m1 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Assessment Update

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JAN. 18, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
• ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Additional Materials • Procedures Manual – Correction • Upcoming Resource Availability for MCA/MTAS • MCA Testing Directions: Online • District Testing Calendar Reminder • WIDA Educator Participation Opportunity • Upcoming Opportunities	**Jan. 9–March 24:** *Complete administration tasks in WIDA AMS* **Jan. 20:** *Receive ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS paper test materials and student labels* **Jan. 20:** *Test WES deadline to make changes affecting MCA/MTAS initial materials shipment, confirm ISR delivery, and indicate test materials delivery options*

ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Additional Materials

After you receive your initial materials order for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, you may need to place an additional materials order. You might have had additional students move in to your district, or determined that a student needs specific materials due to a recent decision about accommodations. Here are some important tips to keep in mind regarding additional materials ordering:

- Check your district or school's overage first. Most districts receive overage with their initial order and an additional materials order may not be necessary.

- Make sure to collect information from all schools in your district. Try to place only one additional materials order.

- Do not order extra materials "just in case." This increases waste and shipping costs. Order only what you need.

Find more information on additional materials ordering in the *District and School Test Coordinator Manual*, located in the WIDA Secure Portal, under Resources. Note: Materials for the Alternate ACCESS field test will be shipped separately and arrive on or before Feb. 7.

Procedures Manual - Correction

There is an inconsistency in the *Procedures Manual* (page 92 and page 150) regarding the allowable usage of the Science MCA script. As is correctly indicated on page 150, the Science MCA script can be used with **all** paper test books (not just large print and braille). The Science MCA script can also be used with the online test.

Upcoming Resource Availability for MCA/MTAS

The following list provides information on the availability of resources for spring administrations:

- Trainings in the Training Management System (TMS):

  o The MTAS Test Administrator training courses were posted to the MTAS Test Administrator tab on Friday, Jan. 13.

  o *Handling Secure Paper Test Materials* was posted to the Other Trainings tab under District Assigned Trainings on Friday, Jan. 13.

- The translations of the *Test Security Checklist* will be posted to the Policies and Procedures page of the PearsonAccess Next website on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

- The translations of the *Testing Directions* will be posted to the Testing Directions page of the PearsonAccess Next website on Monday, Jan. 30.

- All MCA student tutorials (Navigation, Tools, Item Types, and Science MCA-IV) will be posted on the Student Tutorial page of the PearsonAccess Next website on Friday, Jan. 27.

MCA Testing Directions: Online

For the administration of the online MCA, Test Monitors, at a minimum, must be provided the following sections of the *Testing Directions: Online*:

- *Script to Read to Students*

- *Answering Questions and Providing Assistance*

- *Transcript of Student Directions*

Refer to *What Help Can Test Administrators and Test Monitors Give to Students* in Chapter 8 of the *Procedures Manual* for additional information.

District Testing Calendar Reminder

Districts are required to post a comprehensive testing calendar on the district website before the first day of the school year; this information may also be posted on school-level websites if the district chooses. Districts may choose how to display the information (for example, in a chart or a calendar format), but it should be presented in a way that is easily accessible. Core requirements for the district testing calendar have not changed and are detailed in the *Procedures Manual*, starting on page 124.

If a district has not yet established specific dates when students will be testing, MDE recommends using previous years' timeframes as a starting place and then updating them as testing schedules are known. Districts should keep their testing calendar up-to-date throughout the school year.

Note: The Alternate ACCESS field test does not need to be included in the testing calendar.

WIDA Educator Participation Opportunity

Please share the following opportunity with your EL staff.

WIDA has an opportunity for educators to be a part of the development of a new Writing Scoring Scale, which is used to score the ACCESS and WIDA Screener. Volunteers must be current educators who work with English learners in grades 1–12, are certified to score the WIDA Screener Writing test, and have scored a WIDA Screener Writing test within the past year. Selected participants will complete a review of a draft of the new Writing Scoring Scale to ensure that it provides accurate information about students' English proficiency. This review will involve a set of written responses to score using the new scale and a form to provide feedback. The estimated work time is expected to be around 4 hours and participants will be given a time window of April 24–May 12 to complete their tasks. As an added incentive, educators will receive $100 for their participation. Interested educators should complete this short survey by Jan. 25. Questions can be sent to Jena Sebald at jsebald@wisc.edu

Upcoming Opportunities

MTAS Administration 2023 Informational Meeting

The Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment Division will host virtual informational meetings in January for MTAS Test Administrators and special education staff to share upcoming changes to the MTAS in the spring of 2023. While this information will also be included in the required training materials for MTAS administration, this event will highlight some MTAS test administration changes and show a sample of new reading and science field test tasks that are included in a portion of the assessment. Test Administrators and other district staff involved in administering the MTAS are encouraged to attend so they are prepared for the changes, are familiar with the new reading and science tasks, and can have their questions answered. **Note: This**

meeting does not replace the required MTAS Test Administrator trainings that will be available on the Training Management System (TMS).

If you are interested in attending one of the MTAS Administration 2023 Informational Meetings, register below. Both events cover the same information, so you only need to select one date to attend.

- Jan. 19, 10–11 a.m. Register for the Jan. 19 virtual meeting

- Jan. 24, 3:30–4:30 p.m. Register for the Jan. 24 virtual meeting

Please note: MDE aims to deliver our presentations in a way that will be accessible for our participants. If you anticipate needing accommodations, contact mde.testing@state.mn.us. MDE requests a two-week advance notice to provide accommodations and 48-hour notice to cancel them. If the request comes within two weeks of the event, MDE will still make an effort to provide the accommodation.

A recording of the informational meeting will be available at a later date. Look for information in an upcoming *Assessment Update*.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing

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