

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — AUG. 23, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Assessment Results Release Tomorrow • Final Individual Student Reports Delivery and Video ISRs • Finding Reports in WIDA AMS • WIDA Professional Learning Opportunities for 2023–24 • Testing Calendars • Cell Phone Policies • Alternate Assessment Coffee Break Series 	<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 WIDA 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 Tomorrow

Assessment and accountability results will be released to the public tomorrow, Aug. 24. To accommodate the release of the 2023 results, the Minnesota Report Card is unavailable today. If users try to access the Minnesota Report Card today, a message will appear regarding the temporary site closure.

District leaders and District Assessment Coordinators received an email from MDE this afternoon with the press release and links to the embargoed statewide accountability and assessment files. The same information will be provided to the media. This information is being shared with districts today so that you can prepare for local reporting.

After 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 as well as 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, county, 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.

Refer to last week's [Assessment Update](#) for links to available resources for the public release of results.

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.

Embargo Reminder

Until released publicly tomorrow, results are still considered embargoed. During the embargo, districts may share the results with district teachers and staff for planning or instructional purposes but may not share the summary results in public settings. Districts can also use the final embargoed results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders, but if a media outlet contacts a district before the public release of results, the district should redirect them to the MDE Communications division. See Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#) for more information about embargoed results.

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Final Individual Student Reports Delivery and Video ISRs

Final Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS are scheduled to arrive in districts tomorrow, Aug. 24. 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's name. For nonpublic schools, final reports will be packaged and shipped directly to each school. Refer to last week's [Assessment Update](#) for links to available resources and detailed information on the contents of each shipment of ISRs.

Personalized video ISRs for students with MCA and MTAS scores will also be available on Aug. 24. These videos include an overview of the assessments 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. A [Video ISR FAQ](#) document is now available on PearsonAccess Next.

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Finding Reports in WIDA AMS

As you prepare to receive printed reports for the ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS on Aug. 24, please be aware that some reporting features in WIDA AMS have been relocated as part of the recent system update. All score reports from 2021–22 and 2022–23 can still be found under Report Delivery. This includes English and translated versions of 2023 ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Individual Student Reports (ISRs). Reports from 2023–24 are now located under Reporting Services. This includes English and translated versions of the WIDA Screener Online ISRs. Note that the WIDA AMS landing page button labeled “Download Individual Student Reports” will take you to Reporting Services. Report Delivery is accessed by selecting the “My Applications” dropdown menu at the top of the WIDA AMS website. Learn more in the [Get ready for 2023–24 updates to WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT](#) article on the WIDA website.

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WIDA Professional Learning Opportunities for 2023–24

Each year, WIDA provides a variety of professional development opportunities to Minnesota educators. For 2023–24, all Minnesota educators with a WIDA Secure Portal account will continue to have unlimited access to the core self-paced workshop package. There are two new additions to the self-paced workshops this year: “Exploring the WIDA PreK–3 Essential Actions” and “Newcomers: Promoting Success Through Strengthening Practices.” To learn more about the self-paced workshops, select the Professional Learning tab at the top of the [WIDA Secure Portal](#) webpage. As a reminder, DACs are responsible for creating and managing WIDA Secure Portal user accounts for educators in their respective districts.

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Testing Calendars

The draft *2025–26 Testing Calendar* is posted on the [Statewide Testing](#) page, under the Testing Calendar expandable header. Send any comments to mde.testing@state.mn.us. Draft testing calendars are posted for one year before they are finalized. The *2023–24 Testing Calendar* and *2024–25 Testing Calendar* are also available and have been updated to include the revised name of WIDA Alternate ACCESS.

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Cell Phone Policies

Several districts are in the process of updating their own cell phone policies and some are providing more discretion for cell phone allowance and usage at the classroom level. If your district is in the process of enacting or considering changes to your cell phone policy, please make sure to inform your district leadership of the following as it relates to statewide assessment policies and procedures:

- Access to cell phones and other prohibited electronic devices described in the [Procedures Manual](#) is not allowed during administration of statewide assessments. Note: The 2023–24 *Procedures Manual* will not be posted until early October, but the policies and procedures related to cell phone and device usage have not changed.
- Districts are required to develop and include in their test security procedures their own procedure for ensuring students do not use or have access to cell phones or other prohibited electronic devices during administration of statewide assessments.
- While districts may allow classroom teachers to determine their own classroom cell phone policies for instruction, no classroom teacher has the authority to allow a student to access a cell phone and/or use it for statewide assessments.
- A student who uses a cell phone while taking a statewide assessment will have their test invalidated.
- The specific and extremely limited situations for when a prohibited device can be partially accessible during administration of statewide assessments, such as when used as a medical device, are described in the *Procedures Manual*. Any questions about these situations should be sent to mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Information regarding how to investigate an incident where a cell phone or other prohibited electronic device may have been used during the administration of a statewide assessment and guidance on how to review the device for a potential content breach can be found in the *Prohibited Electronic Devices Investigation Guide* in Appendix B of the *Procedures Manual*.

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Alternate Assessment Coffee Break Series

Meet with Alternate Assessment Specialists to Give Feedback and Ask Questions

The Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment Division will host a series of virtual coffee break sessions for MTAS test administrators and special education staff to ask any questions around alternate assessment, share your feedback, and connect with other special education staff from across the state. Bring your favorite beverage, along with your questions and any feedback you have, to share at this informal time focused around alternate assessment.

Join us for the first coffee break of the year on Oct. 10 from 4–5 p.m. via Zoom: 2023–24 Alternate Assessment Coffee Break Series. Please [register for the coffee break](#). This month we will be discussing the MTAS eligibility guidelines for choosing assessments for students and planning for the assessments during IEP meetings.

We will meet the second Tuesday of each month throughout the school year. You only need to register once to join any of the monthly coffee breaks that work for you. The Coffee Break dates for this year are: Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 12, April 9, and May 14 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Alt.Assessment.MDE@state.mn.us.

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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.