AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JUNE 2, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
• Posttest Editing Opens June 7 • Clarification for Resources for Statewide Assessments Results • Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS • Late Score Entries for MCA and MTAS • Secure Materials Status Report • Providing Final Electronic Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Securely • 2020 Graduation Rates Public Release • Informational Overviews (Webinars) of KEP Approved Assessments • Upcoming Opportunities	*June 7:* Early student-level results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS available in Test WES *June 7–June 25:* Posttest Editing in Test WES *June 9:* Deadline to submit late score entry requests for MCA paper test books or MTAS score data *June 11:* Deadline to confirm if the district wants to receive student results labels and paper copies of ISRs in Test WES

Posttest Editing Opens June 7

Posttest Editing in Test WES will take place June 7–25. This is an important window to ensure assessment records are correct and blank assessments are documented.

Due to COVID-19, there are a number of changes to how a district will complete Posttest Editing this year. These changes are described in detail in the updated *Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide*, which will be posted by June 7. They are also covered in the *Posttest Editing Training* (refer to the *Posttest Editing Training* article for more information). A brief overview of these changes is provided below:

- For all assessments (ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, MCA, and MTAS): Before Posttest Editing opens, the extenuating circumstances – not attempted (EXC-N) test code will be automatically applied to any assessment record for students who had a MARSS enrollment but no assessment during the accountability window. In addition, EXC-N will be applied to any students who have a NA (not attempted) score code in the files received from Pearson and DRC.

- o For high school Science MCA and MTAS, before Posttest Editing opens, all students added to a high school Science MCA test session or with a high school Science MTAS test assignment in PearsonAccess Next will automatically have EXC-N indicated.

- o If other test codes were indicated during the testing window (e.g., parent/guardian refusals (REF-P), medical excuse (ME)), these codes will be reported as indicated. If they were not indicated during the testing window, MDE does not require districts to change the EXC-N code to another code whether the students not testing was COVID-19 related or not.

- o Similarly, MDE does not require the district to change EXC-N test codes to other test codes, like absent (ABS), for situations where the district did not receive communication from the family or student about health and safety concerns related to COVID-19.

- For MCA and MTAS: EXC-A will be automatically applied for any students who started a subject but did not complete enough of the test to receive a valid score. For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, EXC-A is not applicable because each domain is scored if attempted.

  - o MDE does not require districts to change EXC-A to another code, whether the students not finishing their tests was COVID-19 related or not.

- If districts submit updated MARSS data for students who were enrolled during the accountability window, MDE will automatically create assessment records with the EXC-N code three times during Posttest Editing for MCA and MTAS: June 14, June 21, and June 24. If districts wish to resolve the discrepancy before those dates, they can create blank assessments and indicate the EXC-N code.

Note: While there are no accountability calculations being determined this year, the accountability window is still used in Posttest Editing as the timeframe in which districts need to account for students. This is consistent with past years.

Clarification for Resources for Statewide Assessments Results

The following is a clarification to the information provided in the *May 26 Assessment Update* regarding the timeline for the availability of the *2021 Statewide Assessment Reporting Guidance* document that will provide guidance for districts with information on using 2021 results appropriately and in context. MDE is planning on releasing information in this document in phases; the first phase is planned to be available by **July 16** (not July 6), and the second phase is planned to be available near the end of August.

Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

Early student-level results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS will be available in Test WES on June 7. These early student-level results may be accessed from the Test WES Dashboard under File Transfer. The file is available for download in either Excel or text format. The first sheet contains the column label definitions, the second sheet contains ACCESS results, and the third sheet contains Alternate ACCESS results. A new help document, *ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Early Student-Level Results*, will be available on the Test WES page.

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. A *Using Preliminary Results* resource is available on the District Resources page under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable header, and on the Testing 1, 2, 3 website.

Please note that the early results file is not updated as changes are made in Posttest Editing; it is a static file.

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Late Score Entries for MCA and MTAS

If student responses in MCA paper test books or MTAS score data were not entered during the testing window, districts can arrange for a late score entry. The Pearson Minnesota Program Team must receive all *Request for Late Score Entry Forms* and related testing materials **no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9**, to ensure the late score entry can be completed in time for Posttest Editing and for the student to receive an Individual Student Report (ISR).

There is a $125 fee for late score entry for up to 10 students and a purchase order (PO) made payable to Pearson must be included with the form(s). Detailed instructions regarding the return of late score entry materials are available on the *Request for Late Score Entry Form*, located on page 239 of the *Procedures Manual*.

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Secure Materials Status Report

The *Secure Materials Status Report* is available for download in PearsonAccess Next for districts who have (or had) any secure test materials for MCA and MTAS that were not returned and scanned at Pearson. On Thursday, June 3, Pearson will complete scanning of all returned secure materials shipped back on May 24. On Friday, June 4, DACs may use the *Secure Materials Status Report* to follow up with schools that still have missing materials.

If there is no report available for your district, then all secure materials were received and scanned by the time the report was created. For districts that do have the report, only schools that had materials that were not received/scanned when the report was created will be included on the report. Once all missing secure

test materials are received and scanned at Pearson, the school or district tab will include the message "All secure materials have been accounted for."

The *Accessing the Secure Materials Status Report* user guide provides detailed instructions on how to retrieve the report in PearsonAccess Next.

Providing Final Electronic Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Securely

Districts can choose whether or not to receive paper copies of Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for MCA and MTAS in Test WES by June 11.

- If districts elect not to receive paper copies, then paper copies will not be sent to the district for MCA and MTAS. Instead, districts will need to provide the electronic ISRs from PearsonAccess Next to families in a secure manner. Note: Districts may also choose to provide ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS ISRs electronically from WIDA AMS; however all paper copies of ISRs are still sent to districts.

- If districts select to receive paper copies, they will still have access to the electronic copies in PearsonAccess Next.

If providing electronically, districts must consider how ISRs can be provided securely as they include private student data and follow their district policies for how private student data is shared based on the systems or sharing methods they have access to (e.g., providing through parent/guardian portal).

More information on ISRs is available on pages 216–217 of the *Procedures Manual.*

2020 Graduation Rates Public Release

The following communication was sent to DAC and district communication staff on Thursday, May 28.

The public release of the 2020 graduation rates will be on **Thursday, June 10, 2021**. School districts and charter schools will receive their data under embargo on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

MDE will host a webinar for district assessment coordinators and communications staff to go over the structure of the data file and answer questions ahead of the public release.

Two webinar options are available. There is no need to RSVP, just use these links to access the webinars at the scheduled time:

- Tuesday, June 8, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 9, 8–9 a.m.

Note: These webinars will not be recorded. Contact MDE.ESSA@state.mn.us with any questions or concerns.

Informational Overviews (Webinars) of KEP Approved Assessments

The following article is being shared by the Early Learning Services Division. Please contact Jon Vaupel, Comprehensive System Coordinator, at jon.vaupel@state.mn.us or 651-582-8700 with any questions or concerns.

A critical component of MDE's comprehensive assessment system are age-appropriate Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP)-approved assessments for children from birth through third grade. This menu of MDE-supported standards-based assessments produce valid and reliable data and are also high-quality, comprehensive and developmentally appropriate for younger children and students. Data from KEP-approved assessments can be used to close opportunity gaps by (1) fostering developmentally appropriate teaching and learning (2) positioning families as valued partners and (3) supporting seamless transitions into kindergarten. While voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) and school readiness plus (SRP) programs are required to use a KEP-approved assessment, many other early learning programs use these developmentally appropriate whole-child assessments. Additional background on KEP assessments can be found on MDE's Assessment in Early Childhood website.

If you or someone in your district or school would like to learn more about one or more of the KEP-approved assessments, MDE is sponsoring a series of "Overview Webinars" of Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP) approved assessments. The publishers of the assessments are conducting these one hour trainings. This is a great opportunity to learn more about what a developmentally appropriate, whole-child, standards-based assessment looks like and feels like. Below you will find the dates/times and links to registration:

- 1 Hour Overview of the COR Advantage, a birth through kindergarten assessment, with the Publisher - High Scope

    o June 23, 10–11 a.m.

    o July 14, 1:00–2 p.m.

- 1 Hour Overview of the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP), a birth through kindergarten assessment, with the Publisher – WestEd

    o June 4, 9–10:30 a.m.

    o June 11, 9–10:30 a.m.

- 1 Hour Overview of the GOLD, a birth through third grade assessment, with the Publisher - Teaching Strategies

    o June 29, 10–11 a.m.

The times and registration links for the overview sessions listed above are posted on the KEP Assessment Trainings page along with other upcoming trainings.

Upcoming Opportunities

Pearson Survey Closes June 4

On May 25, Pearson emailed a survey via SurveyMonkey to staff with the District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles in PearsonAccess Next. This feedback plays an important part in planning for next year's test administrations. This survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. Pearson appreciates your feedback. Note: If you did not receive a survey in your email inbox, please check your spam or junk folder.

Posttest Editing Training

The Posttest Editing Training webinar will be held on Monday, June 7, from 9–11 a.m. This training will address what is different this year due to the unique circumstances, but will also provide a full training for New DACs on Posttest Editing functionality. Experienced DACs are welcome to attend this training, especially due to the changes for this year, but they can also review the changes in the user guide, which will be posted to the Test WES page by June 7.

A pre-recorded version of the training will be posted to the Training Management System (TMS) on June 4.

Register for the Posttest Editing Training. Details for joining the webinar will be provided once participants register.

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.