

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – AUGUST 30, 2017

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing Calendar Requirements • 2017–2018 College Entrance Exam Requirements • Removal of Reporting Groups in PearsonAccess Next • Longitudinal Reporting Focus Groups (repeat) • Upcoming WIDA Webinars (repeat) • WIDA Screener Update (repeat) • Odds and Ends 	<p>Sept. 15: <i>Deadline to submit reimbursement requests in GRR</i></p>

Testing Calendar Requirements

Prior to the first day of school, districts must post required testing calendar information on the district website and, if practicable, the school websites. Districts may choose how to format the information, and it should be easily accessible to students and families. These requirements have not changed from last year. For more information, refer to the Aug. 16 *Assessment Update* or the [2016–2017 Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

In planning their testing schedule, districts may request MCA Testing Time Reports from Pearson for the 2017 test administration. These reports provide cumulative testing time information by student and test. Some districts have found these reports helpful in determining the actual time students spent testing. To request a spring 2017 district report, contact the Pearson help desk at (888) 817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#). Districts can expect the reports 4 to 5 business days after the request is made.

[Back to Top](#)

2017–2018 College Entrance Exam Requirements

Based on 2017 legislation, districts are still required to offer a nationally recognized college entrance exam during the school day to students in grades 11 and 12. Districts can receive reimbursement for students eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal and may require a student who is not eligible for a free or reduced-price meal to pay the cost of taking a nationally recognized college entrance exam.

There are two nationally recognized college entrance exams available to districts: the ACT and the SAT. Districts must contract with the test vendor directly. Test dates and registration deadlines are determined by the vendor.

- For ACT, contact April Hansen at april.hansen@act.org or visit the [ACT State and District Testing page](#).
- For College Board (SAT), contact Kristian Gist at kgist@collegeboard.org or visit the [SAT School Day page](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Removal of Reporting Groups in PearsonAccess Next

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, the reporting groups from 2016–2017 will be removed from PearsonAccess Next, and the reporting group functionality will be unavailable for districts. Reporting group functionality for 2017–2018 will be available for districts at the end of January when test eligibility for 2018 is loaded into PearsonAccess Next. Additional reporting group information will be available in a future *Assessment Update*.

[Back to Top](#)

Longitudinal Reporting Focus Groups (repeat)

Pearson is seeking participants to take part in Longitudinal Reporting virtual focus groups this fall. Feedback from these short sessions will be used to improve user experience and inform future enhancement decisions. If you are interested, contact the Pearson help desk at (888) 817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Upcoming WIDA Webinars (repeat)

WIDA will offer a webinar on the topic of 2017 score changes on Sept. 7 at 11 a.m., and again on Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. WIDA will share insights and answer questions about how 2017 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 scores can be used to address local needs related to accountability, planning, instruction, and test preparation. WIDA will focus on the Speaking domain scores and will allow ample time for questions. Registration is not required. View details on the [ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar Schedule](#) (wida.us > Assessment > ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 > Preparation & Training).

[Back to Top](#)

WIDA Screener Update (repeat)

There are three approved English Language Proficiency (ELP) screeners in Minnesota: the WIDA Screener, the Kindergarten W-APT, and the Kindergarten MODEL. Districts should make the transition to the WIDA Screener by Thursday, Aug. 31, which is when WIDA will no longer support W-APT in grades 1–12 and remove related resources from its website. While the online option for the WIDA Screener is free, some of the paper screener items are available from WIDA for a nominal fee. If you have any questions, please email mde.el@state.mn.us.

[Back to Top](#)

Odds and Ends

- **Arts Standards Review:** The 2008 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in the Arts are being reviewed and revised during the 2017–2018 school year. For more information, visit the [MDE Arts page](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards (K-12) > Arts). The deadline for applying to the committee is Tuesday, Sept. 19. [Apply for the Arts Standards Committee](#).

[Back to Top](#)

STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

education.state.mn.us > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us