AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — AUG. 2, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- Assessment Results Remain Embargoed - North Star Secure Report and Academic Secure Roster Functionality - Accountability Secure Release and Appeals - MDE Employment Opportunity: Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System Research Scientist - Upcoming Opportunities	*Aug. 24:* Public release of final assessment and accountability results on MDE website *Aug. 24:* Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in district (unless district declined to receive paper copies for MCA/MTAS) *Aug. 24:* Retrieve ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results in WIDA AMS *Aug. 24.* Retrieve MCA and MTAS Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next (*Longitudinal Reports, Historical Student Data, and Subscore Reports are also available Aug. 24*)

Assessment Results Remain Embargoed

As districts prepare for back-to-school events, it is important to remember that all assessment results are under embargo until Aug. 24.

During the embargo, districts can use the final assessment results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders. They may share the results with district teachers and staff for planning or instructional purposes, and they may also share individual scores with students and families. However, they may not share any results in public settings. Refer to Chapter 11 of the *Procedures Manual*, which provides guidelines for using the assessment data and abiding by the embargo.

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North Star Secure Report and Academic Secure Roster Functionality

Due to current state race/ethnicity development on the North Star Secure Report and the Academic Secure Roster, we are aware of these not functioning properly. MDE will have this resolved on Aug. 7.

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Accountability Secure Release and Appeals

Secure rosters with academic achievement, academic progress, progress toward English language proficiency, and consistent attendance data will be available on **Monday, Aug. 7**, as will the interactive North Star secure report.

The window to appeal accountability data is Aug. 7–11. The acceptable grounds for appeal are (a) calculation error and (b) extenuating circumstances disrupting the usability of data. Appeals can be sent to mde.essa@state.mn.us.

Two webinars to review the accountability calculations and demonstrate the process of accessing the secure reports will be held that week. Additional webinar opportunities will be offered closer to the Aug. 24 public release date. The currently scheduled webinars are:

- Monday, Aug. 7 from 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 8 from 9–10 a.m.

Click the link for a webinar at the designated time to join. Please contact Michael Diedrich (michael.diedrich@state.mn.us, 651-582-8332) with any questions.

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MDE Employment Opportunity: Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System Research Scientist

The Early Learning Services division is currently seeking an Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS) research scientist to independently conduct complex research and data analysis activities for early childhood care and education across agencies.

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 67923, and the **posting is open until Aug. 18**. Visit the State of Minnesota Careers website for more information and to apply.

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Upcoming Opportunities

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

The full cycle of statewide assessments—from preparation to administration, then post-test 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, 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, 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, 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.

August Q&A Session (Repeat)

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 is available on the Training Management System (TMS).

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.

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Minnesota Department of Education

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

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