

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—MAY 17, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCA/MTAS Reporting: What's New • Posttest Editing Starts Next Week • Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS • ACCESS Alternate Composite Calculations • WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT Updates for 2023–24 • Three ACCESS Training Courses Unavailable for Summer 2023 • Community Review Participants Needed • TestNav System Requirements: Review and Prepare for the 2023–24 School Year • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update 	<p>May 22–June 9 <i>Posttest Editing in Test WES</i></p> <p>May 22–June 28 <i>Retrieve early student-level results in Test WES</i></p> <p>June 8 <i>Deadline to update MARSS data for Posttest Editing</i></p>

MCA/MTAS Reporting: What's New

Personalized Individual Student Report (ISR) Videos

Personalized student ISR videos with MCA and MTAS results will be available for 2023 when ISRs become available, providing parents/guardians a dynamic overview of their student's assessment results. The ISR video describes the assessment and the student's performance in each subject taken, as well as their performance related to the school, district, and state averages.

In addition to English, video ISRs may be available with translated audio, if a home language has been specified in student enrollment data, in one of the following languages: Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

ISR videos will be accessed by scanning a personal QR code specific to the student on the ISR. District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and Assessment Administrators (AAs) will also have access to a link to each student's video report through a downloadable file in Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next, which can be provided to families if a device is not available.

State-Defined Race/Ethnicities

MDE is now reporting students using eight state-defined racial and ethnic groups, including the use of the state definition of American Indian and the new Other Indigenous group. Students count as American Indian if they meet the state definition regardless of any other racial or ethnic groups with which they may have identified. The state of Minnesota's definition of American Indian includes any of the original people within what is now the borders of the United States (excluding Hawaii) or Canada who maintain cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition. This is different from the federal definition of American Indian or Alaska Native which includes students whose only racial or ethnic identification is with the original peoples of North, Central, or South America. Within the eight state racial or ethnic groups, the new Other Indigenous group includes students who meet the federal definition of American Indian or Alaska Native but not the state definition of American Indian, which means they identify only with indigenous peoples from Central and South America. These eight state-defined racial and ethnic groups will be included in District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files, Test Results Summary, and public reporting (Minnesota Report Card and Assessment Files).

Printing Student Results Labels

DAC and AA users will have access to a PDF version of the student results labels under Published Reports to download and print, as needed. These labels will be available to all districts at the school-level. Previously, only those districts that selected to receive printed labels would receive them in late August.

Note: All districts that elected to receive printed student results labels by May 11 will receive them in the final reports shipment and will also have access to the PDF in Published Reports.

[Back to Top](#)

Posttest Editing Starts Next Week

Posttest Editing in Test WES will be available May 22–June 9. Posttest Editing is an important window that gives districts the opportunity to update assessment records, correct demographic errors (wrong MARSS/SSID numbers or birth date for example), and enter test codes as needed, with help from the MARSS Coordinator or other staff familiar with the students.

There are only minor updates in Posttest Editing this year, including a new validation for the use of the Special Education Deferred (SPD) test code for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS. Students must have an IEP or 504 Plan in order for that test code to be used on any domain. For more information, refer to the *Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide*, which is posted on the [Test WES](#) page of the MDE website, and the MDE DAC Posttest Editing Training posted on the Training Management System (TMS), which can be accessed from the [Training](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website. To search for all updates when viewing the user guide electronically, do a search on New for 2022–23.

Note: DACs who do not have the “District-User Read-Write” user role for Test WES must reach out to their EDIAM Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) to update their user role. Contact information for the IOwA in each district are available on the [Minnesota Department of Education-Organization Reference Glossary \(MDE-ORG\)](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

Early student-level results for the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will be available starting on May 22 in Test WES. Test WES users will access these early student-level results from the Test WES Dashboard under File Transfer. The *ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Early Student-Level Results* help document, posted on the [Test WES](#) page of the MDE website, provides additional information on the file.

Early results are not final results and can change based on edits made during Posttest Editing. Depending on the district’s policy, student-level data can be shared with teachers, students, and parents/guardians for instructional and informational purposes with the understanding that the scores are preliminary.

Please note that the early results file is a static file and will not update as changes are made in Posttest Editing.

[Back to Top](#)

ACCESS Alternate Composite Calculations

MDE will compute an alternate composite score for English Learners with Disabilities (ELSWD) who are not able to participate in one or more domains (listening, speaking, reading, or writing) of the ACCESS assessment due to the student’s disability AND who meet all of the following criteria:

- The student must have received a valid score for each completed domain.
- The domain(s) in which the student cannot participate must have a test code of special education deferred (SPD).
- The student must have completed (i.e., received a valid score) on at least two domains.

MDE will contact DACs with students who are eligible to receive an alternate composite calculation after the District or School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files have been released in late June.

Alternate composite calculations can be used to inform decisions about EL reclassification and exit. DACs are asked to share alternate composite calculations with the appropriate EL staff. Information on identification, entrance, and exit for ELSWD can be found on the [English Learner Education](#) page of the MDE website. For questions regarding alternate composite calculations or exiting pathways, contact mde.el@state.mn.us.

[Back to Top](#)

WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT Updates for 2023–24

On June 30, WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT will be updated with technical enhancements for the 2023–24 school year. Users will notice refreshed student and test management applications, new locations for score reports, and a new way to import student information. For students, the updated DRC INSIGHT secure student browser provides an improved and more accessible testing experience. Learn more about what’s changing, how to prepare, and where to find resources to support you in the [Get ready for 2023–24 updates to WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT](#) article on the WIDA website.

[Back to Top](#)

Three ACCESS Training Courses Unavailable for Summer 2023

The following ACCESS training courses will be unavailable in the WIDA Secure Portal from June 30 through Aug. 31:

- Online ACCESS for ELLs: Administration
- Paper ACCESS for ELLs: Administration
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Administration and Scoring.

WIDA instructional designers are making substantial updates to the courses to ensure their content matches the upcoming technical enhancements to WIDA AMS and DRC INSIGHT. Additionally, the Alternate ACCESS training course will be redesigned for the updated Alternate ACCESS that will be administered in 2023–24. The new training course will be live on Sept. 1. All other assessment training courses and self-paced workshop courses will continue to be available throughout the summer. More information can be found in the [Three assessment training courses unable this summer](#) article on the WIDA website.

[Back to Top](#)

Community Review Participants Needed

The MCA/MTAS Test Development team is working on efforts to increase participation in this summer’s Community Review Committees. Even with the database of participants we have, sometimes we have difficulty

finding enough committee members for this important work. Please share this invitation with communities that your district has connections with and encourage participation in order to represent the diversity of our Minnesota students in the test development process.

These committees typically meet during the summer months. They are virtual meetings with meeting hours that are usually 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. Participants are paid an honorarium for their participation.

If you are able to share this invitation with your community connections, please use [this flyer](#) or this [link](#) with information and how to sign up.

[Back to Top](#)

TestNav System Requirements: Review and Prepare for the 2023–24 School Year

Refer to the [Tech Update](#) section below for information on new TestNav System requirements for next school year.

[Back to Top](#)

Upcoming Opportunities

May Q&A Webinar

MDE will host a virtual Q&A session for DACs on Tuesday, May 23, from 2–3 p.m. and will focus on Posttest Editing and other after testing tasks. New and experienced DACs are welcome to attend. Register for [May Q&A Session](#). Details for joining are provided once participants register.

The prerequisites for the May Q&A session:

- Chapter 10 (After Test Administration) of the [Procedures Manual](#), focusing on MCA and MTAS, and
- Posttest Editing Training, which is posted on the TMS.

MDE collects questions from DACs prior to the event to help prepare and find relevant resources to share. After completing the prerequisites, please [submit questions for the May Q&A Session](#). Q&A Sessions will not be recorded nor will CEUs be provided as these sessions are an additional support rather than a training event.

[Back to Top](#)

Tech Update

TestNav System Requirements: Review and Prepare for the 2023–24 School Year

Pearson recommends that districts review its established [TestNav System Requirement Policy](#) to anticipate upcoming support changes for the 2023–24 school year. This policy aligns TestNav system requirements with manufacturer-supported operating systems (OS) and devices. District personnel should bookmark and familiarize themselves with the policy to assess technology needs every school year. This best practice ensures that all district personnel and students experience efficient and reliable testing sessions.

Note: Manufacturer development cycles vary, and release details are often vague until closer to release dates. As a result, Pearson’s policy requires referencing manufacturer policies. Annually, Pearson will base support for OSs and devices on manufacturer support as of July 15.

Technology personnel should evaluate manufacturer support **as of July 15** to determine technology planning for the upcoming school year. For example, based on the information available at this time, and dependent on Pearson testing, districts can estimate support for the 2023–24 school year to be the following:

Operation System (OS)	Estimated Minimum Version Support (2023–24)
Tablets, Chromebooks, Chromeboxes	
Chrome OS*	Stable Channel (S) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 114+ S Long Term Support (LTS)* <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 108 LTS through August 2023• 114+ LTS after August 2023 *For more details, see the Chrome OS Release Schedule and Long-term Support (LTS) on ChromeOS .
iOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15.2 – 16.x
Laptops, Desktops	
Linux	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fedora 37+ x 64• Ubuntu 22.10+ x64
macOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12, 13
Windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 x64 – 21H2, 21H2• 11 x 64 – 21H2, 21H2

Note: Android OS is not supported for secure online testing.

Additional details for the upcoming school year are included in the **Upcoming Support Changes** section at the bottom of the [TestNav System Requirements](#) page as they become available. For questions, contact the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or submit a [help desk request online](#).

[Back to Top](#)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

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.