AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- Participation Calculation on Minnesota Report Card - Student Assessment History Report Rollover - Updates to Data and Availability of Reports - Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR - Key Communication with Districts - Deadline for Feedback on Reading Alternate MCA Test Specifications - Service Available for Spring 2022 MCA and MTAS: Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors (repeat) - Odds and Ends	*Sept. 9: Retrieve Longitudinal Reports/Export and Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next* *Sept. 9: Retrieve Subscore Reports in PearsonAccess Next* *Sept. 20: Retrieve Benchmark Reports in PearsonAccess Next*

Participation Calculation on Minnesota Report Card

Participation on the Minnesota Report Card (under How Well are Students Doing? > Test Achievement Levels, Test Results and Participation) is calculated by dividing the number of students who tested, or attempted a test, by the number of students who were expected to test. The number of students who were expected to test in reading, mathematics, and science are defined by those enrolled during the two week accountability window. The extenuating circumstances (EXC-N and EXC-A) test codes indicated for students who could not test or complete testing due to COVID or other circumstances are used as part of determining participation. These test codes were used instead of using the NA (not attempted) and NC (not complete) score codes, which are used in typical years for those students who did not test.

Participation for high school Science MCA/MTAS is calculated differently. High school science participation looks at graduates in a given year, and calculates the percent of those students who have taken the Science MCA or MTAS at some point during their high school career. For example, if students in a district typically take Life Science in grade 11, this means that students who graduated in 2021 who would have taken the test in 2019–20

(but didn't due to COVID-19 and were coded as EXC-N instead) are now included in the denominator of the 2021 science participation calculation. The EXC-N code does not count towards the numerator. Students who take their Science MCA this year will be counted in the participation calculation the year they graduate. For the next 4-5 years, participation rates for high school science will be impacted due to EXC-N and EXC-A codes in 2020 or 2021.

Note: Assessment participation is a state-level (not a district- or school-level) requirement. Assessment participation is not included as part of North Star Accountability calculations. Districts may choose to include this explanation as assessment results are shared publicly.

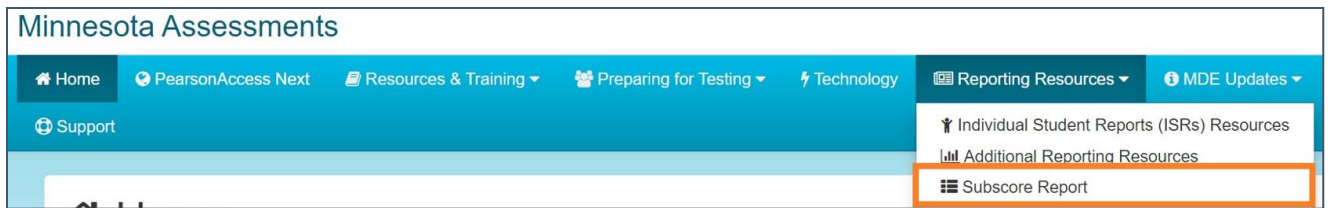## *Student Assessment History Report Rollover*

The issue with the Student Assessment History Report in Secure Reports **has been resolved**. Test history for newly enrolled students will now appear in the report, as long as their enrollment records have been submitted in MARSS for 2021–22.

Updates to Data and Availability of Reports

Longitudinal Reports/Exports and Historical Student Data will be available in PearsonAccess Next on Sept. 9. The Subscore Report will be publicly available on the PearsonAccess Next website under Reporting Resources > Subscore Report. User guides providing instruction on viewing, printing, downloading, and exporting the data are posted on the PearsonAccess Next website, under Additional Reporting Resources.

- Longitudinal reports provide a graphical display of historical results for review and comparison at the student, school, district, and/or state level by administration, performance, and student group. Results in longitudinal reports are available to school- or district-level users only. There is also an option to export longitudinal results in Excel format.

- Historical test results are available in historical student data for students who previously tested in the district and for students who are currently enrolled in the district, regardless of where they tested. Student reporting groups can be created and assigned to teachers to provide them access to this data. Note: Students that did not complete testing in the district will not be included in historical student data at the beginning of the school year; their results will be available once student enrollment information is sent to Pearson in late November.

- **New for 2020-21**: The Subscore Report has been redesigned and will be available on the PearsonAccess Next website on a new page that will appear on Sept. 9 under the Reporting Resources dropdown.

Minnesota Assessments

🏠 Home | 🌐 PearsonAccess Next | 📖 Resources & Training ▾ | 👥 Preparing for Testing ▾ | ⚡ Technology | 📖 Reporting Resources ▾ | ℹ️ MDE Updates ▾

🌐 Support

🎗 Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources
📊 Additional Reporting Resources
☰ Subscore Report

- o   The report provides an easy way for the public to access school, district, and state level MCA subscore data, also known as strand/substrand performance levels, for a selected test, year, grade, and subject.

- o   The subscore performance levels are reported as aggregated strand performance level percentages, using the strand performance level descriptors of *Below Expectations*, *At or Near Expectations*, and *Above Expectations*. The strand performance level is determined by comparing the school (or district) performance to the state expectation at the "Meets" achievement level. For each grade and subject the MCA is administered in, this report includes the percentage of students in each strand performance level for each strand calculated by aggregating the individual student strand performance levels at the school, district, and state level.

- o   Keep in mind that subscore data is based on a limited number of items. Examine this data along with local district and classroom data to determine the extent that the same trends are seen when making decisions about curriculum and instruction.

Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR

Districts who have received assessment results for the college entrance exam they administered (ACT or SAT) should enter requests for reimbursements in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system for eligible students. If a district has not previously received reimbursement for a grade 11 or 12 student, the following criteria applies to reimbursement requests:

- Districts will be reimbursed for students eligible for a free/reduced-priced meal (FRP) who are entered into GRR.

- Districts may also be reimbursed on a prorated basis (if necessary) for students who are unable to pay for the exam. Districts must determine the criteria for unable to pay and enter those requests into GRR.

Districts must submit eligible reimbursement requests **no later than Sept. 17**.

More information is in the *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide* and in the *MDE Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) Training*, which is posted in the Training Management System (TMS) on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under the MDE Recorded Webinars category.

Key Communication with Districts

With the start of the new school year, please verify that the contact information in the MDE-ORG system is correct. If your district has a new District Assessment Coordinator (DAC), please ensure MDE-ORG is updated as soon as possible so they can receive relevant information, including opportunities specifically designed for New DACs.

All contact information in MDE-ORG is updated and maintained by the district's Site Verification Coordinator (SVC), who is listed in MDE-ORG. The SVC maintains the district's contact information within the District and School Site Verification system. Work with the SVC for any necessary changes or updates.

Assessment Update Distribution

MDE sends the weekly *Assessment Update* to all Superintendents/Directors for school districts and charter schools, DACs, and District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) as is indicated in MDE-ORG. If there is more than one DAC, they all will be included on the *Assessment Update* distribution list. Additional DACs may be designated as an Alternate DAC in MDE-ORG. Any additional staff interested in receiving the *Assessment Update* should send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us to be added to the distribution list. Previous updates are posted to the *Assessment Update* page on PearsonAccess Next.

Note: MDE includes key technology updates and articles in the *Assessment Update*, so it is important that DTC contact information is accurate. Technology coordinators should pay particular attention to information in the *Tech Update* section.

PearsonAccess Next Accounts

It is important to update DAC and Alternate DAC information as soon as possible in MDE-ORG because Pearson uses information from MDE-ORG to create DAC user accounts in PearsonAccess Next. Pearson staff create and edit DAC user accounts in PearsonAccess Next within 1–2 business days of receiving MDE-ORG updates.

WIDA and WIDA AMS Accounts

In order to complete the required trainings for the ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, and the WIDA Online Screener, DACs need to have a user account in the WIDA Secure Portal. Also, in order to complete administrative tasks for online testing or the online screener, DACs must have a user account in WIDA AMS. New DACs that need WIDA Secure Portal and WIDA AMS accounts should send their request to mde.testing@state.mn.us. As long as they are indicated as the DAC in MDE-ORG, MDE will approve the request and send it to the service providers to create both accounts.

Note: A new DAC should confirm they have already been indicated as the DAC in MDE-ORG before sending their request to mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Note: The redesigned WIDA Secure Portal is complete. Resources on the new design, including a recording of the *Get Familiar with the Redesigned WIDA Secure Portal Q&A Webinar*, are available on the Redesigned WIDA

[Secure Portal is Live](#) page. Please contact WIDA at help@wida.us or 866-276-7735 with any questions or concerns.

Deadline for Feedback on Reading Alternate MCA Test Specifications

Following the 2020 revisions to the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts (ELA), the Reading Alternate MCA (formerly MTAS) will begin assessing these standards in the spring of 2026 for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In collaboration with a committee of Minnesota educators, MDE has drafted the [Reading Alternate Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Test Specifications](#) to assist with the development of the new assessments. In addition to test specifications, the document includes extended benchmarks, which are based on the new Minnesota reading benchmarks but reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity.

Members of the public are encouraged to review the proposed test specifications and provide feedback through the [Reading Alternate MCA Test Specifications Feedback Survey.](#) The survey closes **this Friday, Sept. 3**.

Feedback from multiple perspectives, including language arts and special education teachers, is important in creating the best assessment possible for Minnesota students with significant cognitive disabilities. Please share this information with applicable district staff.

Service Available for Spring 2022 MCA and MTAS: Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors (repeat)

For the spring 2022 test administrations, Student Information System (SIS) and data warehouse vendors will have the opportunity to receive regularly scheduled extracts of preliminary on-demand data for the MCA and MTAS during the testing window and/or final data extracts for MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS following the release of the District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files. These extracts will allow vendors to load the data directly into their system for access by school districts who enter into a data sharing agreement with their associated vendor and MDE. Vendors have the option of receiving preliminary data, final data, or both on behalf of their member districts. In order to participate, vendors need to make a commitment **no later than Sept. 10, 2021.**

Pearson has currently contacted the following SIS vendors and data warehouse vendors to participate in the program.

- EduPoint (Synergy)

- Infinite Campus (Campus)

- JMC, Inc. (JMC) – Vendor confirmed participation for 2021–22

- MBA (PowerSchool)

- Skyward, Inc. (Web School)

- Tyler Technologies (Schoolmaster)

- cmERDC (Viewpoint)

- Region 1

- Mach B

- Sourcewell (formerly TIES) – Vendor confirmed participation for 2021–22

- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEDGE)

- Illuminate Education – Vendor confirmed participation for 2021–22

- Strategic Partnerships (Hoonuit)

- Panorama Education

For school year 2021–22, only vendors who have provided commitment to use the extracts to Pearson by **Sept. 10, 2021,** will be eligible to receive regularly scheduled extracts from Pearson and/or the final data from MDE for the spring 2022 test administrations.

In order for the data to be included on the extract, DACs will be required to authorize in PearsonAccess Next which vendor(s) should receive their student data on a regularly scheduled extract. If the DAC does not authorize the data to be sent to an SIS or data warehouse vendor extract, it will not be included. DACs will be able to begin authorizing Pearson to provide data to vendors in February 2022; the first extract will be provided in March 2022.

The SIS and data warehouse vendors will need to configure their system to receive the data in the file layout provided by Pearson. A preliminary file layout has been provided to the vendors listed above. The final file layout will be available to vendors in October.

If your district would like to use this service, consider contacting your SIS vendor or data warehouse vendor to express your interest and encourage them to participate. If your SIS vendor or data warehouse is not listed above, you can request that they contact Pearson at 888-817-8659 or submit a help desk request for more information.

Odds and Ends

WIDA Q&A Webinar Schedule 2021–22

With the redesign of the WIDA Secure Portal, the *2021-2022 ACCESS and Screener Webinar Calendar - PDF* is no longer available as a stand-alone resource. Instead, all available webinars are listed on the Webinars page (login required).

ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov > Districts, 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.