AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – AUGUST 2, 2017

Quick Links	Important Dates
- Final 2017 Assessment Results Release - Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next - Updated Longitudinal Reports in PearsonAccess Next 2017 ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Data - ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Scores - WIDA Screener Webinar - Additional Updates to the 2016 ACCESS DSR/SSR Files - Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) Reimbursement Reports Available - Student Assessment History Report Unavailable - New ESSA Presentation Available - Odds and Ends	*Aug. 4:* Embargoed summary test results available for districts in Secure Reports *Aug. 7:* Assessment results released to the media and general public *Aug. 7:* Student reports delivered in districts

Final 2017 Assessment Results Release

Embargoed Test Results Summary Release Aug. 4

On Friday morning, Aug. 4, districts will be able to access final test results summary information for MCA, MTAS, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs in the Test Results Summary of Secure Reports (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports). Districts can generate interactive reports by grade-level at either the school or district level. The summary test results are embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Aug. 7. During the embargo, districts may use the results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders or share the results with district teachers and staff, but results cannot be shared publicly.

Media and Public Release Aug. 7

On Monday morning, Aug. 7, final results will be released to the media and the public. Results will be available in the Minnesota Report Card (MDE website > Data Center > Minnesota Report Card). When the results are released, the Report Card will have a new language support option in the upper right and a slightly different layout of the reports listed on the left. Note the changes below:

- Test Results will be renamed State Assessments and will appear at the bottom of the list.
- Academic Standards will be renamed MCA/MTAS.

- Student Progress will be renamed Minnesota Growth.

The data will also be available in Excel and tab-delimited formats, for comparing district test results across the state, in the [Assessment and Growth Files](#) (MDE website > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics).

For further information and suggestions on communicating results with the media and public, please see Chapter 10 of the *[Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments](#)* (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

Note: the public summary data is suppressed when there are fewer than 10 students in the search criteria or group.

Help Documents

For information about the content of the files, view the new *2016-17 Test Results Summary User Guide* and the updated *2017 Field Descriptions* on the [Assessment Secure Reports Data Submissions page](#) (MDE website > District, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Assessment Secure Reports). This Field Descriptions document describes the columns of the Test Results Summary Files and the Assessment and Growth files.

Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next

2017 Published Reports will be available to districts on Aug. 7 in PearsonAccess Next. The Published Reports include Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and rosters.

When accessing Published Reports, confirm the correct administration is selected in the black bar at the top of the screen (MCA 2017 or MTAS 2017), and then select Published Reports from the Reports dropdown.

- The ISRs will be combined at the school level by grade and subject and ordered by student last name.
- The rosters will be available at the district or school level, arranged by grade, subject, and student last name.
- Download a single report by selecting it under the File Name column.
- For multiple reports, select the checkboxes next to the reports and select Download at the top right.

Paper copies and DVDs of the ISRs will arrive in districts on Aug. 7. Updated resources are now available on the on the [ISRs Resources page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources). These include ISR Videos, Quick Guides, and the Interpretive Guide and can be helpful tools in understanding the reports.

Updated Longitudinal Reports in PearsonAccess Next

In preparation for loading spring 2017 data, the longitudinal reports in PearsonAccess Next will be unavailable to users beginning at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, through 8 a.m. Monday, Aug. 7. After the planned outage, users will have access to the spring 2017 results in the following places:

- **Historical Student Data**: an individual's testing history for each district or school in which that student has tested.
- **Longitudinal Data Export**: a downloadable CSV file that includes the historical test results for all students that tested within the district or school.
- **Longitudinal Reports**: proficiency rates of historical test results for comparison and detailed analyses of results (by student, school, or district) by year, grade, subject, or student group for a specific test (e.g., Grade 3 Mathematics MCA).

Updated quick guides for each component will be available in PearsonAccess Next by Aug. 7 on the Additional Reporting Resources page (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Resources).

Note: The Longitudinal Dashboard is an additional component that is still in development. The dashboard view functionality will contain summary data by subject. Further information will be in a future *Assessment Update*.

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2017 ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Data

Student results for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Reports will arrive in districts on Aug. 7. Online reports will also be available in WIDA AMS (Log in to WIDA AMS > All Applications > Report Delivery) at that time. The following reports will be available:

- On-Demand Reports
- District Frequency Distribution Reports
- School Frequency Distribution Reports
- Individual Student Reports
- Student Response Files

The Parent Handouts, Parent Guides, and Interpretive Guides are currently available in multiple languages on WIDA's website (wida.us > Assessment > ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 > Scores & Reports).

Contact WIDA Client Services at help@wida.us or (866) 276-7735 with questions about Score Report interpretation, or contact DRC Customer Support at WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com or 1-855-787-9615 with other questions.

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ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Scores

As you may be aware, student scores on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 have changed in 2017 to incorporate more rigor. The attached WIDA memo offers a summary of the impact of the score changes along with a list of resources that explain the situation. This memo may help guide your response as you communicate the changes and make educational decisions for English language learners.

WIDA Screener Webinar

WIDA will host an *Online Screener Overview Webinar* on Aug. 10 at 3 p.m. This webinar is designed for Minnesota test administrators of the online WIDA Screener in grades 1–12. Time will be included for participant questions.

To join the webinar, click on this WIDA Screener Webinar link prior to the meeting start time on Aug. 10. This webinar will be recorded and posted to the WIDA Download Library in the coming weeks.

Additional Updates to the 2016 ACCESS DSR/SSR Files

In response to feedback from states, WIDA has refined its algorithm to calculate more precise data for states to use when determining growth and has again provided updated 2016 ACCESS scores. These updated scores are available in the 2016 ACCESS DSR/SSR in Secure Reports (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports) and were updated on July 20. If districts haven't downloaded the DSR/SSR since then, they will need to do so.

Additionally, because the 2016 ACCESS prior year scores are included in the 2017 ACCESS DSR/SSR files, the prior year score variables were updated this week in the 2017 ACCESS DSR/SSR files. If your district uses the prior year score column in the DSR file, you will also need to download the 2017 ACCESS DSR/SSR files again.

Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) Reimbursement Reports Available

The Reimbursement Reports in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR), which were originally scheduled to be available on Aug. 25, are now available for districts who have already submitted reimbursement requests. These reports are used to review and confirm the accuracy of the requests. The deadline for requesting reimbursement for college entrance exams administered during the 2016–2017 is Sept. 15. Districts can request reimbursement for ACT, ACT with Writing, SAT, and SAT with Essay.

Requests for reimbursement should only be entered in GRR after results are received from ACT or College Board. For full details on submitting information in GRR, use the *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide* (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Graduation Requirements (GRR)).

Uploading to GRR

GRR will only accept a TXT or CSV file format for uploading. In order to prevent errors, make sure to use one of the templates. Unless someone regularly works with CSV files, MDE recommends using the Excel template to prepare the file and then Save As a CSV for uploading.

- Download the Excel template.
- Complete all columns with required information. Use the GRR File Format Upload Table beginning on page 13 of the user guide to ensure proper formatting.
- Save an Excel version of the completed file so you are able to edit it later if needed.
- Then save the Excel file as a CSV file for uploading.

Additional Reminders

Keep the following in mind when submitting a reimbursement request.

- Each district must pay ACT or College Board directly for the cost of administration.
- Only one subject needs to be entered per student; select Writing for assessments with a writing component.
- Reimbursement to public schools will be made by fall 2017.
- GRR is only used for public school students. Contact mde.testing@state.mn.us for information about requesting reimbursement for nonpublic students.

Student Assessment History Report Unavailable

The Student Assessment History Report (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports) allows districts to look up the testing history for individuals who are enrolled in the district as verified by MARSS. As MARSS rolls over to the 2017–2018 school year, the Student Assessment History Report will be unavailable from Aug. 11–15. Though its functionality will be available on Aug. 16, districts will not be able to look up student information until the district submits MARSS information for students enrolled in the 2017–2018 school year. Aug. 10 is the last day to look up assessment history for students currently enrolled.

New ESSA Presentation Available

A short presentation, [Using the New ESSA Progress Indicator to Inform Instruction](link) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)), is now available. It gives an overview of the relationship between statewide assessments, the academic progress indicator, curriculum, and instruction; it provides helpful information on how the [Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)](link) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Achievement Level Descriptors) relate to the MCA achievement levels.

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Odds and Ends

- **A+ Conference Replacing Assessment Conference**: The A+ Education Conference will be held Thursday, Aug. 10, at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. This conference replaces the Minnesota Assessment Conference and includes an expanded focus and content. Registration closes Thursday, Aug. 3. Session descriptions and a registration link are available at [A+ Education Conference home page](link) (mngts.org/APlus).
- **PearsonAccess Next Unavailable**: PearsonAccess Next will be unavailable Thursday, Aug. 17, for system updates.
- **Job Opportunity in Early Learning Services**: MDE is hiring an Education Specialist to administer the Minnesota Kindergarten Entry Profile; coordinate research, data analysis and evaluation, and other data collection system efforts to assess young children; and provide leadership, guidance, and technical expertise in coordinating activities. Additionally, they will coordinate professional development in using assessment tools. Visit [Minnesota Careers](link) to apply. Applications are due by Aug. 4.
- **Attachment**: *ACCESS 2017 Scores District Memo*

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