

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—NOVEMBER 4, 2020

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New DAC Q&A: Registration Technology Readiness Upcoming WIDA Webinars Odds and Ends Upcoming Opportunities Tech Update 	<p>Nov. 23–Dec. 11: In WIDA AMS, districts indicate the number of online testers taking ACCESS in grades 1–12, and order test materials for paper ACCESS materials</p> <p>Nov. 30: Pretest Editing opens in Test WES</p>

New DAC Q&A: Registration

The next New DAC Q&A webinar is Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 2–3 p.m. Experienced DACs are welcome to attend as well. [Register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar](#). Details for joining the webinar are provided once participants register.

The prerequisites for this webinar are the following chapters of the [Procedures Manual](#):

- Chapter 2: Overview of Statewide Assessments
- Chapter 3: Roles and Responsibilities for Testing
- Chapter 5: Responsible and Ethical Practices to Maintain Test Security and Test Score Integrity

After reading the chapters, [submit questions for the New DAC Q&A webinar](#). MDE will answer these questions during the webinar.

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Technology Readiness

As preparations are made for statewide assessments this year, districts must ensure they have the technology ready to administer required online tests. District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) must make necessary technology preparations and be familiar with the requirements and processes for each test. Information for

DTCs will continue to be included in the Tech Update section of *Assessment Updates* as relevant information is available. This week's Tech Update includes information about technology resources available for review.

Note: MDE sends the *Assessment Update* to all DTCs indicated in the [MDE-ORG system](#); an archive of the *Assessment Update* can be found on [PearsonAccess Next](#).

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Webinar: Science MCA-IV and Constructed-Response Question Types

The Science MCA-IV, which is based on the 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science, will first be administered in spring 2024. To prepare for this new assessment, MDE is investigating whether constructed response (open-ended) question types are appropriate for assessing students on these standards. This webinar will provide the reasons why we are exploring constructed response questions. We will also give an overview of the timeline for including them on the MCA-IV, as well as the steps needed to determine the appropriateness of these questions on the new assessments.

The same presentation will be available at two different times:

- [Register for Nov. 18 Science MCA-IV webinar](#); this webinar is scheduled for 3–3:30.
- [Register for Dec. 1 Science MCA-IV webinar](#); this webinar is scheduled for 4–4:30.

Please share these webinar links with district staff who may be interested in assessment of the science standards and this spring's field testing during the operational administration.

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Upcoming WIDA Webinars

WIDA Webinar: Managing Students in WIDA AMS

WIDA will host the *Managing Students in WIDA AMS* webinar on Thursday, Nov. 12, from 1–2 p.m. [Join the *Managing Students in WIDA AMS* webinar on Nov. 12](#). The webinar is designed for Test [Coordinators](#) and will provide how-to information on student demographic information and accommodations.

WIDA Webinar: Managing Students in WIDA AMS

WIDA will host the *Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators* webinar on Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 1–2 p.m. [Join the *Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators WIDA AMS* webinar on Nov. 17](#). The webinar is designed for Test Administrators and will provide an overview of Kindergarten ACCESS, including the following topics:

- Scheduling

- Basics of administration
- Review of training resources

WIDA Webinar Schedule

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

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Odds and Ends

MDE and the Pearson help desk will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans Day. Because of this closure, next week's *Assessment Update* will be sent on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

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Upcoming Opportunities

Teaching and Learning Led by Evidence Webinar Series

There is one remaining session in the webinar series on classroom assessments. Participants earn one continuing education unit (CEU) for each session, and registration is required (see the link in the table below). If an individual has not attended any previous sessions, they are still encouraged to attend this session if it is of interest. Please contact Kendra at kendra.olsen@state.mn.us with any questions.

The series is scheduled to resume again in January with additional webinars designed for school leaders or teachers who want to continue sharpening their assessment and data literacy skills. Future topics in the series will focus on areas related to statewide assessments, including how to use publicly available data from MDE, interpreting and appropriately using MCA scores, and how the MCA is developed.

Note: Recordings of the previous webinars and additional information about upcoming webinars are now available on the [Request Professional Development page of Testing 1, 2, 3](#).

SESSION #	DATE AND TIME	TOPIC AND DETAILS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES
5	Thursday, Nov. 12, 4–5 p.m.	Assessment of Learning – Summative Assessments for your Classroom Register for Session 5	Participants will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Key Technology Information for ACCESS

- **Testing Window:** Jan. 25–March 19
- **Service Provider and Website:** Data Recognition Corporation (DRC); wida-ams.us
- **System Requirements:** [Technology Requirements for WIDA assessments](#)
- **Customer Support:** 855-787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com
- **Key Technology Resources:** *Technology User Guide*, *Technology Readiness Checklist for WIDA Online Assessments*, *WIDA AMS User Guide*, and other related resources are available in WIDA AMS. In order to access technical resources, log in to [WIDA AMS](#) > My Applications > General Information > Documents; leave filters at All to see the resources.
- **Training Opportunities:** Live and recorded webinars are included in the *2020–21 Q&A Webinar Schedule for Technology Coordinators* document, which is included in the list of technology resources in WIDA AMS, referenced in the previous bullet.

Key Technology Information for MCA

- **Testing Window:** Reading/Mathematics MCA from March 8–May 7; Science MCA from March 8–May 14
- **Service Provider and Website:** Pearson; minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com
- **System Requirements:** [TestNav system requirements for MCA administration](#)
- **Customer Support:** 888-817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#)

- **Key Technology Resources:** The *Infrastructure Readiness Checklist* (to be posted in early December) and other information and resources are on [Pearson’s Technology page](#).
- **Training Opportunities:** Webinars for new and experienced Technology Coordinators will be provided in December; topics covered in each training are included in the *Upcoming Technology Trainings 2020–21* document available under Additional Technology Resources on the [Technology page](#). The trainings will be recorded and posted in the Training Management System in PearsonAccess Next. See table below for more information about the *Technology Coordinator Trainings*.

DATE	TRAINING AND WEBINAR LINKS	WEBINAR DETAILS
Wednesday, Dec. 9 9–10 a.m.	<i>New Technology Coordinator Training (1–2 years)</i> Join the Dec. 9 webinar for new tech coordinators at 9 a.m.	Call-in phone number: 866-789-9850 Conference code: 547 778 568#
Thursday, Dec. 10 1–2 p.m.	<i>Experienced Technology Coordinator Training (3+ years)</i> Join the Dec. 10 webinar for experienced tech coordinators at 1 p.m.	Call-in phone number: 866-789-9850 Conference code: 423 000 935#

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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

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