

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—MARCH 23, 2022

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Testing Window Closing • 2021 Graduation Rate Release • TestNav System Requirements Update • Revised Form: Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing • Updated MDE District Assessment Coordinator Webinars and Trainings (2021–22) • Odds and Ends • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update 	<p>March 25: End of the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS testing window</p> <p>April 1: Deadline to ship paper test materials back to DRC</p> <p>Feb. 22–May 3 (noon): Reading and Mathematics MCA, and Reading, Mathematics, and Science MTAS additional test materials ordering window</p> <p>Feb. 22–May 10 (noon): Science MCA additional test materials ordering window</p> <p>March 7–May 6: Reading and Mathematics MCA, and Reading, Mathematics, and Science MTAS testing window</p> <p>March 7–May 13: Science MCA testing window</p>

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Testing Window Closing

This Friday, March 25, is the last day of the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window. All domains of the test must be completed by the end of the school day **this Friday**.

The deadline for shipping all ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS secure test materials back to DRC is next **Friday, April 1**. This date must be followed to ensure that all paper tests can be scanned and scored before data is provided to MDE.

You must contact UPS at 866-857-1501 at least one day before you want a pickup scheduled. Scheduling pickup for the same day will result in UPS asking the school to pay an additional charge. Refer to the Returning Test Materials and Shipping Materials sections (pages 25–27) of the [ACCESS for ELLs District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#) for instructions on returning materials.

Implications of Returning Materials Late

If districts return materials after April 1, DRC will process them as a late return. Paper tests will not be scored before data is provided to MDE, and the following would be unavailable or incomplete for any domain taken on paper (e.g., writing booklets for students in grade 1–5 and all domains in Kindergarten) until late fall 2022:

- Early student-level results (used by EL teams to make decisions about instruction or placement)
- Assessment records for Posttest Editing in Test WES
- Embargoed and final release of data
- Individual Student Reports (ISRs)
- All accountability calculations
- Score appeal, transcription request or test booklet search

Non-Secure Materials

To reduce shipping costs, the following materials can be destroyed: *District and School Test Coordinator Manuals, Test Administrator Manuals, Grades 4–12 Online Test Administrator Scripts*, and school box range sheets.

Preprinted student labels contain student information and must be securely disposed within two business days after the close of the testing window.

Please contact DRC at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 with any questions or concerns about returning test materials. To track the return of secure test materials, districts can use the Return Materials Receipt Report in [WIDA AMS](#) (Log in to WIDA AMS > All Applications > Materials > Return Materials Receipt Report).

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2021 Graduation Rate Release

The public release of 2021 graduation rates will occur at 8 a.m. on **Wednesday, March 30**. Embargoed secure rosters will be available to districts and schools on the morning of Tuesday, March 29. These rosters will include local data only.

Sessions with MDE staff to prepare for the release will be held in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday, March 29. At these sessions, MDE staff will be available to review the calculation of graduation rates, share information about new features of MDE's reports, including the addition of the state definition of American Indian to the Minnesota Report Card's graduation report, and discuss the sharing of local stories to contextualize individual school or district graduation rates. Superintendents, Charter Directors and district/school communications leaders will receive this information tomorrow, but please feel free to share with your leaders in the meantime.

These sessions will be held at:

- [8–9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29](#)
- [3-4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29](#)

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TestNav System Requirements Update

Refer to the [Tech Update](#) section below for important information on updated TestNav System Requirements.

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Revised Form: Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

As part of the regular review process of documentation provided to families, MDE is currently making updates to the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing*. The new version will have a different title: *Statewide Assessments: Parent/Guardian Participation Guide and Refusal Information*. It will be available in early to mid-April to be included in student handbooks for 2022–23. The exact posting date will be communicated in an upcoming *Assessment Update*.

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Updated MDE District Assessment Coordinator Webinars and Trainings (2021–22)

The *MDE District Assessment Coordinator Webinars and Trainings (2021–22)* posted on the [District Resources](#) page of the MDE website (under the District Assessment Coordinator Resources expandable header) has been updated to include a new webinar. The MDE and DAC Coffee Break and Sharing will be held on May 24, from 2–3 p.m. More details about this webinar will be shared in an *Assessment Update* closer to the date.

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Odds and Ends

Minnesota Report Card Planned Outage

The Minnesota Report Card will be unavailable from noon on Tuesday, March 29, through 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 30, for updates related to the Graduation Rate Release. A message will appear when a user tries to access the site letting them know when the site will be available.

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Upcoming Opportunities

COMPASS Webinars

The COMPASS Math team is partnering with [Quantile® Teacher Assistant](#) to provide three free webinars for Minnesota educators. The webinars will demonstrate how to use the Quantile program alongside current mathematics curriculums and how other resources can be connected. Each webinar will have the same content modified with examples for specific grade bands. [Registration for the upcoming COMPASS webinars is required.](#)

- Tuesday, March 29, at 3:45 p.m. (Grades 6–8 examples)
- Tuesday, April 5, at 3:45 p.m. (Grades 9–12 examples)

March New DAC Q&A

The March MDE Q&A webinar for New DACs will be held on Tuesday, March 29, from 2–3 p.m. [Register for the March New DAC Q&A Webinar](#). Details for joining the webinar will be provided once participants register. Experienced DACs are also welcome to attend.

The prerequisite for this webinar is to review Chapter 10 of the [Procedures Manual](#), which is related to after-testing activities for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS. General questions about MCA and MTAS test administration will also be addressed.

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

Invitation to Minnesota Science Teachers

Please share the following information with Science teachers and educators.

MDE invites Science teachers and educators to apply to be part of Building Capacity for Science Assessment: Science MCA-IV Item Writing Workshop in the summer of 2022. The workshop will be 4 1/2 days total, starting with a half-day virtual training on June 24, and followed by virtual meetings on July 11–12 and Aug. 1–2. Approximately 15–20 additional hours may be needed outside of these dates to complete the writing assignments. This summer, the work is focused on writing engaging grade-level phenomena tied to the 2019 Minnesota Science Standards along with generating questions for each phenomenon. MDE hopes that the summer 2022 workshop goals generate creative thinking, engage participants with unique teaching approaches, and build a repository of engaging phenomena for the Science MCA-IV.

Science teachers and educators interested in being part of this year's MCA-IV item writer workshop can express their interest [by entering their contact information online](#) by April 22. Selected writers will receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and compensation for participation in these workshop dates and some independent work to complete two phenomenon-based scenarios with seven questions each. For more information, contact Jim Wood (Jim.Wood@state.mn.us) or Judi Iverson (Judi.Iverson@state.mn.us), MDE Science Assessment Specialists.

MDE encourages any teachers and educators interested in becoming a Science item writer to apply. MDE wants to grow the impact teachers have on our Science MCA-IV assessment and looks forward to engaging with more teachers around the state. Please share this information with colleagues who might be interested in participating.

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Tech Update

TestNav System Requirements Update

The TestNav System Requirements page has been updated with recently added operating system (OS) support. The TestNav System Requirements page can be accessed from the [Technology](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website. Select TestNav 8 Online support in the Additional Technology Resources, and then select Requirements and Guidelines under the Set up and Use TestNav header.

Support has been added for:

- Chrome OS 99

Note: Use only supported operating systems as they appear on the TestNav System Requirements page. Attempting to use an unsupported or beta version of an OS can result in a TestNav error, as well as security issues during high-stakes testing. Pearson tests all beta and newly released OS versions to ensure functionality and security with TestNav before support is added.

For further information, contact the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or submit a [help desk request online](#).

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Minnesota Department of Education

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

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