Assessment Update

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- New for 2022–23: Video ISRs - District Testing Calendar - Volunteer Opportunity: Help Improve the WIDA ACCESS Speaking Test - Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Webinars on Student Privacy and Data Security - Upcoming Opportunities	**July 26** *Access embargoed final school, district, and state summary results in Test Results Summary in Secure Reports*

New for 2022–23: Video ISRs

Personalized video ISRs for students with MCA and MTAS scores will be available on Aug. 24. These videos include an overview of the assessment and the student's performance in each subject taken, as well as their performance related to the school, district, and state averages. In addition to English, video ISRs may be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified (Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese).

Parents/guardians can access video ISRs by scanning a QR code on the ISR with a smart device or by contacting their student's school for a link to access the video report. On Aug. 24, video list files (csv) with links for video ISRs for students with scores will be available at the school or district level under Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next.

Students without a score in at least one subject have no QR code on their ISR and no video report available.

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District Testing Calendar

Districts are required to post a comprehensive testing calendar on the district website; this information may also be posted on school-level websites if the district chooses. The calendar must be published at least one week

prior to any eligible assessments being administered, but **no later than October 1**, which is a change due to state legislation passed this year. 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 as easy to access as possible. Core requirements for the information that must be included on the district testing calendar have not changed and are detailed in Chapter 6 of the *Procedures Manual*.

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 schedules are known or changed.

Volunteer Opportunity: Help Improve the WIDA ACCESS Speaking Test

In response to feedback from teachers, WIDA is trying out new features for the ACCESS Speaking Test, including a feature that would allow students to add to their responses. In order to make research-based improvements to the test design, WIDA is seeking schools to volunteer for Cognitive Labs, or research sessions. Schools or districts with English Learners in grades 2–3 and/or 9–12 can participate. Programs will be asked to recruit 6–16 students to participate in a 30–40 minute session with WIDA researchers to take part of the ACCESS Speaking Test on a laptop and then share their opinions. For more information, contact jsebald@wisc.edu by Sept. 1.

Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) Webinars on Student Privacy and Data Security

The full cycle of statewide assessments, from preparation, to administration, and data analysis, depends upon effective student privacy and data security policies at the state and district level. For those who are interested in learning more on these topics or reinforcing current knowledge, the Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) within the U.S. Department of Education is providing a three-day webinar in August. These trainings are relevant to many roles and staff who are not involved in statewide assessments as well. For more information, please see the registration links below for each of the 3-day webinars, or visit the Protecting Student Privacy page on the U.S. Department of Education website.

- Day 1: Register for FERPA 101 and FERPA 201, Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023, 1–3 p.m. These sessions will cover the basics of FERPA, including scenarios faced by schools and districts.

- Day 2: Register for Data Security and Data Breach Incident Response, Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, 1–3 p.m. These sessions provide training on current data security best practices for education data systems and leads participants through a simulated data breach.

- Day 3: Register for Vetting Educational Technology and Transparency, Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2023, 1–3 p.m. These sessions will explore the importance of and the means by which online educational

technology can be assessed for privacy protections and general FERPA compliance, followed by highlights from PTAC's research study on transparency.

Upcoming Opportunities

New DAC Reporting Training 2 (Repeat)

The *New DAC Reporting Training 2* will be held virtually tomorrow, 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 was held virtually on June 29, and a recorded training is available in the TMS on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars. 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.

Assessment Inventory Session 2: Using the findings from an assessment inventory to balance your local assessment system toward equity (Repeat)

Join us for the second session of a three-part series focused on stepping back to take stock of the assessments used in your district, including what information they are providing, and how they can tell you more. Save the dates below and confirm your registration on Zoom for Sessions 2 and 3 to receive a calendar invite. All interested teaching and learning staff, district/school leaders, DACs, and teacher leaders are welcome to join.

Session 2 will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3, from 1–4 p.m. [Register for the Assessment Inventory Session 2](#). Session outcomes include:

- Learn from other district leaders who completed an assessment inventory process: What were their takeaways and how did they plan it? What are their next steps?

- Share and discuss findings/implications.

- Discuss next steps for either planning an inventory process in your district OR for making recommendations for next steps.

Resources from Session 1 were provided in a shared folder and will be used to guide discussions in Session 2. Session 3 will focus on developing a theory of action for your Balanced Assessment System and will be on Tuesday, Sept. 26, from 1–4 p.m. Register for Session 3.

August Q&A Session

MDE will host a virtual Q&A session for DACs on Tuesday, Aug. 8, from 2–3 p.m. that will focus on the reporting stages, Test Results Summary, and the public release of results. New and experienced DACs are welcome to attend. Register for August Q&A Session. Details for joining are provided once participants register.

The prerequisite for the August Q&A session is completion of the New DAC Reporting Training 2, which will be available on the Training Management System (TMS) on Friday, July 28.

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 August 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.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

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

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