

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JANUARY 26, 2022

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution of ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Duplicate Student Records • MDE Employment Opportunity: English Language Assessment Specialist • ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS • Preparing for MTAS Administration • SIS and Data Warehouse Preliminary Data Extracts • Summer 2022 MCA and Alternate MCA Review Committees • Updated Proctor Cache Recommendations for Online MCA (Repeat) • Upcoming Opportunity • Tech Update 	<p>Jan. 31–March 25: ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS testing window</p>

Resolution of ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Duplicate Student Records

As previously communicated, it was brought to MDE’s attention that duplicate student records with incorrect MARSS numbers were generated in WIDA AMS when MDE submitted precode files to DRC. MDE has identified the cause of the issue and will document the situation to prevent the issue from occurring in the future.

MDE has received a file from DRC identifying the duplicate records and communicated the information to affected districts. If your District Assessment Coordinator(s) did not receive an emailed list of students from MDE on Monday, Jan. 23 or Tuesday, Jan. 24, your district did not have any duplicate ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS records.

Please contact mde.testing@state.mn.us with any questions.

MDE Employment Opportunity: English Language Assessment Specialist

The Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment division is currently seeking an English language assessment specialist to join the Program Management team.

Key responsibilities of the English language assessment specialist include:

- Serving EL students as the EL content expert in relation to English Language Proficiency Accountability Assessments (ELPAA) and Standards Based Accountability Assessments (SBAA);
- Directing, coordinating, and monitoring the administration and participation of English learners on ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs;
- Collaborating in the development of testing materials, training, and documentation to increase understanding and adherence to Minnesota assessment programs and standardized statewide testing (MCA, MTAS, ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS) in terms of English learner participation.

If you are interested (or know someone who may be interested) in a new and challenging opportunity, consult the complete position description and application instructions on the [State of Minnesota Careers](#) website and **apply by Feb. 10**. The Job ID is 52200.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

February ACCESS for ELLs Webinar

WIDA and DRC will host a webinar on Monitoring Completion for online ACCESS on Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 1–2p.m. This webinar will provide information on student status reports, daily cumulative student status reports, and online testing statistics.

There is no need to register for this webinar. [Join the During Testing: Monitoring Completion for Test Coordinators – ACCESS Online](#).

Page Missing from the Print Version of the ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual (Repeat)

The print copy of the *ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual* has an incomplete version of the WIDA Writing Rubric Pre-K – Kindergarten, which is located in the appendix. When scoring the Kindergarten ACCESS Writing test, test administrators should either refer to the online version of *the ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual*, located in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#), or the standalone [WIDA Writing Rubric Pre-K – Kindergarten](#). A link

to this resource may also be found in the WIDA Secure Portal *Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring* training course.

Administering ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Screener on iPad Devices.

Please refer to the [Tech Update](#) section below for information on using iPad devices with OS 14.x or higher to administer ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Screener.

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Preparing for MTAS Administration

MTAS User Guides and Administration Resources

The *MTAS Task Administration Manual*, *Learner Characteristics Inventory*, and *Data Collection Form* are available on the [User Guides](#) page on the PearsonAccess Next website. The *MTAS Data Entry User Guide* will be posted in early February.

MTAS Trainings

The MTAS Test Administrator training courses (required for both new and experienced Test Administrators) are available on the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the MTAS Test Administrator tab. The *Entering MTAS Data in PearsonAccess Next* will be posted on Friday, Feb. 4 on the Other Trainings tab under District Assigned Trainings.

Reading MTAS: Symbol Format Presentation Pages and Response Option Cards

Starting in spring 2023, symbolated materials for Reading MTAS will no longer be available. If you have a student who uses these materials, you will want to discuss how reading will be administered and any adaptations needed with the IEP team in preparation for the 2023 MTAS administration.

For spring 2022, if a student uses symbolated materials during instruction, the symbol format Presentation Pages and Response Option Cards may still be ordered by the District or School Assessment Coordinator during additional orders. These materials are ordered and packaged together as a kit. To see examples of the symbol format, refer to the [MTAS Item Samplers page](#).

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SIS and Data Warehouse Preliminary Data Extracts

For the spring 2022 test administration, Student Information System (SIS) and data warehouse vendors have the opportunity to receive regularly scheduled extracts of preliminary test result data for the MCA and MTAS from Pearson during the testing window, and/or receive final MCA and MTAS data from MDE. This allows vendors to load data directly into their system for districts who enter into a data-sharing agreement with their associated vendor and MDE.

The following is a list of vendors that have entered into an agreement with Pearson and MDE to participate in the data extracts:

- cmERDC (Viewpoint)
- Illuminate Education (eduCLIMBER, IO Education, SchoolCity)
- JMC Inc (JMC)
- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEDGE)
- Sourcewell Technology
- Powerschool/Hoonuit

A data-sharing agreement is required between the district and the SIS or data warehouse vendor and filed with MDE. If your SIS or Data Warehouse vendor is participating, they will request your district to complete a Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) and must submit it to MDE by Jan. 31. The vendor will provide the agreement to the districts.

The data-sharing agreement includes the option of receiving preliminary data, final data, or both. A separate data-sharing agreement is needed if a district has different vendors for preliminary and final data. If you have any questions about whether your vendor is participating or why they are not participating, contact your vendor directly.

Authorizing SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors in PearsonAccess Next

Districts will be able to indicate the vendor(s) that will receive preliminary data extracts for spring 2022 in PearsonAccess Next starting on Friday, Feb. 4. Districts must select the vendor(s) by school in PearsonAccess Next, and they must have a signed data-sharing agreement with their participating vendor(s). Note: District Assessment Coordinators must indicate the vendor(s) each year to receive preliminary data from Pearson, even if they participated in this process in a previous test administration.

Districts are able to select multiple vendors as long as each vendor has sent MDE the signed data-sharing agreement with your district.

For more information about how to select vendor(s), districts may use the *Selecting Student Information System (SIS)/Data Warehouse Vendor Quick Guide*, which will be available in February directly from your SIS or Data Warehouse vendor.

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Summer 2022 MCA and Alternate MCA Review Committees

Every year, through Educator and Community Review Committees, Minnesota educators and community members across the state bring invaluable classroom experience, perspectives from teaching diverse students, and engagement with Minnesota Academic Standards to the test development process. This committee

participation ensures that the content and question type align closely with best practices in classroom instruction. Each committee is a separate entity that meets for two to four days. When the committee completes their specific review task, a new committee is formed for the next task in the test development process.

As MDE starts to prepare invitations for virtual Educator Review Committees this summer, please encourage your district's math, reading, science, English learner, and special education staff to consider [registering in order to be considered for one of these future meetings](#). Share the flyers for MCA and Alternate MCA Educator Review Committees posted on the [Educator Review Committee](#) page of the MDE website with the educators in your district to provide more information on these committees.

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Updated Proctor Cache Recommendations for Online MCA (Repeat)

Please refer to the [Tech Update](#) section below for information on proctor cache recommendations for online MCA testing.

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Upcoming Opportunity

PearsonAccess Next Training: New DACs (1–2 years)

Pearson will provide a comprehensive overview of PearsonAccess Next for first and second year District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) on Feb. 8 from 1–3 p.m. [Select this link to join the Feb. 8 PearsonAccess Next: New DACs \(1-2 years\) Training](#) (passcode: PearsonAcc).

For MCA, the training will focus on viewing student data, viewing accommodations and linguistic supports, creating and managing test sessions, printing student testing tickets and session rosters, resuming student tests, and indicating test codes. For MTAS, the training will cover assigning teachers to student tests, entering LCI and student scores, indicating test codes, and score entry status reports.

This training will be recorded and posted to the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on Friday, Feb. 18 (on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under Pearson Recorded Webinars).

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Tech Update

Administering ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Screener on iPad Devices

If you are using iPad devices with OS level 14.x or higher to administer ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA Screener Online testing, you will need to manually enable Cross-Website Tracking on each iPad testing device. This feature must be enabled due to an enhanced privacy feature, Intelligent Tracking Prevention (ITP), released by Apple.

If the iPad device does not have the Cross-Website Tracking feature enabled, student testing in DRC INSIGHT will be interrupted by Content Retrieval Errors. In this case, student testing cannot resume until the feature is enabled.

To manually enable Cross-Website Tracking, perform the following steps on each iPad:

1. Navigate to **Settings**.
2. Click **DRC INSIGHT Online Assessments**.
3. Toggle **Allow Cross-Website Tracking** to on.

Refer to the *Technology User Guide*, located on [WIDA AMS](#) for further information, as needed. (No log in required. In the second paragraph under the first heading, select “click here (login not required)” > on the Training Materials page, click the Show Documents button to display all documents > from the list of documents, locate the *Technology User Guide*. Please contact DRC Customer Support at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com or (855) 787-9615 with any questions.

Updated Proctor Cache Recommendations for Online MCA (Repeat)

MDE and Pearson no longer recommend proctor caching for online MCA testing. Online testing requires a continuous connection between the student testing device and Pearson servers to send and receive test items, thus limiting the benefit of caching test content. Data from spring 2021 testing showed item load time was nearly identical for cached and non-cached tests. In addition, continuous improvements to district and school technology infrastructures have decreased the need for proctor caching. Refer to the [Infrastructure Readiness Checklist](#) for steps to setup testing without proctor caching. All steps to utilize proctor caching have been moved to Appendix A of the document.

If you have used proctor caching in the past, have concerns about testing without proctor cache, or want to discuss testing without proctor cache, please schedule a [Technology Office Hours](#) virtual session to speak one-on-one with a Pearson Field Engineering Specialist.

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