

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – OCTOBER 4, 2017

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Updates to Scores for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Tomorrow, Oct. 5, the District and School Student Results (DSR & SSR) files and the Student Assessment History Report for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS will be updated as follows: the Achievement Level will be expanded to three characters to allow a decimal. If your district imports the data into another system that is set up to read the achievement level as one character, it should be updated to receive three characters.

The update will include changes to other columns in the DSR/SSR as well. All the original data will be in the same location in the file, but more fields will have data, and some of the field names will change. See the Sept. 27 *Assessment Update* for more details.

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2017–2018 WIDA Resources and Materials Now Available

Updated resources and materials for ACCESS are now available on the [Preparation & Training page](#) (wida.us > Assessment > ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 > Preparation & Training). This includes the *Test Administrator Manual*, the *District and School Test Coordinator Manual*, and the *Accessibility and Accommodations Supplement*. New resources on the Preparation & Training page include the following:

- *District Test Coordinator Quick-Start Guide*: a helpful tool for new DACs unfamiliar with ACCESS or any DAC looking for a quick resource about test administration
- *Let's Get Going*: a one page guide to navigating the 2017–2018 training process

- *ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 What's New for 2017–18*: an infographic that contains a quick overview of new resources, key updates, and important changes.

Also, new Online Sample Items and enhanced user guides are also available on the [Preparing Students page](#) (wida.us > Assessment > ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 > Preparing Students). These new sample test items and tasks can be used to help prepare students before they take ACCESS for ELLs 2.0.

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Civics Test Requirement

Legislation passed in 2016 requires students to correctly answer 30 out of 50 selected civics test questions. This requirement is effective for students enrolling in grade 9 in the 2017–2018 school year or later. Statewide Testing does not oversee administration for the civics test. For more information, read the [Civics Test Questions FAQ](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Academic Standards (K-12) > Social Studies), or send an email to mde.academic-standards@state.mn.us.

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Fall Webinar for DACs Registration

MDE will host a webinar for all DACs to overview some of the changes for 2017–2018 that will be in place prior to spring test administration training, including changes in required trainings for all staff, and the posting of resources on PearsonAccess Next and trainings in the Training Management System (TMS).

- Date: Thursday, Oct. 26
- Join webinar: 9:45–10 a.m.
- Webinar: 10–11 a.m.
- [Select this link to register for the webinar.](#)
- Phone number: 206-596-0378; access code: 805 971 876

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

New DAC Orientation

Next week, MDE and Pearson are hosting a New DAC Orientation for first-year DACs. Relatively new DACs are also welcome to attend if they think it would be beneficial. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. The deadline to register is Monday, Oct. 9.

DATE & REGISTRATION	LOCATION
Tuesday, Oct. 10 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the St. Cloud orientation.	Courtyard – St. Cloud 5 th Ave. Room 404 West Germain St. St. Cloud, MN 56301
Wednesday, Oct. 11 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the Mankato orientation.	Courtyard – Mankato Gallery C/D 901 Raintree Rd. Mankato, MN 56001
Thursday, Oct. 12 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the Roseville orientation.	Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center B: Room CC-15 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113

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Odds and Ends

- NAEP Opportunity:** The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB), which oversees the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), is seeking nominations for new members to help maintain NAEP’s standard in assessment. Information about open positions and nominations is on the [NAGB website](#) (nagb.org > The Governing Board > Join the Board). The deadline for nominations is Oct. 31.

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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

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