

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — SEPT. 13, 2023

QUICK LINKS

- [New for 2023–24: Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#)
- [New Policy for ACCESS Online Group Sizes](#)
- [Updated District Test Security Procedure](#)
- [2023–24 WIDA Self-Paced Workshops Now Available](#)
- [New DAC Orientation](#)
- [Service Available for Spring 2024: Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors](#)
- [Reimbursements for College Entrance Exams](#)
- [Odds and Ends](#)

New for 2023–24: Learning Management System (LMS)

Pearson will replace the [Training Management System](#) (TMS) with a new Learning Management System (LMS) on Oct. 2. The last day to access the TMS will be Friday, Sept. 22. Districts that have used the TMS as a repository for staff completed trainings reports will need to download reports from the TMS for the previous two years (2021–22 and 2022–23) and save them locally before the TMS is decommissioned.

Like the TMS, the LMS will be used by school staff to complete optional and required trainings in preparation for the 2023–24 test administrations. District staff will use the LMS to track completed user trainings and mark trainings completed as a group. Note: Staff with a PearsonAccess Next user account will be auto-loaded into the LMS. Updates to PearsonAccess Next accounts will be loaded into the LMS the following business day. While not required, DACs may want to review and update PearsonAccess Next user accounts prior to the LMS go live date so the most accurate set of users is loaded into the LMS. It is important that DACs are maintaining user accounts in PearsonAccess Next, as required trainings will be posted to the LMS this fall and winter. Staff without a PearsonAccess Next account will need to self-register for an LMS account.

In preparation for the LMS transition, Pearson is creating user guides and video resources for district and school staff to become familiar with the LMS. Additionally, Pearson will hold a live training for DACs in late September to demonstrate how users can create accounts and navigate the system. Pearson will also hold a series of

weekly office hours throughout the year to answer questions related to the LMS. More detailed information will be provided in the coming weeks.

[Back to Top](#)

New Policy for ACCESS Online Group Sizes

The forthcoming *2023–24 Procedures Manual* (available on Oct. 2) includes the following change for grades 1–12 ACCESS Online group sizes. MDE requires districts to follow WIDA’s recommendations for group sizes for Writing (no more than 15 students) and Speaking (no more than 5 students). This change is due to test security and increased incidents of plagiarism.

While WIDA recommends smaller group sizes for Listening and Reading ACCESS Online grades 1–12 administrations (no more than 15 students), MDE allows larger group sizes with appropriate monitoring and consideration given for the best interest of students. For ACCESS Listening and Reading and MCA, all efforts should be made to have at least one Test Administrator/Test Monitor for every 30 students.

MDE understands that the new policy may raise questions and create logistical challenges for districts, but these changes are being implemented with the best interests of our students in mind. Minnesota, along with many other states in the WIDA consortium, has experienced increased incidents of plagiarism on the ACCESS Online Writing and Speaking tests. Plagiarism has a significant impact on our students, teachers, and the overall integrity of the assessments.

[Back to Top](#)

Updated District Test Security Procedure

Each year, districts are required to have a district test security procedure in place addressing how test security procedures will be implemented for all statewide assessments. Districts may create their own procedure or use the template available on the [Policies and Procedures](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website. The template has been updated for this year to include the new requirement for ACCESS Online group sizes; this change is described in the *New Policy of ACCESS Online Group Sizes* article above and will be in the forthcoming *2023–24 Procedures Manual*. In addition, the template has been updated with minor wording and formatting changes for consistency with the *Procedures Manual*.

The MDE Test Security and Data Integrity (TSDI) team will select a sampling of districts and review their district test security procedures beginning in October. The TSDI team will then provide feedback and may recommend changes and/or require action. Districts are randomly selected, and DACs at selected districts will be contacted in mid-October with a request for a copy of their district test security procedure. Even if your district is not contacted for an MDE review, ensure your district test security procedure is in place before testing begins for 2023–24.

[Back to Top](#)

2023–24 WIDA Self-Paced Workshops Now Available

All Minnesota educators with a WIDA Secure Portal account have access to the following Self-Paced Workshops:

- Developing Language for Learning in Mathematics
- Engaging Multilingual Learners in Science: Making Sense of Phenomena
- Exploring the WIDA PreK–3 Essential Actions (NEW)
- Home Languages in the Classroom
- Making Languages Visible in the Classroom
- Newcomers: Promoting Success through Strengthening Practice (NEW)
- Reframing Education for Long-term English Learners
- Social Studies: Engaging Multilingual Learners through Inquiry
- WIDA ELD Standards Framework: A Collaborative Approach

Learn more on the WIDA [eLearning](#) webpage or get started by logging into the WIDA Secure Portal. Select a course via the Professional Learning header, then select Course Details, and then select Enroll Now. Contact the WIDA Client Services Center at (866) 276-7735 or help@wida.us with any questions.

[Back to Top](#)

New DAC Orientation

In October, MDE and Pearson will present the New DAC Orientation, which will provide an overview of the various roles and responsibilities of a District Assessment Coordinator (DAC), the statewide assessments administered in Minnesota, relevant MDE and WIDA systems, available resources, and training opportunities. Pearson will provide information on their systems and available resources. While this training is specifically designed for new DACs, experienced DACs are also welcome to attend.

MDE is offering this training in three formats: an all-day in-person training event in Northeast Minneapolis, a three-part series of live virtual trainings spread over three days, and pre-recorded trainings that will be posted in the Learning Management System (LMS). MDE recommends that DACs attend either the in-person or virtual sessions, if possible, as they will include opportunities to collaborate with other DACs from across the state.

Prerequisites: To prepare for the orientation, new DACs are encouraged to review the *New District Assessment Coordinators: Getting Access* document under the District Assessment Coordinator Resources expandable header on the [District Resources](#) page on the MDE Statewide Testing website.

Registration links are in the following table. 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.

FORMAT	DATE AND TIME	REGISTRATION LINK
In-Person	<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, Oct. 3 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Delta Hotels by Marriott Minneapolis Northeast Minneapolis Ballroom 1330 Industrial Boulevard Northeast Minneapolis, MN 55413</p>	Register for In-Person Training
Virtual (must attend all three sessions)	<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1: Monday, Oct. 9 9–11 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Session 2: Tuesday, Oct. 10 9–11 a.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Session 3: Wednesday, Oct. 11 9–11 a.m.</p>	Register for Virtual Trainings

[Back to Top](#)

Service Available for Spring 2024: Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors

For the spring 2024 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 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 this Friday, Sept. 15.**

As of this morning, the following vendors have agreed to participate in 2023–24:

- JMC, Inc. (JMC)
- cmERDC (Viewpoint)
- Sourcewell (formerly Sourcewell Technology)
- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEDGE)

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

- Renaissance (formerly Illuminate Education)
- EduPoint (Synergy)

- Infinite Campus (Campus)
- PowerSchool/Unified Insights
- Skyward, Inc. (Web School)
- Tyler Technologies (Schoolmaster)
- Region 1
- Mach B
- Panorama Education

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.

If your district is interested, consider contacting your SIS or data warehouse vendor to encourage them to participate. If your SIS or data warehouse vendor is not listed above, you can request that they contact Pearson for more information at 888-817-8659 or [submit a help desk request online](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Reimbursements for College Entrance Exams

MDE issued reimbursements to districts based on the requests entered by the Sept. 8 deadline in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system. The payment is identified with “ACT/SAT REIM,” followed by the date (2023-09-13), and a unique number (e.g., N0000039).

[Back to Top](#)

Odds and Ends

Minnesota Report Card Maintenance

The Minnesota Report Card will be down for maintenance from Sept. 20 at 8 a.m. to Sept. 21 at 8 a.m.

[Back to Top](#)

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.