Assessment Update

Minnesota Department of Education

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- Deadline This Friday: Reimbursement Requests - Deadline This Friday for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Requests - District Assessment Coordinator Trainings and Q&A Sessions (2023–24) 2023–24 ACCESS Manuals and Redesigned Training Courses Available Now - Student Assessment History Report Availability - Mathematics MCA-IV Test Specifications Public Review (Repeat) - Odds and Ends	*Sept. 6:* View Benchmark Reports in PearsonAccess Next *Sept. 8:* Last day to request reimbursement for college entrance exams (ACT or SAT)

Deadline This Friday: Reimbursement Requests

Districts must enter requests for reimbursements for college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system for eligible students **no later than this Friday, Sept. 8**. Reimbursements will be sent by the end of September.

After submitting reimbursement requests, the next step is to confirm expected records using the reimbursement reports, which are refreshed each morning. The *Claimed Student Detail Report* shows the records that will be reimbursed and provides the reason for any record that will not be reimbursed. The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the total reimbursement amount.

For additional information, use the *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide* and MDE Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) Training (available in the Training Management System on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars).

Deadline This Friday for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Requests

The deadline to request a scoring appeal, transcription request, or test booklet search for spring 2023 ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS is this **Friday, Sept. 8**.

- Scoring appeals may be requested for either the Writing (paper or online) or Speaking (online only) domains of the grades 1–12 ACCESS when there is a concern that a student's test may have been scored incorrectly. DACs must email mde.testing@state.mn.us with the student's MARSS/SSID number and the rationale for the score appeal.

- Transcription requests may be submitted if there is concern that a student or Test Administrator did not use a Number 2 pencil or did not fill in the bubble or answer area to completion for paper test materials.

- Test booklet searches may be requested when student's score was not included results and it is suspected that a completed test booklet 1) had a district/school label but no student information bubbled, 2) bubbled student information but no district/school label, or 3) a Do Not Score Label applied.

More detail, including possible costs, are described in Chapter 10 of the *Procedures Manual* starting on page 224.

District Assessment Coordinator Trainings and Q&A Sessions (2023–24)

The *District Assessment Coordinator Trainings and Q&A Sessions* has been posted on the District Resources page of the MDE website (under the District Assessment Coordinator Resources expandable heading) and is now available for planning purposes. This document provides dates and times for MDE trainings and Q&A sessions for DACs.

For the 2023–24 year, MDE will be offering a combination of in-person and virtual training sessions, with some trainings only offered virtually. All DACs, new and experienced, are invited and welcome to attend all events; however, some of the events are designed to support new DACs in their role. Detailed information, links to prerequisites, and registration information will be provided prior to the event in the weekly *Assessment Update*. In addition, information about WIDA/Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) and Pearson trainings will be provided in the *Assessment Update*.

2023–24 ACCESS Manuals and Redesigned Training Courses Available Now

The ACCESS Test Administrator Manual, District and School Test Coordinator Manual, and Test Administrator Essentials have been updated for the 2023–24 testing year and are available in the WIDA Secure Portal (login required) under Resources.

- New Test Administrators and new District and School Assessment Coordinators should read through the sections of the manual relevant to their role in testing.

- Experienced Test Administrators and District and School Assessment Coordinators should read the updates in the "New for the 2023-2024 School Year" section, and review other sections as needed.

- All WIDA Alternate ACCESS test administrators should read part 2, section 7 of the *Test Administrator Manual* in its entirety to become familiar with the updated operational assessment.

WIDA's updated ACCESS training courses are also available now, including the Online ACCESS for ELLs: Administration, Paper ACCESS for ELLs: Administration, and Alternate ACCESS: Administration and Scoring. These training courses can be found on the WIDA Secure Portal under Assessment Training. To learn more about the training courses and other assessment updates, read What to know: WIDA assessments in 2023-24 school year.

Student Assessment History Report Availability

If your district is not included in the drop-down menu of the Student Assessment History Report, it means that enrollment data has yet to be submitted by your district for the 2023–24 school year. DACs must work with their district MARSS Coordinator to find out when enrollment data will be submitted.

Mathematics MCA-IV Test Specifications Public Review (Repeat)

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 Sunday, 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.

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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.

Benchmark Reports Now Available

The 2022–23 MCA Benchmark Reports are available today, Sept. 6, in PearsonAccess Next under Reports > Published Reports for DAC and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles [login required]. Refer to last week's *Assessment Update* for more information and resources.

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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

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