

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—FEBRUARY 3, 2021

| QUICK LINKS | IMPORTANT DATES |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability Addendum to ESSA State Plan • ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Accountability Window • ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Questions: Who to Contact • DRC System Status Webpage • Testing After Hours • DAC Trainings from Pearson • New DAC Q&A: Save the Date • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update | <p>Jan. 25–April 16: ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS testing window</p> <p>Feb. 1–12: ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS accountability window</p> |

Accountability Addendum to ESSA State Plan

In response to an opportunity from the U.S. Department of Education, MDE is submitting an *Addendum to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) Consolidated State Plan due to the COVID-19 National Emergency* to its [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) State Plan](#).

This addendum will allow MDE to make temporary changes to its accountability system to reflect the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on accountability data collection and usability. MDE is also ready to discuss any additional flexibility the U.S. Department of Education might offer.

The one-time addendum proposal is available for public comment Feb. 2–10. The *Cover Letter* and full *Addendum* are available for review on the [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) State Plan](#) page. MDE staff will host the following webinars:

- [District and school administrators webinar](#): Monday, Feb. 8 at 10 a.m.
- [Addendum walk-through for general audience webinar](#): Monday, Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

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ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Accountability Window

The accountability window is the timeframe during which enrolled students are considered for accountability calculations. The accountability window for the English language proficiency accountability assessments (ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS) will remain Feb. 1–12, as originally published in the [Procedures Manual](#).

Students who are indicated as EL in MARSS and are enrolled in your district at any point during the accountability window will be considered when determining accountability calculations, as long as they meet the other accountability enrollment requirements for inclusion (refer to [North Star Business Rules – Support](#) for more information).

However, the student does not need to take the test during the accountability window; testing can occur at any time during the testing window, as scheduled by the district. In addition, if a student enrolled during the accountability window moves out of the district prior to testing, the Not Enrolled (NE) test code is available to indicate during Posttest Editing as needed. More information is available on page 121 of the *Procedures Manual*.

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ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Questions: Who to Contact

DRC

Contact DRC Customer Service at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 for the following questions:

- Additional paper test materials orders
- Session management in WIDA AMS
- Student management in WIDA AMS
- Technology issues

WIDA

Contact WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us or 866-276-7735 for the following questions:

- Preparing students for testing
- Staff training/quizzes
- Test administration manuals

MDE

Contact MDE at mde.testing@state.mn.us for the following questions:

- Accommodations
- Alternate ACCESS decisions

- Creation of a DAC account for WIDA and WIDA AMS
- Minnesota Assessments guidance during COVID-19
- Minnesota test administration policies and procedures
- Misadministrations
- Ordering additional district/school labels
- Regeneration requests
- Scheduling
- Test codes (e.g., EXC-N, ABS, DEC)
- Training requirements

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DRC System Status Webpage

The [DRC System Status webpage](#) provides real-time updates on operations of WIDA AMS and INSIGHT.

Note: Last week's article stated you could subscribe to receive updates, but that is no longer the case as in previous years. As needed, email updates will be sent to all users with a WIDA AMS account even outside of the Minnesota ACCESS testing window.

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Testing After Hours

To give districts and schools the most flexibility for scheduling, districts may request testing times outside of the usual hours when service provider systems can be accessed for online testing or data entry (i.e., times other than weekdays from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. for online testing or 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for data entry). As noted in Chapter 8 of the [Procedures Manual](#), the DAC emails mde.testing@state.mn.us at least two business days in advance and provides the rationale, along with the dates and times of the planned ACCESS or MCA test administrations. Keep in mind that service provider help desks have set customer service hours and may not be available for technical assistance or troubleshooting depending on the time of the test session.

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DAC Trainings from Pearson

Pearson will provide a variety of training options for DACs and any other interested staff in the district. The table below contains the training topics, high-level agendas, dates, and links to join each session on the day of the training. The [Upcoming Pearson Trainings \(2020–21\)](#) document will be updated with the following information and posted by Friday, Feb. 5.

| DATE | TRAINING AND TOPIC | MEETING LINK |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Tuesday, Feb. 9 1–3 p.m.</p> | <p><i>PearsonAccess Next: New DACs (1–2 years)</i> Comprehensive overview of PearsonAccess Next for the MCA and MTAS 2021 administrations. *No registration or password is required.</p> | <p>Select this link to join the webinar on Feb. 9. Call-in phone number: 866-789-9850 Conference code: 863 608 568#</p> |
| <p>Thursday, Feb. 18 9–11:30 a.m.</p> | <p><i>Pearson DAC Test Administration Training</i> Overview of changes to PearsonAccess Next, TestNav, Training Management System, and reporting for the MCA and MTAS 2021 administrations. *Registration required.</p> | <p>Select this link to register for the webinar on Feb. 18. Note: Once registered, a confirmation email with the meeting password and call-in information is sent.</p> |

Note: The *TestNav and Item Samplers: For New DACs and Educators (1–2 years)* training is an additional training that will be recorded and posted to the [Training Management System](#) on Friday, Feb. 19.

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New DAC Q&A: Save the Date

The regularly scheduled Q&A webinars will resume in February, and these sessions are in addition to any office hours for DACs hosted by MDE. The next New DAC Q&A webinar is Tuesday, Feb. 23, from 2–3 p.m. The prerequisites are to review Chapter 9 of the [Procedures Manual](#) (Student Participation and Students in Special Circumstances and Situations) and watch the *Understanding Student Precode* training in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) (on the District Assessment Coordinator tab, under the New DAC Modules category).

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Upcoming Opportunities

Teaching and Learning Led by Evidence: Webinar Series

MDE did a series of webinars about evidence-led teaching and learning in the fall, and we have now scheduled webinars on additional topics based on feedback received from educators. These webinars are for any teacher or school leader who wants to center instruction on evidence of student learning or would like to sharpen their data and assessment skills.

Registration is required for each WebEx session using the links below. Participants will earn one continuing education unit (CEU) for each session. All sessions will be recorded and posted on [Testing 1, 2, 3](#) for future reference.

- **Session 7:** [How can results from Minnesota Assessments be accessed and used by teachers?](#)
Thursday, Feb. 25, 4–5 p.m.
- Participants will gain:
 - An overview of the types of assessment data publicly available and how to access it
 - How to interpret and filter assessment data by student group or grade level using the MN Report Card
 - A comparison of the various public reports that MDE generates of assessment results

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Tech Update

Pearson Technology Coordinator Training

Pearson will provide a training session to support technology staff in preparation for the 2021 MCA administration. This live webinar will provide an overview of technology systems and resources and discuss new information for the 2021 administration. Throughout the training, technology coordinators can ask questions of the Pearson Field Engineering team.

| DATE | TRAINING AND TOPIC | MEETING LINK |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Tuesday, Feb. 16 1–2 p.m. | This training provides an overview of technology systems and resources for technology staff in preparation for the 2021 MCA online test administration. *No registration or password is required. | Select this link to join the webinar on Feb. 16. Call-in phone number: 866-789-9850 Conference code: 629 951 02# |

The *New Technology Coordinator Training (1–2 years)* training and PowerPoint are available to view on the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#). This training provides a high level overview of technology systems and resources tailored towards new technology coordinators. Note: If you do not have a TMS account, enter your email address and register an account. No password is required.

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.