

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—OCTOBER 21, 2020

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DAC Q&A Webinar Registration

MDE will host the first New DAC Q&A Webinar of the 2020–21 school year on Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 2–3 p.m. This webinar will focus on the information covered in the New DAC modules. [Register for the October Q&A Webinar](#). Details for joining the webinar are provided once participants register.

To prepare for the webinar, please review the following modules in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#); they are available on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under the New DAC Modules category. Note: These are the same modules that were recommended for viewing ahead of the New DAC Orientation.

- *Minnesota Assessments Overview* (optional for DACs who attended the New DAC Orientation)
- *Understanding Training Requirements*
- *Scheduling Testing*
- *Testing Policies and Procedures*

MDE uses questions from new DACs to prepare for the webinar. If possible, please [submit any questions](#) you have from the New DAC modules to MDE prior to the webinar in order to help with the organization and structure of the webinar.

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Open Positions on State Assessments Technology Work Group (SATWG)

MDE's Statewide Student Assessment and Data Analytics division is looking for district technology staff or DACs to fill open positions for the State Assessments Technology Work Group (SATWG). Members of SATWG help test software releases and provide feedback to MDE and service providers before, during, and after online test administrations in order to help achieve successful administration of online assessments.

Members include district technology coordinators, district technology staff, and DACs. Committee members serve a two-year term. The committee meets as needed via conference call or in person. Please contact andrea.hansen.bishop@state.mn.us for more information or to apply to be a work group member.

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Day with DACs Recording

The two morning activities during the Day with DACs webinar (i.e., Jennifer Dugan's "State of the Statewide Assessments" and the panel conversation/Q&A) were recorded, and will be posted to the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on Friday, Oct. 23. They will be posted on the District Assessment Coordinator tab, under the MDE Recorded Webinars category.

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Assessment Life Cycle Modules Now Posted on Testing 1, 2, 3

As announced in the [Sept. 23 Assessment Update](#), the Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Course is available in the Training Management System (TMS) on the Assessment Literacy tab. To broaden the audience, the same modules have now been posted throughout the Testing 1, 2, 3 site to increase educator understanding about Minnesota Assessments and promote the development of teacher assessment literacy skills.

The course modules can be viewed on Testing 1, 2, 3 on the following pages:

- [Module 1: Minnesota Assessments Overview](#) (Testing 123 > Assess > Statewide Assessments)
- [Module 2: MCA Achievement Level Descriptors & Standard Setting Process](#) (Testing 123 > Plan and Teach > Success Criteria)
- [Module 3: Test Development](#) (Testing 123 > Assess > Statewide Assessments > [under the MCA Development Process expandable tab])
- [Module 4: Test Construction](#) (Testing 123 > Plan and Teach > MCA Test Structure)
- [Module 5: Scoring and Reporting](#) (Testing 123 > Analyze > Access Statewide Assessment Data)
- [Module 6: Test Specifications](#) (Testing 123 > Plan and Teach > MCA Content Resources)

For more information, please contact testing123@state.mn.us with additional questions.

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Upcoming Opportunities

WIDA Webinar: Test Scheduling

WIDA will host the *Test Scheduling* webinar on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 1–2 p.m. [Join the Test Scheduling webinar on Oct. 22](#). The webinar is designed for DACs and Test Administrators and will address the following topics:

- Scheduling paper and online testing
- Grouping students
- Timing of tests
- Scheduling practice tests
- Scheduling a room

For a list of all of WIDA’s planned webinars, the *2020-21 ACCESS and Screener Webinar Calendar* document is available on the [ACCESS Webinars page](#), which includes registration links. WIDA also posts recordings of their webinars on the ACCESS Webinars page for those who are unable to attend the live webinars.

Opportunity for ACCESS Review

WIDA invites Minnesota educators to participate in their upcoming ACCESS review events. Note that these events are virtual, so no travel is necessary. DACs, please share this information with applicable educators in your district.

If educators are interested in being a part of one of the events listed below, [WIDA asks that they complete this brief survey](#) by Friday, Oct. 23, to indicate their interest. Participants will be selected based on experience, expertise, representation of regions, and diversity. If selected, WIDA will contact participants directly with event details and next steps.

See the [Oct. 7 Assessment Update](#) for more detailed information.

Teaching and Learning Led by Evidence Webinar Series

This series of webinars is for any teacher or school leader who wants to center instruction on evidence of student learning. Kendra Olsen, MDE’s Outreach Specialist in Statewide Student Assessment and Data Analytics, will facilitate each session to engage teachers and school leaders in making sense of assessment and data, so that it can be used to build trust and collaboration and develop fluency in decision making to help close gaps in instruction and learning.

Registration is required for each WebEx session, using the links in the table below. Participants will earn one continuing education unit (CEU) for each session. All sessions will be recorded and posted for future reference. Please contact Kendra at kendra.olsen@state.mn.us with any questions.

Note: The first three sessions have already taken place. Staff can join any session, and if someone did not attend the first three sessions, they are still encouraged to attend any session of interest.

SESSION #	DATE AND TIME	TOPIC AND DETAILS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES
4	Thursday, Oct. 22, 4–5 p.m.	Assessment <i>for</i> Learning – How do we know what our students really know? Register for Session 4	Participants will be able to: Integrate simple, frequent “checks for understanding” into existing instructional plans that elicit an accurate picture of the depth of what students know Improve rigor and alignment of formative assessment to the standards Define success criteria for students
5	Thursday, Nov. 12, 4–5 p.m.	Assessment <i>of</i> Learning – Summative Assessments for your Classroom Register for Session 5	Participants will be able to: Improve alignment of classroom assessments to standards Increase the rigor of questions to eliminate student misconceptions Ensure assessments measure the extent students have mastered the standards for an instructional unit

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Tech Update

Open Positions on State Assessments Technology Work Group (SATWG)

Note: This article is identical to the one included above. It is repeated here specifically for technology staff.

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STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS

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.