

2025-2026 School Profile

CEEB Code # 241689

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

OUR HISTORY

Minnesota Connections Academy (MNCA) is an accredited, public school serving students in grades K-12 from across the state. Our students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities. The school was founded during the 2004-05 school year as a K-8 school. The school's first 12th grade class graduated in June 2009.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Minnesota Connections Academy is to maximize academic achievement for students throughout the state of Minnesota who seek an alternative to the traditional classroom.

OUR VISION

Minnesota Connections Academy is an inclusive school community where learners feel strong, proud, and supported to take the risks required to become leaders. We celebrate student diversity, challenge the inequities facing all children, and provide space where students can be courageous and authentic.

OUR PROGRAM

Minnesota Connections Academy (MNCA) includes a four-year comprehensive high school program with an enrollment of over 5000 students in grades K-12. Here are some important facts about the program:

- Minnesota Connections Academy is accredited by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), which is accredited by Cognia.
- School is in session 173 days between the months of August and June.
- We have over 133 courses that are NCAA Certified.
- MNCA is proud to have a National Honor Society, a Junior National Honor Society, and a National Elementary Honor Society.

ADVANCED COURSE OPTIONS

Minnesota Connections Academy's core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. Students have access to AP, Honors, College Preparatory, and Standard programs. Students also can participate in the Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, where they can earn dual high school and college credit by attending post-secondary institutions.

AP Course Offerings Include: Biology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Human Geography, Psychology, United States Government & Politics, and United States History.

Honors Course Offerings Include: English 9-12, Algebra I and II, Geometry, Pre-Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Physics, Economics, U.S. History, American Government, and World History.

CONTACT INFORMATION

www.connectionsacademy.com/minnesota-online-school

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Paul, MN 55108

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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Brad Swanson

PRINCIPAL: Melissa Gould

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS: Alyssa DeGroot,
Jason Wells, Annika Maus, Heather Mansour,
Michael Hasapopoulos

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION:
Becky Gerdes

MANAGER OF COUNSELING: Nicole Klein

COUNSELING STAFF: Lindsay Letourneau,
Rachael Anderson, Jennifer Grimm, Laura
Kapitan, Nathan Sillman, Jessica Hagen, Drew
Rask, Adrianne Hernandez, Nicholas Behrends,
Katie Anderson, Emily Cottingham

SOCIAL WORKER: Rhonda Nietfeld-
Sundermann

ACCREDITATIONS



TOP 5 ELITE SCHOOL ACCEPTANCES

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of St. Thomas
Gustavus Adolphus College
St. Catherine's University
The College and Conservatory of the
Performing Arts



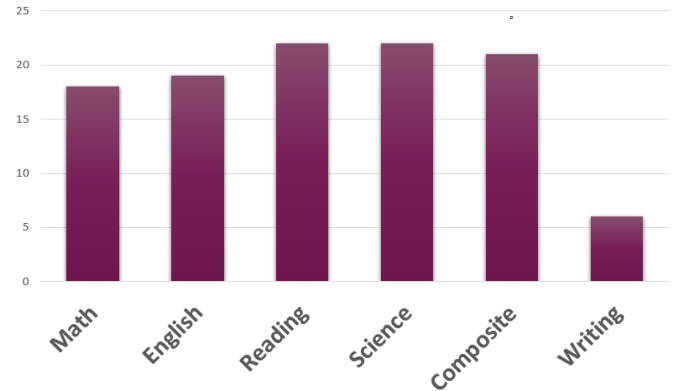
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Minnesota Connections Academy (MNCA) operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The typical course load is six classes per semester.

21.5 Carnegie units of credit are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:

Area/Subjects	#Units for Graduation
Language Arts	4
Math*	3
Science **	3
Social Studies	3.5
Health	0.5
Physical Education	0.5
Fine Arts	1
Electives (*Class of 2028 and beyond will be required to take 0.5 credit of Personal Finance)	6
Total	21.5

AVERAGE TEST SCORES for 2024-2025



PLANS FOR THE CLASS OF 2025

Plan	%
Two-Year College	22
Four-Year College	14
Employment	48
Vocational Training, Military, Other	16
Total	100

GRADE SCALE

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses.

The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Numerical Percentage	Non-Weighted	Weighted (Honors)	Weighted (AP)
A+	98-100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	92-97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90-91	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	88-89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	82-87	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80-81	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	78-79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	72-77	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70-71	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68-69	1.33	1.83	2.33
D	62-67	1.00	1.50	2.00
D-	60-61	.67	1.17	1.67
F	0-59	0.00	0.00	0.00