AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JUNE 28, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- District and School Student Results (DSR & SSR) in Secure Reports – Delayed - Reminder: 2023–2024 WIDA Screener Online Administration - Federal Testing, Calculations, and Reporting Waiver Public Comment - Preparing for Testing and Student Resources 2020 ELA Standards Update - MDE Employment Opportunity: Data Practices and Analytics Director (Repeat) - Upcoming Opportunities - Odds and Ends	**May 22–June 28** *Retrieve ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS early student-level results in Test WES* **June 29** *Access embargoed final student results in District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files in Secure Reports*

District and School Student Results (DSR & SSR) in Secure Reports – Delayed

The final student-level assessment results in the District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files scheduled for delivery today, June 28, are delayed. Current projection is MCA/MTAS files will be available June 29. Further information will be provided regarding the ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS or if there is a change to the MCA/MTAS projected delivery date.

When released, the embargoed student results in the DSR and SSR files will be in Secure Reports (under Assessment Secure Reports). These results will be under embargo until the public release of assessment results on Aug. 24. During the embargo, districts can use final assessment results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders. It is up to the district to determine whether to share embargoed assessment data with students, families, and staff for instructional purposes. Preliminary or embargoed final results cannot,

however, be discussed in public forums, reflected in public meeting minutes (such as school board meetings), or shared with the general public or media until the final assessment results have been released publicly.

Important Reminders about Sharing Results

Only those who have a legitimate educational interest in the assessment results should have access to embargoed final assessment and accountability results in any form, including summary results. Be sure to remind building principals and any other staff who have access to assessment data of the policies regarding sharing embargoed data, and ensure they understand what it means to abide by the embargo.

Individually-identifying student results should not be shared publicly at any point as required under FERPA regulations. Student-level results should only be shared with those who have a legitimate educational interest or others who are permitted by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act or FERPA to access private educational data.

Districts and schools may share preliminary results or final embargoed assessment results with school officials who are not district or school staff, including school board members and contractors hired by the district, if specific requirements are met. See *Sharing Students' Private Information and Results Outside the School and District* in Chapter 11 of the *Procedures Manual* for more information.

Additional Resources

The following resources are available to support districts with using and understanding the results:

- Chapter 11 of the *Procedures Manual* provides guidelines for using the assessment data and abiding by the embargo.

- The *2022–23 District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) User Guide* posted on the Assessment Secure Reports page provides information about the content and file format of the DSR and SSR files, as well as how to access it in Secure Reports.

- The *Statewide Assessments: Using District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) Files* one-page resource posted on the District Resources page (under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading) provides information for district staff about using the district and school student results (DSR/SSR) files with final student-level data.

Reminder: 2023–2024 WIDA Screener Online Administration

The 2023–24 administration of WIDA Screener Online will open in WIDA AMS on Friday, June 30. Permissions for the new WIDA Screener administration will be assigned to existing users prior to this date. **All Speaking and Writing responses from the 2022–2023 administration year must be scored by Thursday, June 29**, before the 2022–23 administration changes to read only.

Additionally, please note:

- New applications for Import, Student, and Test Management will be available on June 30. More information is available in the *Get ready for 2023–24 updates to WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT* article on the WIDA website.

- Reports for the 2023–24 testing year will be available in the new Reporting Services application, available June 30. Reports for 2021–22 and 2022–23 can be found in WIDA AMS under My Applications > Report Delivery.

- Beginning with the 2023–24 testing year, DRC will house only the current year plus the two previous years' score reports in WIDA AMS. If your district needs score reports for WIDA Screener Online or ACCESS for ELLs for the 2020–21 testing year or earlier, download your reports before June 30.

For questions related to WIDA AMS, please contact DRC Customer Service at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615.

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Federal Testing, Calculations, and Reporting Waiver Public Comment

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) desires to request a one-year waiver of assessment requirements and related accountability requirements for the Rochester Public School District for the 2022–23 school year. A cyberattack midway through the testing window made administration of the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) in mathematics, reading, and science impossible for the district.

As stated in ESEA statute, section 8401, the "State educational agency shall provide the public and any interested local educational agency in the State with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on the request, to the extent that the request impacts the local educational agency." As such, the public is invited to comment on the ESSA Waiver Request for Rochester Public School District to Cabinet now through July 6 by emailing MDE.ESSA@state.mn.us.

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Preparing for Testing and Student Resources

Various student and educator resources under the Preparing for Testing tab on PearsonAccess Next (PearsonAccess Next > Preparing for Testing) will be updated for the 2023–24 administration. Important updates to this tab include:

- Removal of item samplers and student tutorials

- Updates to the Student Readiness Tools (SRT) page

- The relocation of MTAS and Alternate MCA sample tasks to the Student Readiness Tools page

The Student Readiness Tools (SRTs) are new student resources developed to help prepare students and educators for MCA test administration. On June 30, item samplers and student tutorials will be permanently removed from PearsonAccess Next and the SRTs will become the resources used to prepare students for test administration. Additionally, updated SRTs (offered in online and paper formats) and corresponding resources for the 2023–24 school year will be launched in October 2023.

2020 ELA Standards Update

On June 26, 2023, the 2020 Minnesota K-12 English Language Arts Standards were published in the state register. They are effective five days after that publication date and are to be fully implemented in the 2025–26 school year. Supports for implementation are on the ELA Standards Implementation website. Contact the MDE ELA Specialist, Victoria Mucha, at mde.academic-standards@state.mn.us for questions an assistance as districts work toward implementation.

MDE Employment Opportunity: Data Practices and Analytics Director (Repeat)

The Data Practices and Analytics division is currently seeking a director to provide strategic direction and leadership on advancing the Minnesota Department of Education's mission through meaningful and appropriate use of quality data in decision-making to inform educational policy and programs.

If you are interested (or know someone who may be interested) in a new and challenging opportunity, consult the position description and application instructions on the State of Minnesota Careers website. The Job ID is 66514, and the **posting is open until July 5**. Visit the State of Minnesota Careers website for more information and to apply.

Upcoming Opportunities

July Q&A Session

MDE will host a virtual Q&A session for DACs on Tuesday, July 18, from 2–3 p.m. and will focus on the reporting stages and the District and School Student Results files. New and experienced DACs are welcome to attend. Register for July Q&A Session. Details for joining are provided once participants register.

The prerequisite for the July Q&A session is completion of the New DAC Reporting Training 1, which will be available on the [Training Management System (TMS)](#) on Friday, June 30

MDE collects questions from DACs prior to the event to help prepare and find relevant resources to share. After completing the prerequisites, please [submit questions for the July Q&A Session](#). Q&A Sessions will not be recorded nor will CEUs be provided as these sessions are an additional support rather than a training event.

New DAC Reporting Training 2

The *New DAC Reporting Training 2* will be held virtually on Thursday, July 27, from 2–3:30 p.m. It will focus on reporting stages, and how to find and use the District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files. All DACs are welcome to attend; however, this training is specifically designed to support new DACs. Register for the [New DAC Reporting Training 2](#). For those unable to attend, the training will also be recorded and posted on July 28 in the [Training Management System (TMS)](#).

This is the second of two trainings geared to new DACs about reporting. The first training will be held virtually on June 29, and a recorded training will be available in the TMS on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars on June 30. The prerequisites for the second training are completion of *New DAC Reporting Training 1*, Chapter 11 of the [*Procedures Manual*](#), and the *Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses of MCA and ACCESS Results* infographics available on the [District Resources](#) page of the MDE website under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading.

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.

Odds and Ends

- MDE will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

- There will be no *Assessment Update* on July 5.