

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — AUG. 16, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Assessment Results Release • Reporting Reminders • Final Individual Student Reports Delivery • Mathematics MCA-IV Test Specifications Public Review • Updating DAC Assignments in MDE-ORG 	<p>Aug. 24: Public release of final assessment and accountability results on MDE website</p> <p>Aug. 24: Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in district (unless district declined to receive paper copies for MCA/MTAS)</p> <p>Aug. 24: Retrieve ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results in WIDA AMS</p> <p>Aug. 24: Retrieve MCA and MTAS Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next (Longitudinal Reports, Historical Student Data, and Subscore Reports are also available Aug. 24)</p> <p>Sept. 6: View Benchmark Reports in PearsonAccess Next</p>

Final Assessment Results Release

Assessment and accountability results will be released to the public on Thursday, Aug. 24. To accommodate the release of the 2023 results, the Minnesota Report Card will be unavailable on Wednesday, Aug. 23, with the new results available the following day. If users try to access the Minnesota Report Card on Aug. 23, a message will appear regarding the temporary site closure.

After the results are released publicly, assessment results information will be available in two places on the MDE website for families, educators, and community members to access:

- The [Minnesota Report Card](#) allows users to create graphs and tables to view results for various groups of students across the state and within districts and schools. A [Minnesota Report Card User Guide](#) (select Using the Report Card menu choice) provides information on interpreting and using the data on the Report Card.

- Downloadable data files are under [Assessment Files](#) (MDE website > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics), which provide summary assessment data for the state, counties, districts, and schools that can be used to perform analyses. The [Assessment Files User Guide](#) (linked in the overview paragraph located at the top of the Assessment Files page) provides information about the content of the files; information is also available on the first tab of the files.

For general information about the public release, contact MDE's Communication division at mde.communications@state.mn.us. For more information about accountability results or calculations, visit MDE's [School and District Accountability page](#), or contact Michael Diedrich at mde.essa@state.mn.us with any questions.

Additional Resources

The following resources are also available to support districts with using and understanding the public release of results:

- The [Statewide Assessments: Using Public Results](#), located under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading, is a one-page resource that provides information for district staff about using these public summary results for statewide assessments.
- Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#) provides guidelines for using assessment data.
- The [Testing 1, 2, 3 website](#) provides information on assessment along with data resources, including explanations of data available and appropriate uses and helpful resources for data literacy.
- The recording of the *New DAC Reporting Training 2: Test Results Summary Reports and Public Reporting* training is available in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars.
- There is a Posttest Editing Discrepancies report available in [Test WES](#) that contains a list of any discrepancies that remained for your district after the close of Posttest Editing. If questions arise about a student's results (for example, reason for invalidation), this report may be helpful. To review the report, select Posttest Discrepancies under File Transfer on the Test WES Dashboard. The discrepancies on the report cannot be resolved.

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Reporting Reminders

As the public results release date approaches, keep the following reminders and changes in mind.

1. Race/ethnicity definitions used in Secure Reports and the Report Card have changed:

- District/School Student Results (DSR/SSR): State definitions for race/ethnicity are now included for all years available in the DSR/SSR (2019–2023). Federal definitions for race/ethnicity remain available for all years of DSR/SSR data.
 - Test Results Summary: State definitions for race/ethnicity are now included for all years available in the Test Results Summary (2019, 2021–2023). Federal definitions for race/ethnicity are **not** available in Test Results Summary.
 - Report Card: State definitions for race/ethnicity are now included for all years available in the Report Card (2019, 2021–2023). Federal definitions for race/ethnicity are **not** available in the Report Card.
2. Oct. 1 indicator:
- Data using the Oct. 1 indicator is no longer reported after 2022, which includes district or school enrollment on Oct. 1. This information is no longer used in accountability calculations.
3. Comparing data in Secure Reports reminder:
- Aggregated school or district data from the DSR/SSR files compared with the aggregated Test Results Summary data may result in student counts that do not match. The DSR/SSRs include all students who tested, while the Test Results Summary includes only those students who are required to test.
 - Students coded as foreign exchange or homeschool are not included in Test Results Summary data, as they are not required to test.
4. Filters and student privacy protections in place in the Report Card:
- As this is a public report, student privacy protections are in place, which means that student groups with N less than 10 will show CTSTR (count too small to report).
 - The Students Included: All Tested filter in the Minnesota Report Card should match what districts see in the Test Results Summary.
 - The Students Included: Only those meeting enrollment criteria should match what districts see in the North Star accountability report.

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Final Individual Student Reports Delivery

Final Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS are scheduled to arrive in districts on Thursday, Aug. 24.

- ISRs for ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS will be provided for all students who participated. For students who had a test code indicated for one or more domains, N/A will be reported on the ISR for the domain(s) and all associated composite scores.

- ISRs for MCA/MTAS will be provided for all students who participated. For students who did not participate, the ISR will show why results are not included (for example, parent or student refusal test code indicated or not complete).

Since ISRs contain private student data, it is important for districts to ensure someone is available to receive the reports and secure them until distribution. The final reports shipment will be sent to districts, and each school will have its own box labeled with the school name. For nonpublic schools, final reports will be packaged and shipped directly to each school.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following reports for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS:

- Individual Student Reports (ISRs)
- Student Roster Reports
- District and School Frequency Reports

The following resources for families are available:

- Customizable [ACCESS for ELLs parent letters](#) are available in the same languages as the ACCESS ISRs. They provide general information about the ACCESS and are available in Word format so that they can be customized at the district with local test administration information and state or district policies as desired. In addition, the [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#) flyer helps explain ACCESS scores and the ISR to families. Use the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#) flyer for students who took Alternate ACCESS.
- The *Statewide Assessments: What Families Need to Know about Using ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Results*, is posted on MDE [Students and Families Statewide Testing Assessments Results page](#). This resource can be provided to help families understand the purpose and uses of their student's results. Note: Translated versions of this resource will also be posted under [Translated Documents](#); the Hmong, Somali, and Spanish will be posted first, with additional languages expected to be available by mid-September.

The following resources for district and school staff are available:

- The [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) provide an overview of the various types of score reports, explain how scores are calculated, and describe how to use proficiency level and scale scores to support students' language growth.
- Find sample score reports and additional information about ACCESS scores on the [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS Scores and Reports](#) pages.

If you have any questions regarding your reports shipment, contact DRC Customer Service at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615.

MCA/MTAS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following:

- Packing list of contents and cover memo (in box 1 for each school)
- ISRs for MCA and MTAS
 - Reports will be sorted by grade and test administration (MCA or MTAS).
 - To assist with the sorting, each ISR is marked with a color tab according to grade, subject, and assessment. The packing list indicates the sort order and corresponding color tabs.
- Student results labels, if requested in Test WES (If not requested, PDFs of student labels are also available to download in Published Reports in a format ready for label printing.)

The following resources for families are available:

- *MCA and MTAS ISR Quick Guides*: The quick guides provide a high-level overview of how to read the ISRs and are posted on the [MDE Students and Families Statewide Testing Assessment Results page](#). Note: Translated versions of these resources are expected to be posted by mid-September under [Translated Documents](#).
- *Understanding the MCA and MTAS ISR Videos*: These short videos provide a high-level overview of the information presented on the ISRs (coming soon).
- The *Statewide Assessments: What Families Need to Know about Using MCA and MTAS Results*, is posted on MDE [Students and Families Statewide Testing Assessments Results page](#). This resource can be provided to help families understand the purpose and uses of their student's results. Note: Translated versions of this resource will also be posted under [Translated Documents](#); the Hmong, Somali, and Spanish will be posted first, with additional languages expected to be available by mid-September.

The following resources for district and school staff are available:

- *Interpretive Guide for Statewide Assessment Reports*: This comprehensive guide (available under Test Score Interpretation Resources) contains detailed information on how to read the ISRs and use the results.
- Samples of MCA and MTAS ISRs on the [Individual Student Reports \(ISRs\) Resources](#) page

If you have any questions regarding your shipment, submit a [Pearson help desk request](#) or call the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659. If you have any questions about the data reported on the ISR, contact mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Mathematics MCA-IV Test Specifications Public Review

The Division of Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment provides test specifications for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCAs) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS) in reading, mathematics and science. Test specifications provide a summary blueprint for test construction, specifying the portion of questions for each reporting category and outlining the essential features of the test design to provide consistency and transparency across test forms for the life of each assessment.

Following the 2022 revisions to the Minnesota K–12 Academic Mathematics Standards, currently being finalized through the Rulemaking process, the Math Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment – Series IV is beginning the development of questions to assess these standards. In collaboration with a committee of Minnesota educators, MDE has drafted the [test specifications](#) for the Math MCA-IV to assist with the development of the new assessments.

Members of the public are encouraged to review the proposed test specifications and provide feedback through the [Math MCA-IV Test Specifications Feedback Survey](#). **The survey will be open until Sept. 17.**

Feedback from multiple perspectives, including math, English learner and special education teachers, is important in creating the best assessment possible for all Minnesota students. Please share this information with applicable district staff.

Updating DAC Assignments in MDE-ORG

Please ensure that the DAC contact information is current in the [Minnesota Department of Education-Organization Reference Glossary \(MDE-ORG\)](#). All contact information in MDE-ORG is updated and maintained by the district's Site Verification Coordinator (SVC). You can look up the SVC for your district in MDE-ORG. If the SVC has any questions about the process, they can contact mde.school-verify@state.mn.us.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

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

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.