) guide on [Testing 1, 2, 3](#).

Full Links from article provided:

- Minnesota Question Tool (MQT): <https://public.education.mn.gov/nqt/>
- Math Standards: <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/Math/>
- MathBits Article on MQT: <https://www.mctmmathbits.org/?p=3845>
- Student Readiness Tool (SRT): <http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/readiness-tools/>
- Pearson Access Next: <http://minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com/>
- Standards-Aligned Planning Resource (guide): <https://testing123.education.mn.gov/test/plan/>
- Testing 1, 2, 3: <https://testing123.education.mn.gov/test/index.htm>

We welcome all questions, so please contact us if any arise. Thank you!

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- [Michael Huberty](#), Mathematics Assessment Specialist (michael.huberty@state.mn.us)

- MDE statewide testing (mde.testing@state.mn.us)