

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – OCTOBER 11, 2017

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## *Opportunities for New DACs*

### **New DAC Orientation: Webinar Option**

MDE will host a live webinar version of the New DAC Orientation on Oct. 24. This will cover the same information as the MDE portion of the in-person New DAC Orientations that are taking place this week.

- Date: Tuesday, Oct. 24
- Join webinar: 12:30–1 p.m.
- Webinar: 1–4 p.m.
- [Select this link to register for the webinar.](#)
- Phone number: 206-596-0378; access code: 805 971 876

A recording of the Pearson portion of the New DAC Orientation will be posted in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training) by Oct. 24.

### **Save the Date for New DAC Q&A Webinar**

MDE will host new DAC Q&A webinars throughout the 2017–2018 school year. The first one will be Tuesday, Oct. 31, from 2–3 p.m. and will focus on resources available for DACs, including the following modules on the [TMS](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training).

- Understanding Training Requirements
- Scheduling Testing
- Testing Policies and Procedures
- Minnesota Assessments Overview (optional)

Registration information and a link to enter questions will be provided in an upcoming *Assessment Update*.

## ***Legislative Changes Regarding College Entrance Exams***

Due to legislative changes, MDE will not reimburse districts for all students who take a college entrance exam this year but will still reimburse for students eligible for a free or reduced-price meal. Districts are still required to offer a college entrance exam to all students in grades 11 and 12 and may require a student who is not eligible for a free or reduced-price meal to pay the cost of taking the exam. As these charges may create barriers to student participation, MDE encourages fees for students be avoided whenever possible.

A district may not charge a fee to a student who is unable to pay for the college entrance exam. The legislation did not provide specific reimbursement to districts for students unable to pay or criteria to define unable to pay, so districts must determine their own criteria. Based on available funds, MDE may reimburse districts on a prorated basis for students who are unable to pay for the exam. Districts will indicate in the GRR system those students who are unable to pay when they are requesting reimbursement.

If you have any questions, please contact statewide testing at [mde.testing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us).

## ***2017–2018 WIDA Resources and Materials (repeat)***

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.

# ***Upcoming Training Opportunities***

## **Fall DAC Webinar**

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, 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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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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