

Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement

Assessing Student Achievement

There are a variety of tests that are used to evaluate the achievement of students as well as instructional programs in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools (BHM). Students are tested in order to determine instructional level, measure basic skills, evaluate student progress towards achieving state academic standards, and to evaluate program effectiveness.

Major statewide assessments completed during 2007-2008 included the *Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-II)*, *Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD)* and *Basic Skills Tests (BST)*. Limited English Proficient students are also required to be assessed with the *Test of Emerging Academic English (TEAE)* and the *Minnesota SOLOM*. BHM also assesses students in math and reading with *Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)* tests.

BHM Test Schedule for 2008-2009

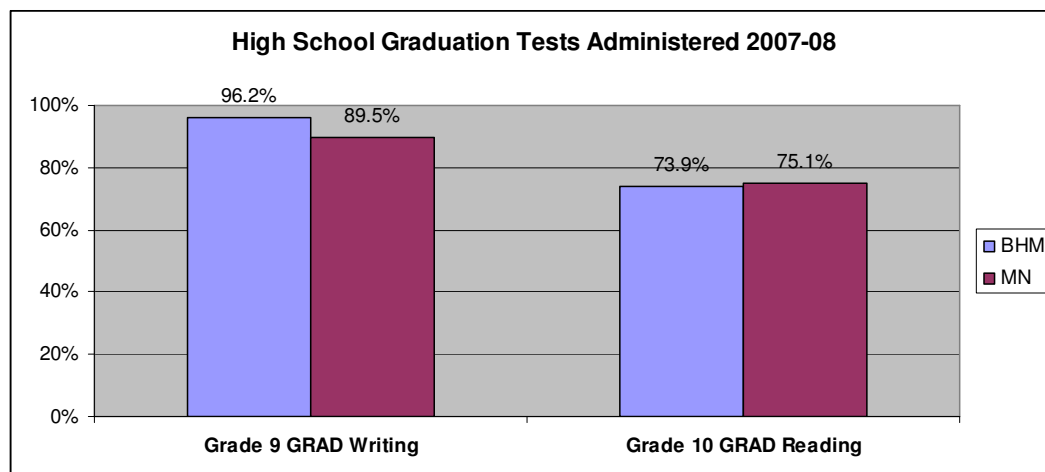
September 8-30	MAP Testing (Grades 1-11)
October 9	GRAD Reading Retests (Grade 11)
November 18	GRAD/BST Written Composition Retests (Grades 10-12)
November 19	BST Math Retests (Seniors Only)
November 20	BST Reading Retests (Seniors Only)
December 8	GRAD Reading Retests (Grade 11)
February 3	BST Math Retests (Seniors Only)
February 4	BST Reading Retests (Seniors Only)
February 9	GRAD Reading Retests (Grade 11)
March 31	BST Writing Retest (Seniors Only)
April 1	BST Math Retests (Seniors Only)
April 2	BST Reading Retests (Seniors Only)
April 10	GRAD Reading Retests (Grade 11)
April 14	MCA-II Math (Grades 3-8, 11: Segments 1 & 2) MCA-II Reading (Grade 10 – Segments 1 & 2) GRAD Grade 9 Writing
April 15	MCA-II Math (Grades 3-8, 11: Segments 3 & 4) MCA-II Reading (Grade 10: Segments 3 & 4)
April 21	MCA-II Reading (Grades 3-8: Segments 1 & 2)
April 22	MCA-II Reading (Grades 3-8: Segments 3 & 4)
April 28	MCA-II Science Testing Begins (Grades 5, 8 and 2008-09 biology students)
May 4-22	MAP Testing (Grades 1-9)
June 11	GRAD Reading Retests (Grade 11)
July 21	BST & GRAD Writing Retests for Grades 10-12
July 22	BST Math Retest (Seniors only)
July 23	BST Reading Retest (Seniors only)

Please plan family vacations with these dates in mind. Federal legislation requires 95% of district students to participate in the MCA's because the results determine if adequately yearly progress is made towards *No Child Left Behind*.

Minnesota GRAD and Basic Skills Tests

All students in Minnesota schools are required to demonstrate basic competencies in reading, math and written composition in order to be eligible for a Minnesota public high school diploma. These assessments provide a safety net assuring that all Minnesota students graduate with the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics.

Current Grade 12 students are required to pass the *Basic Skills Tests* (BSTs) in mathematics, reading and written composition. In order to pass, students are required to score 75 percent correct on the reading and math tests and a score of 3 or above on the Written Composition BST. Only students who had not previously passed the reading, math or written composition BST were tested in 2007-08.



Because of legislation passed in 2004, BSTs are being phased out. Students at Grade 11 and younger are required to pass the *Graduation Required Assessment for Diploma (GRAD)* test of written composition administered at Grade 9, and either be proficient on the *Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments* (MCA-IIs) in mathematics and reading, or attain a scale score of 50 (approximately 75% percent correct) on GRAD tests contained within them.

96.2% of BHM Grade 9 students passed the GRAD written composition assessment administered last April compared to 89.5% of Minnesota students. 73.9% of BHM students passed the GRAD reading requirement when first administered last April, compared to 75.1% of Minnesota students.

If students do not pass a BST or GRAD test the first time they are administered, there are multiple opportunities to take them again. BSTs are offered in November, February, April and July. GRAD tests are scheduled every-other-month (October, December, February, April and June).

A variety of remedial opportunities are available for students who have not yet passed BSTs or GRAD tests. Staff will contact parents of students who have not yet passed one or more of these tests during the year to discuss remediation options. Remediation may include basic courses at the high school, summer school courses, after-school clinics or special education services for eligible students.

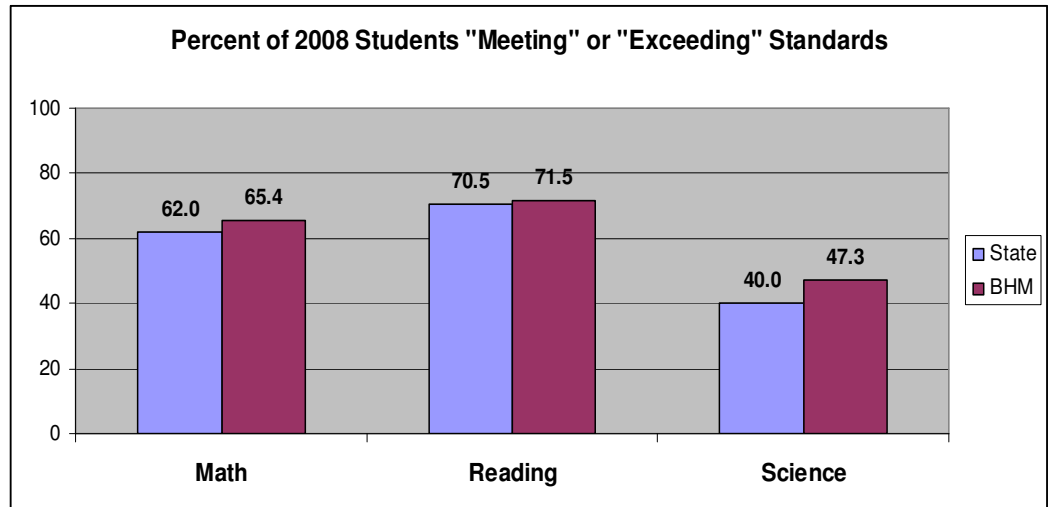
The table below shows the number of students enrolled in Grades 9-12, the number who successfully passed BSTs or GRAD tests during 2007-08 and the number still needing to complete graduation requirements.

2007-08 High School Graduation Tests			
	Students Enrolled (June 5, 2008)	Students with all Graduation Tests Completed	Students Passing at Pass Individual Under IEP or 504
Grade 9	500	0*	5
Grade 10	423	0*	6
Grade 11	420	403	18
Grade 12	409	409	27
* These students have not yet attempted all graduation tests. Reading (Grade 10) and Math (Grade 11) are incorporated into MCA-IIs.			

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-IIs)

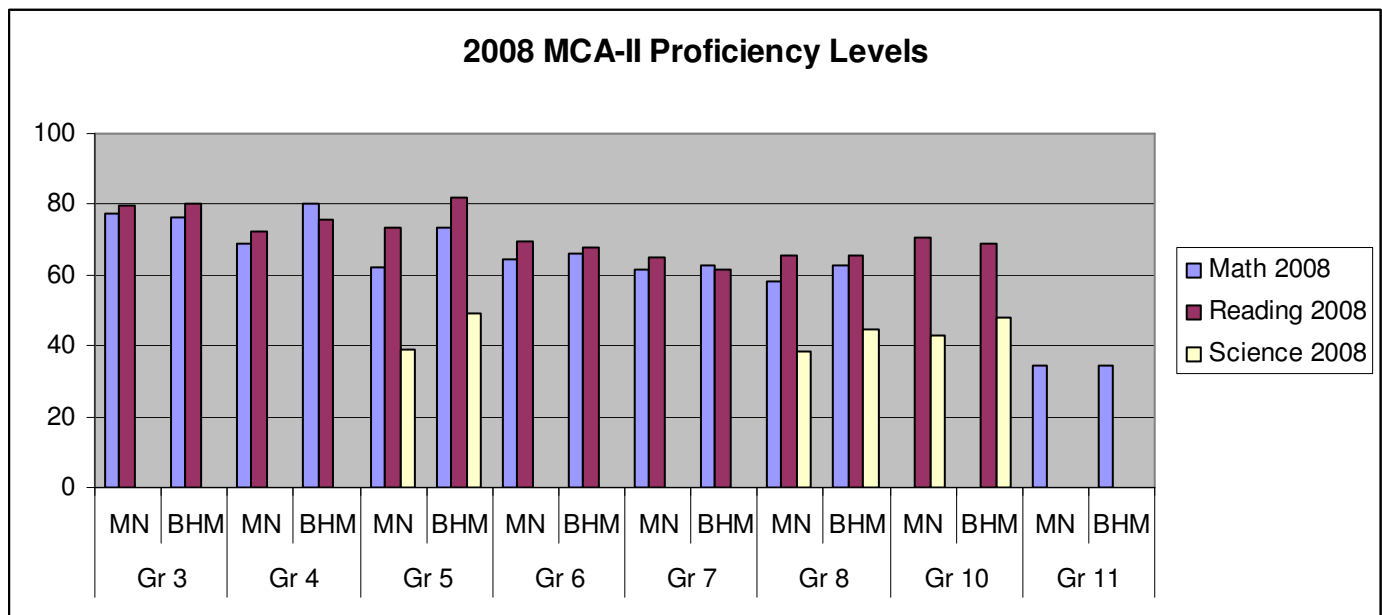
Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-IIs) were administered in math, reading and science. Reading MCA-IIs are administered at grades 3-8 and 10, math at Grades 3-8 and 11, and science at Grades 5, 8 and once in high school during the year that students take biology. The purpose of these assessments is to evaluate student progress towards achieving state academic standards and determine adequate yearly progress as mandated by Minnesota's plan for No Child Left Behind legislation.

Results from the 2008 MCA-IIs show the percentage of BHM students scoring at the "meets" or "exceeds" standards up slightly in both reading and math when compared to 2007. In reading, 71.5% of BHM students were judged proficient compared to 70.5% of Minnesota students. In math, 65.4% of BHM students scored at proficient levels in math compared to 62.0% for the state.



Reading proficiency in BHM increased slightly at four of seven grades when compared to 2007. BHM, however, had fewer students scoring at the proficient level than MN at four of seven grades with only students at Grades 3-5 exceeding MN averages. In math, 65.4% of BHM students were proficient in 2008 compared to 62.0% of Minnesota students. The percentage of BHM students achieving proficiency in math was higher than MN at six of seven grades.

The MCA-II science assessment was administered for the first time during May 2008. All students at Grades 5 and 8, as well as all high school students who completed Biology during the 2007-08 school year (mostly 10th graders) were tested. As a district, 47.3% of BHM students were proficient in science compared to 40.0% of MN students. BHM students outperformed their statewide counterparts at all three grade levels assessed. While the MCA-II science test is a mandatory NCLB assessment, it is not used to determine a district's Adequate Yearly Progress.



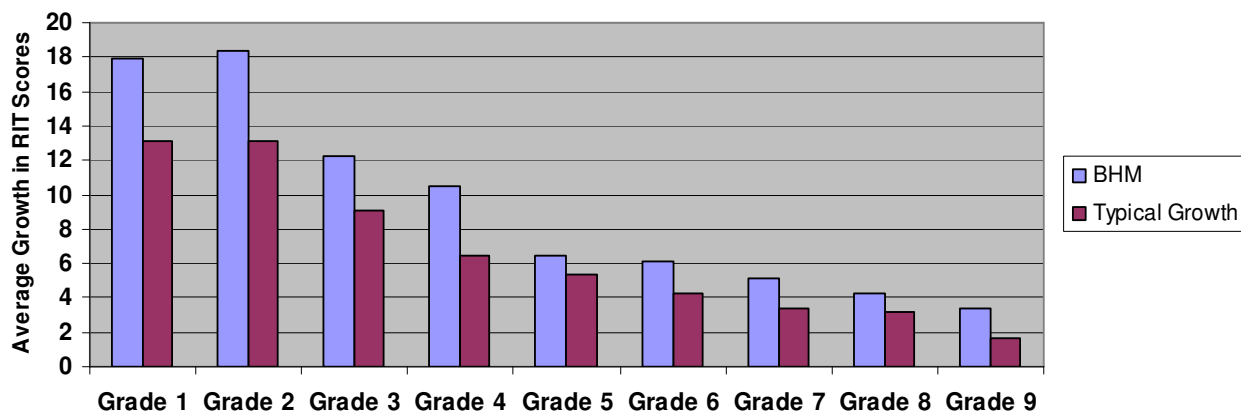
Adequate Yearly Progress

MCA-IIs are used by Minnesota to measure *Adequate Yearly Progress* (AYP) of all students and eight other subgroups in the district. All students and subgroups are expected to make predetermined progress towards 100% proficiency by 2014. District students made AYP in 32 of 36 subgroups during 2007-08. However, Limited English Proficient (LEP), Special Education and Black students did not make AYP in math and Special Education students also did not make AYP in reading. Because this is the fourth year in a row that a subgroup did not make AYP in math, the district is cited as "needing improvement." As a consequence, a district team of parents and staff developed a district improvement plan that addresses academic areas and populations for which needs are identified and set aside 10% of Title I funds to support this effort until AYP requirements have been met for two consecutive years. The plan was reviewed by the Board of Education and submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education. The plan included professional development for teachers to improve strategies for teaching struggling learners.

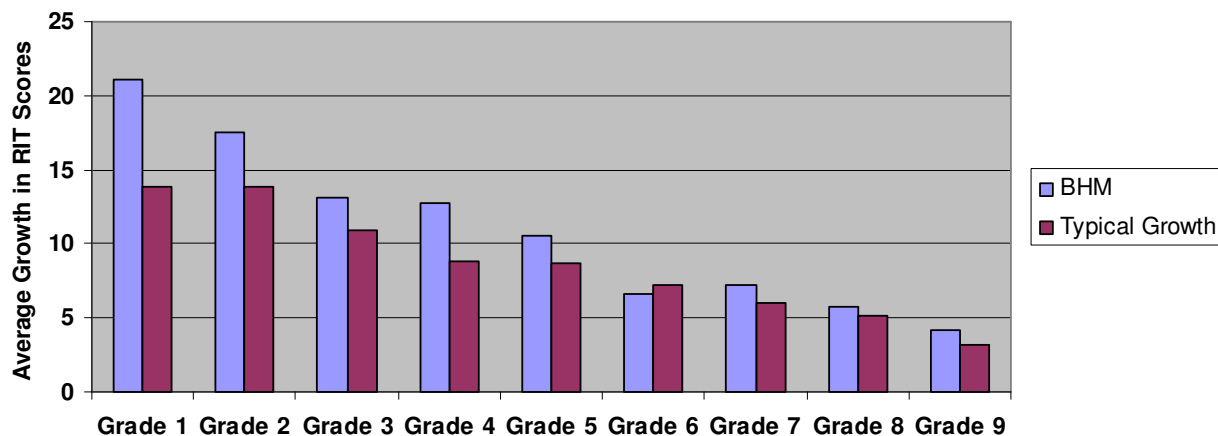
Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests are administered at Grades 1-11. Information from these tests is used to identify each student's individual instructional level in reading and math. Both reading and math are assessed during the fall and spring at Grades 1-9. Reading is also assessed at Grade 10 and math at Grade 11 in the fall. Teachers are provided with detailed information on what reading and math skills students are ready to learn. Fall test scores are used to establish a target growth goal and the spring test determines if the goal has been achieved. BHM students have consistently demonstrated more growth than what is typical in the national sample.

Growth in MAP Reading Scores 2007-08

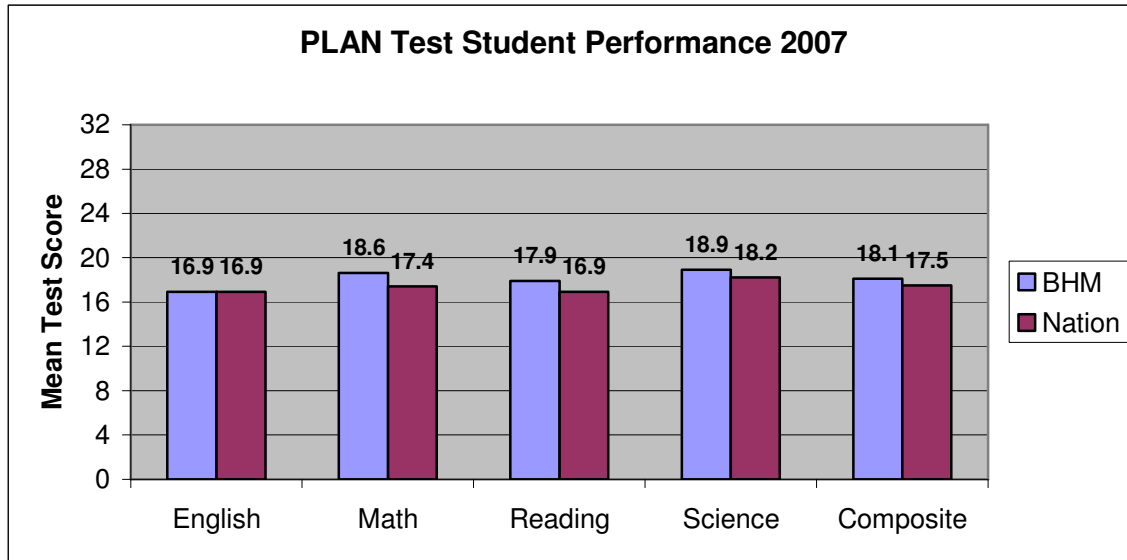


Growth in MAP Math Scores 2007-08



Grade 10 *PLAN* Test

The PLAN test is given to all BHM students in the fall of Grade 10. The PLAN, administered by the *American College Testing* organization, is a predictor of success on the ACT college entrance exam and focuses on both career preparation and improving academic achievement. PLAN test results are reported by a scale score ranging from 1 to 32. The chart below shows how the score performance of BHM Grade 10 students compares with that of Grade 10 students nationwide. When comparing means, differences of 0.5 or greater are likely to be statistically significant. In all areas BHM students scored significantly higher than their national peers.



Grade 11-12 *ACT* Test

The *American College Test (ACT)* is taken voluntarily by students in their junior or senior years as an entrance exam for post-secondary schools. The BHM average results are listed below in comparison to national norms. The highest possible score on the ACT Test is 36. Minnesota ranked tenth in the nation on this test during 2007-08.

Graduating Class	Total Tested	BHM	Minnesota	Nation
2005	228	22.1	22.3	20.9
2006	229	22.2	22.3	21.1
2007	236	22.5	22.5	21.5
2008	252	22.1	22.6	21.1