

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—MAY 24, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Posttest Editing Reminders</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mathematics Alternate MCA Test Specifications Public Review – Open until June 30</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">MDE Summer Training Opportunities</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Surveys Closing Friday</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Odds and Ends</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>May 22–June 9</b> <i>Posttest Editing in Test WES</i></p> <p><b>May 22–June 28</b> <i>Retrieve early student-level results in Test WES</i></p> <p><b>June 8</b> <i>Deadline to update MARSS data for Posttest Editing</i></p>

## Posttest Editing Reminders

The following resources are available for districts working on Posttest Editing:

- The *Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide* posted on the [Test WES](#) page of the MDE website, provides detailed information on Posttest Editing for DACs.
- The New DAC Posttest Editing Training, which is posted in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the District Assessment Coordinator tab (under the MDE Recorded Webinars category).

## Creating Blank Assessments to Indicate Test Codes

Before adding any blank assessments, verify that you have already resolved all assessment errors or other warnings. To indicate a test code, use the Add Blank Assessment function to create a blank record. For step-by-step instructions, refer to page 32 of the *Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide*.

## Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Students

Full-time PSEO students are not required to test and generally will not show up as discrepancies in Test WES if indicated correctly in student enrollment data. In special cases in which the district pays the college directly, a matching discrepancy will exist in Posttest Editing for the student. In these cases, districts submit a file to MDE via File Exchange in Test WES with the required information to indicate PSEO. Refer to page 31 of the *Test WES*

*Posttest Editing User Guide* for full details. The deadline for submitting information on these PSEO students is Wednesday, June 7. This deadline has been updated to allow MDE to ensure requests are entered.

Note: The district's statement must include all the bulleted items listed on page 31 of the user guide and must be uploaded in Test WES. Do not email the document.

## **Confirming Inactive Records are Correct for ACCESS**

In the case where a record is missing one or more domains for ACCESS, the report code will be NC (not complete). These are not necessarily discrepancies in Posttest Editing, and districts often notice these by seeing no composite score in the early student-level results file. If the student did not participate in the missing domain, you can indicate the reason by changing the test code for the applicable domain(s).

If the student did participate in the missing domain, then the records were not merged by DRC because student information on the two records did not match. Test WES may have been able to match (but not merge) the records; in such cases, districts can confirm the scores will be merged by ensuring that the demographic information matches on both the active and inactive records. More information starts on page 39 of the *Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide*.

[Back to Top](#)

## **Mathematics Alternate MCA Test Specifications Public Review – Open until June 30**

Following the 2022 revisions to the Minnesota K–12 Academic Mathematics Standards being finalized through the Rulemaking process, the Math Alternate Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (Alt MCA, formerly MTAS) will begin assessing these standards in the spring of 2028 for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In collaboration with a committee of Minnesota educators, MDE has drafted the [Mathematics Alternate Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Test Specifications document](#) to assist with the development of the new assessments. In addition to test specifications, the document includes extended benchmarks, which are based on the new Minnesota math standards but reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity.

Members of the public are encouraged to review the proposed test specifications and provide feedback through the [Math Alt MCA Test Specifications Feedback Survey](#). The survey will be open until June 30, 2023.

Feedback from multiple perspectives, including math and special education teachers, is important in creating the best assessment possible for Minnesota students with significant cognitive disabilities. Please share this information with applicable district staff.

[Back to Top](#)

## ***Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR***

Districts that have received assessment results for the college entrance exam they administered (ACT or SAT) should enter requests for reimbursements in the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\)](#) system for eligible students. If a district has not previously received reimbursement for a grade 11 or grade 12 student, districts will be reimbursed for students eligible for a free/reduced-priced meal (FRP) who are entered into GRR.

Districts may also be reimbursed (on a prorated basis if necessary) for students who are unable to pay for the exam. Districts must determine the criteria for unable to pay and enter those requests in GRR.

Districts must submit eligible reimbursement requests no later than Sept. 8. Note: After requesting reimbursement, the district should confirm expected records using the reimbursement reports, which are refreshed each morning.

- The *Claimed Student Detail Report* shows the records that will be reimbursed and provides the reason for any record that will not be reimbursed.
- The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the total reimbursement amount.

### **Resources**

More information is in the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) User Guide](#) and in the *MDE Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) Training*, which is posted in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under the MDE Recorded Webinars category.

[Back to Top](#)

## ***MDE Summer Training Opportunities***

MDE has two scheduled trainings for DACs this summer and two Q&A sessions for new DACs. Registration links for each event is included below to help with summer planning for DACs.

### **New DAC Reporting Training 1**

The *New DAC Reporting Training 1: Purpose of Assessments, Reporting Stages, Secure Systems, and District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) Files* training will be held on Thursday, June 29, from 2–3:30 p.m. The training will also be recorded and posted on June 30 in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#). [Register for the New DAC Reporting Training 1](#).

This is the first of two reporting trainings geared toward new DACs about reporting. The prerequisite for this training is Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#), which provides an overview of the reports and results available and addresses when and how they can be used and shared.

## July Q&A Webinar for New DACs

The July Q&A Webinar for New DACs will be held on Tuesday, July 18, from 2–3 p.m. It will focus on reporting. Experienced DACs are also welcome to attend. [Register for the July Q&A Webinar for New DACs](#). Registrants will receive a form to collect questions prior to the event.

The prerequisites for this webinar are to attend the New DAC Reporting Training 1 on Thursday, June 29, or watch the recording after June 30 in the TMS on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under the MDE Recorded Webinars category.

Note: Q&A webinars are intended to provide a conversational setting where new DACs can receive support on existing resources and upcoming tasks. Q&A webinars are not recorded as they are not trainings and do not provide any new content, as all answers are available in the prerequisites.

## New DAC Reporting Training 2

The *New DAC Reporting Training 2: Test Results Summary Reports and Public Reporting* training will be held on Thursday, July 27, from 2–3:30 p.m. The training will also be recorded and posted July 28 in the TMS. [Register for the New DAC Reporting Training 2](#).

This is the second of two trainings geared to new DACs about reporting; a recording of the first training will be available in the TMS on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars by Friday, July 28. The prerequisites for the second training are Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#) and the *Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses of MCA and ACCESS Results* infographics available on the [District Resources](#) page under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading.

## August Q&A Webinar for New DACs

The August Q&A Webinar for New DACs will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 8, from 2–3 p.m. It will focus on reporting. Experienced DACs are also welcome to attend. [Register for the August Q&A Webinar for New DACs](#). Registrants will receive a form to collect questions prior to the event.

The prerequisites for this webinar are to attend the New DAC Reporting Training 2 on Thursday, July 27, or watch the recording after July 28 in the TMS on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under the MDE Recorded Webinars category.

Note: Q&A webinars are intended to provide a conversational setting where new DACs can receive support on existing resources and upcoming tasks. Q&A webinars are not recorded as they are not trainings and do not provide any new content, as all answers are available in the prerequisites.

[Back to Top](#)

## ***Surveys Closing Friday***

The [2023 MDE DAC Feedback Survey](#) will close on Friday, May 26. This survey is focused on MDE trainings and communication with DACs, and survey responses will help MDE make improvements to trainings for future years. Please set aside 5–10 minutes to provide your feedback, if you have not done so already.

The PearsonAccess Next survey will also close on Friday, May 26. This survey was emailed to all staff with a PearsonAccess Next user account on Tuesday, May 16, and is tailed by user role. Note: If the user has multiple user roles in PearsonAccess Next (that is Test Monitor/Data Entry and MTAS Score Entry user roles), the user will receive multiple surveys.

Each of these surveys will take about 5–10 minutes to complete.

[Back to Top](#)

## ***Odds and Ends***

MDE is closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

[Back to Top](#)

---

ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

[education.mn.gov](http://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](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us).