

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—DECEMBER 22, 2021

| QUICK LINKS | IMPORTANT DATES |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">January New DAC Q&A: RegistrationPearson DAC Test Administration TrainingStudent Data Privacy ReminderOdds & EndsUpcoming Opportunities | <p>Nov. 29: Pretest Editing open in Test WES</p> |

January New DAC Q&A: Registration

The January MDE Q&A webinar for New DACs will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 11, from 2–3 pm. [Register for the January New DAC Q&A Webinar](#). Details for joining the webinar will be provided once participants register. Experienced DACs are also welcome to attend.

The prerequisites for this webinar are Chapters 8 and 9 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](#).

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Pearson DAC Test Administration Training

Pearson will provide an overview of changes to its systems for all District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) on Jan. 13 from 9–11:30 a.m. [Select this link to join the Jan. 13 Pearson DAC Test Administration Training](#) (passcode: DACTestAd).

The training will focus on changes to PearsonAccess Next, TestNav, the Training Management System, and reporting for the MCA and MTAS 2022 administrations. A recording of the training will be posted to the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on Friday, Jan. 21 (on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under Pearson Recorded Webinars).

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Student Data Privacy Reminder

When contacting MDE or a service provider with a question about a specific student's test or situation, only use the student's MARSS number. For student privacy, **do not send student names in an email or a help desk request**; this applies to screenshots or attachments as well.

If specific student data needs to be sent to MDE, districts can upload information securely using the File Transfer in Test WES.

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Odds & Ends

- Virginie Sanchez, who answers the majority of the phone calls and emails districts have about testing, is out of the office Dec. 20–28. During this time, other assessment staff are answering questions from districts sent to mde.testing@state.mn.us, and you may see a delayed response time.
- MDE is closed on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.
- There will be no *Assessment Update* next week, Dec. 29.

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Upcoming Opportunities

MTAS Administration 2022 and New Science Tasks Informational Meeting

MDE will be hosting an informational meeting in January for MTAS Test Administrators and Special Education staff related to upcoming changes to the MTAS in the spring of 2022. While this information will also be included in the required training materials for MTAS administration, this event will highlight some MTAS test administration changes and show a sample of new science tasks that are included in a portion of the assessment. Test Administrators and other district staff involved in administering the MTAS are encouraged to attend so they are prepared for the changes, are familiar with the new science tasks, and can have their questions answered.

Note: This meeting does not replace the required MTAS Test Administrator trainings that will be available on the Training Management System (TMS) in late January.

Register for one of the MTAS Administration 2022 and New Science Tasks informational meetings below. Both events cover the same information, so please select one date to attend.

- Jan. 13 from 3:30–4:30 p.m. [Register for the Jan. 13 meeting](#)
- Jan. 19 from 10–11 a.m. [Register for the Jan. 19 meeting](#)

Contact mde.testing@state.mn.us to request accommodations to participate in this event. Note: MDE requires a two-week advance notice to provide accommodations and 48-hour notice to cancel the request.

A recording of the informational meeting will be available at a later date, which will be communicated in an upcoming *Assessment Update*.

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ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

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

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