

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—NOVEMBER 24, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December New DAC Q&A: Registration • Virtual DAC Test Administration Training: Registration • MDE Employment Opportunity: Training Visual Graphics Assessment Specialist • COMPASS Data and Assessment Literacy Webinars • Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data • Odds & Ends • Upcoming Opportunities 	<p>Nov. 29–Dec. 17: Indicate the number of online testers for grades 1–12, and order test materials during Materials Ordering in WIDA Assessment Management System (AMS)</p> <p>Nov. 29: Pretest Editing opens in Test WES</p>

December New DAC Q&A: Registration

The December MDE Q&A webinar for New DACs will focus on preparing for test administration and will provide context and background information for New DACs in preparation for the Test Administration Training the following week. The Q&A webinar will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 7, from 2–3 pm. [Register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar](#). Experienced DACs are also welcome to attend.

The prerequisites for this webinar are Chapters 6 and 7 of the [Procedures Manual](#). MDE uses questions from new DACs to prepare for the webinar. After reading the chapters, [submit questions for the New DAC Q&A Webinar](#).

Note: Q&A webinars are intended to provide a conversational setting where new DACs can receive support on existing resources and upcoming tasks. Q&A webinars are not recorded as they are not trainings and do not provide any new content, as all information is available in the prerequisites.

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Virtual DAC Test Administration Training: Registration

MDE will provide the DAC Test Administration Training virtually on Tuesday, Dec. 14, from 9–11 a.m. MDE will record the session for DACs who are unable to join the live webinar.

The Test Administration Training is required for all DACs in order to prepare for spring testing; all DACs must attend the MDE webinar or listen to the MDE recording. MDE will focus on new and clarified information from the [Procedures Manual](#) for the 2021–22 school year. The recorded training will be available on the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on Friday afternoon, Dec. 17 (on the Districts Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars).

[Register for the Dec. 14 DAC Test Administration Training](#). Details for joining the webinar will be provided once participants register, and the presentation handout will be provided on [MDE & Pearson DAC Trainings](#) site closer to the training. Contact mde.testing@state.mn.us to request a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event. Note: MDE requires a two-week advance notice to provide accommodations and 48-hour notice to cancel the request.

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MDE Employment Opportunity: Training Visual Graphics Assessment Specialist

The *Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment* division is currently seeking a training visual graphics assessment specialist to join the Program Management team.

Key responsibilities of the training visual graphics assessment specialist include:

- Designing and implementing trainings, training materials, and visual resources to accurately and concisely communicate legislative requirements, policies, procedures, the purpose of the Minnesota Standards-Based Accountability Assessments (MCA and MTAS) and English Language Proficiency Accountability Assessments (ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS), and division initiatives.
- Gathering feedback from stakeholders to ensure understanding and adherence to Minnesota statewide testing policies and procedures and to inform legislative requests.
- Building relationships and actively collaborating with division and agency staff to develop trainings, training materials, resources, and messaging.

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. The Job ID is 50603.

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COMPASS Data and Assessment Literacy Webinars

Next week, MDE’s COMPASS team will be hosting two Data and Assessment Literacy webinars. We hope you can join on either [Nov. 30 from 4–6 p.m. on Zoom](#), or [Dec. 9 from 9:30–11:30 a.m. in Webex](#). During these webinars, an overview of the data and assessment literacy subcomponents in the MnMTSS framework will be provided, including future topics and resources about how to use meaningful evidence of student learning to guide instruction and improve practices. This will provide the groundwork for future COMPASS sessions specific to literacy, math, and school climate and mental health. The same information will be presented at both webinars.

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Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data

The *Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data* has been updated on the [District Resources](#) page under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading. The updates include information and references to using 2021 results in context due to the extenuating circumstances of last year’s test administrations.

The guide provides introductory information about ACCESS, the types of data provided, where to access the data, what typical performance over time looks like, and how to interpret and use data in meaningful and appropriate ways. The guide also provides guidance for systematically exploring the assessment results and the Progress Toward English Language Proficiency indicator used in the North Star Accountability System, and suggestions and considerations for visually presenting the data.

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Odds & Ends

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, MDE will be closed tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26.

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Upcoming Opportunities

Pretest Editing New DAC Q&A

The next New DAC Q&A webinar is Tuesday, Nov. 30, from 2–3 p.m. It will focus on Pretest Editing. [Register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar](#). Details for joining the webinar are provided once participants register. Experienced DACs are also welcome to attend.

The prerequisites for this webinar are:

- Chapter 4 of the [Procedures Manual](#)

- The Pretest Editing recorded online training, which is available in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) (on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars).

MDE uses questions from new DACs to prepare for the webinar. After reading the chapters, [submit questions for the New DAC Q&A webinar](#).

Note: Q&A webinars are intended to provide a conversational setting where new DACs can receive support on existing resources and upcoming tasks. Q&A webinars are not recorded as they are not trainings and do not provide any new content, as all information is available in the prerequisites.

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Minnesota Department of Education

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