

## INTRODUCTION

## ABOUT THE TESTS

## KEY MCT2 FACTS

The Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition, (MCT2) is a measure of student achievement in Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8 based on the *2006 Mississippi Language Arts Framework - Revised* and *2007 Mississippi Mathematics Framework - Revised*. In addition to being the basis for state accountability in these grades, the MCT2 is designed to meet the federal testing requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB), 2001.

The MCT2 contains test questions of varying degrees of difficulty that are aligned to the content, skills, and processes represented by Mississippi's academic content standards as specified in the state curriculum frameworks and the academic performance level descriptors.

The MCT2 is administered annually over a three-day period. The MCT2 for Language Arts is composed of two sections. The Reading section is administered on day one, and the Writing section is administered on day two. The MCT2 for Mathematics is administered on day three.

For more information on the MCT2:  
<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/mct2/>

To access MCT2 Item Specifications:  
<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/itemspecs/>

To access MCT2 Performance Level Descriptors:  
<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/pld/>

To access the MCT2 Interpretive Guide:  
[http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/mct2/MCT2\\_TIG\\_Final.pdf](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/mct2/MCT2_TIG_Final.pdf)

To access the MCT2 Technical Manual:  
[http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/technical/MCT2\\_TechReport\\_2008.pdf](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/technical/MCT2_TechReport_2008.pdf)

The MCT2 for Language Arts measures a student's knowledge of grade-level curriculum. The following competencies are measured by the Mississippi Curriculum Test, Second Edition:

- **Vocabulary:** The student will use word recognition and vocabulary (word meaning) skills to communicate.
- **Reading:** The student will apply strategies and skills to comprehend, respond to, interpret, or evaluate a variety of texts of increasing length, difficulty, and complexity.
- **Writing:** The student will express, communicate, evaluate, or exchange ideas effectively.
- **Grammar:** The student will apply Standard English to communicate.

The MCT2 for Mathematics for grades 3-7 measures a student's knowledge of and skill level in general mathematics and for grade 8 a student's knowledge of and skill level in Pre-Algebra.

- **Numbers and Operations:** Analyze relationships among numbers and the four basic operations. Compute fluently and make reasonable estimates.
- **Algebra:** Explain, analyze, and generate patterns, relationships, and functions using algebraic symbols, demonstrate an understanding of the properties of the basic operations, and analyze change in various contexts.
- **Geometry:** Develop mathematical arguments about geometric relationships and describe spatial relationships using coordinate geometry.
- **Measurement:** Develop concepts and apply appropriate tools and techniques to determine units of measure.
- **Data Analysis and Probability:** Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and select and use appropriate statistical methods to analyze data. Apply basic concepts of probability.

➤ All eligible students in grades 3 – 8 must participate.

➤ The MCT2 is an untimed, multiple-choice assessment that requires students to bubble in answers on an answer document.

➤ Students in grades three and four will answer 63 reading/writing items and 55 math items; students in grades five and six will answer 73 reading/writing items and 60 math items; and students in grades seven and eight will answer 83 reading/writing and 60 math items.

➤ Some math items for all grades will require students to use a ruler. The MDE is recommending that students are familiar with using a 12" lead-in edge ruler with both English and metric measurements.

➤ Only students in grades seven and eight are allowed to use approved calculators on all math items.

➤ Students taking the grade 8 MCT2 for Mathematics are provided a formula chart.

➤ Students who score at the Minimal Level on any part of the MCT2 in Grades 3 or 7 will be referred to the Teacher Support Team (TST) as part of the State Board of Education Intervention Policy (SBE Code 4300). For more information, visit:  
[http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/IPS/ti/sb\\_policy.html](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/IPS/ti/sb_policy.html)

➤ Practice Tests are available for both Language Arts and Mathematics. To access the MCT2 practice tests:  
[http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/mct2\\_practice\\_tests.html](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/acad/osa/mct2_practice_tests.html)