

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – OCTOBER 9, 2017

TOPICS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISR and Benchmark Reports Available • Resources Available on PearsonAccess Next • Technology Enhanced MCA Math Items • Achievement Level Descriptor (ALD) Maps • MDE Teacher Panels • Translations Available in the Minnesota Report Card • Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month 	<p>Oct. 9: Benchmark Presentation through the Southwest West Central Service Co-op</p> <p>Oct. 17: Benchmark Presentation through the Southwest West Central Service Co-op</p> <p>Oct. 19: MEA Conference Presentations</p> <p>Nov. 3: Teacher Newsletter distributed</p>

These articles are from MDE's Assessment Update. Contact your District Assessment Coordinator with questions.

ISR and Benchmark Reports Available

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are the official paper reports that must be provided to families no later than fall conferences. Benchmark Reports, which help identify relative benchmark performance compared to expected performance based on overall scores, are now available for schools and districts. Contact your DAC to request a copy. Resources for both the [ISR Reports](#) and [Benchmark Reports](#) are available under the Reporting Resources tab on PearsonAccess Next. For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, refer to WIDA's [Scores & Reports page](#) (wida.us > Assessment > ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 > Scores & Reports).

Resources Available on PearsonAccess Next

[WriteToLearn](#) (PearsonAccess Next > WriteToLearn (under Quick Links)), an online literacy tool for students in grades 8 and 10, focuses on writing skills and expanded vocabulary. Students receive personalized feedback to encourage, instruct, and reward their progress. DACs can email mnwritetolearn@pearson.com to get started.

[Perspective for Educators](#) and [Perspective for Families](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Perspective for Educators/Families (under Quick Links)) provide thousands of learning resources aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards. Teachers can create assignments, build tests, and differentiate resources using Learning Locators. Teachers may use the pass phrase "mn_edu" to sign up. Send questions to [Pearson Perspective Support](#).

Technology Enhanced MCA Math Items

For more specific information on the limitations and requirements of fill in the blank MCA items, refer to the *MathBits* article, [Helpful Hints – Fill in the Blank Items on the MCA](http://www.mctmmathbits.org/?p=1358) (<http://www.mctmmathbits.org/?p=1358>).

Achievement Level Descriptor (ALD) Maps

Mathematics, Reading, and Science MCA [Achievement Level Descriptor \(ALD\) maps](#) (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing > Achievement Level Descriptors) are available. These materials are supplementary to the ALDs and provide a way to view skills by strand across the four achievement levels.

MDE Teacher Panels

In order to develop quality tests, MDE needs teachers for our Advisory Panels to help make content decisions for the MCA. Invitations for panels are sent out a few months prior to the panel dates, and teachers are given CEUs, food, and travel reimbursement. Submit your name to the [Advisory Panel Registry](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing > Register for Advisory Panels).

Translations Available in the Minnesota Report Card

The [Minnesota Report Card](#) (MDE website > Data Center > Minnesota Report Card) now has much of the material available in Spanish, Somali, and Hmong. Use the Language Assistance feature in the upper right of the Minnesota Report Card screen.

Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month

- **Benchmark:** Specific statement of knowledge or skill within an academic standard. The specific skills that fit under a learning strand or academic standard.
- **Content Standards:** Statements of the subject-specific knowledge and skills that schools are expected to teach students.

Statewide Testing's mission statement: To design, develop, and implement a system of assessment so Minnesota students, parents, teachers, administrators, legislators, and taxpayers will have access to valid and reliable data to support and improve education in Minnesota.



*To sign up to receive the Teacher Newsletter electronically, use the QR code or email mde.testing@state.mn.us.