

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JUNE 16, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posttest Editing Reminders • Secure Materials Status Report – Issue Resolved • Resources and Preparation for Statewide Assessment Results • English Learner Education Updates • 2021–22 Annual DRC Technology Updates for WIDA Screener and ACCESS for ELLs Online Tests • Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and Test Code Information • Employment Opportunity at Minnesota Department of Education • Tech Update 	<p><i>June 7–25: Posttest Editing in Test WES</i></p> <p><i>June 7–July 13 : Retrieve early student-level results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS available in Test WES</i></p> <p><i>July 14: Early Retrieve embargoes final DSR and SSR files in Secure Reports.</i></p>

Posttest Editing Reminders

Posttest Editing is available **until 5 p.m. on Friday, June 25**. On June 21, additional data will be loaded into Test WES for the following:

- Late score entry requests for Reading, Mathematics, and Science MCA and MTAS (requested and entered June 3–9)
- Additional ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS and MCA/MTAS assessment records with EXC-N test codes added for students with updated enrollments in MARSS

Submitting MARSS Data

There is no additional MARSS deadline before the last day of Posttest Editing; MARSS data can be submitted **through June 25**. It is critical that District Assessment Coordinators and MARSS Coordinators work closely during the final days of Posttest Editing to ensure that MARSS records and assessment records are in alignment through the last day of the Posttest Editing window.

Confirming EL Indications in MARSS

For English learners to be eligible to take the ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS, they must be indicated as EL in MARSS. If a student took the assessment but their enrollment record indicates they are not EL, the report code will be set to INV (Invalid) when published. If these students are ELs, you **must** update their enrollment record in MARSS by **June 25**.

Confirming Inactive Records are Correct for ACCESS

In cases where an ACCESS record is missing one or more domains, the report code will be EXC-N (extenuating circumstances – not attempted). These are not necessarily discrepancies in Posttest Editing, and districts often notice these by seeing no composite score on the early student-level results. If the student did not participate in the missing domain, MDE does not require districts to change the EXC-N to another code regardless of whether the student not testing was COVID-19 related or not.

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 exactly on both the active and inactive records. More information starts on page 21 of the [Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide](#). If there is no other record, there may be a need to request a test booklet search or a transcription request. Refer to Chapter 10 of the [Procedures Manual](#) for additional information.

District Confirmation

Once you have reviewed and resolved all discrepancies, confirm that Posttest Editing is complete on the District Confirmation page in Test WES (available under the Pretest Edit menu) by adding a checkmark to “The district completed Posttest Editing by either verifying there were no edits to be made or by resolving as many discrepancies as possible” statement confirmation. Doing so communicates to MDE that you have resolved all the discrepancies you can.

Please complete this confirmation even if there were no edits needed for your district.

Note: If your district is nearing completion of Posttest Editing, MDE recommends that DACs verify that there are no new discrepancies introduced after the additional data is loaded on June 21.

Resources

Detailed information on completing Posttest Editing is in the [Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide](#) and in the *MDE 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.

[Back to Top](#)

Secure Materials Status Report – Issue Resolved

Pearson has resolved the issue communicated to DACs on June 8 regarding returned materials still showing as unaccounted for on the Secure Materials Status Report in PearsonAccess Next. The report now only includes secure test materials for MCA and MTAS that have not been returned by the district and scanned by Pearson.

If you believe materials on the report have been returned, or have any additional questions, please contact the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or submit a [Pearson help desk request](#).

[Back to Top](#)

Resources and Preparation for Statewide Assessment Results

MDE is preparing a number of new resources to help districts and schools appropriately and effectively use this year's statewide assessment results, in addition to resources that are provided annually. These resources were described in the [May 26 Assessment Update](#). As they are available, they will be communicated through the *Assessment Update*.

A recording of the Overview of Reporting Resources training presented on Tuesday will be available in the Training Management System (TMS) on Friday, June 18. It will be posted on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars.

[Back to Top](#)

English Learner Education Updates

EL Program Coordinators received the following information on June 10.

Using 2021 ACCESS Scores to Inform Exit and Placement Decisions

- As of June 7, District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) can retrieve early ACCESS results in Test WES. Early ACCESS results should be used to inform English Learner exit and placement decisions for 2021-22.
- Exit decisions must include ACCESS criteria. There is no change to posted exit and reclassification procedures. ELP Screeners cannot be used to make exit decisions.

Students without 2021 ACCESS Scores

- Consider what tools and data are available locally to inform instruction and placement, such as: formative language assessment data; data from teacher observations of language use; common language assessments; interim language assessments (including WIDA MODEL); conversations with content teachers regarding language use and academic progress; or other local language proficiency data. The USDE has indicated that COVID relief funds may be used for these purposes.

Students Provisionally Identified for Temporary English Language Development Instruction

- For students taking the 2021 ACCESS test, these results will be used to determine continuing eligibility for English learner status (even if the student was temporarily identified with a provisional process as a student who could benefit from temporary ELD instruction).
- When students are temporarily identified for EL status using state approved provisional tools, the WIDA Screener (or ACCESS test) must also be used as soon as it is safe to do so, to verify the EL status of these students (including students who were designated as not eligible for temporary EL status) using provisional tools. For example, if a parent interview protocol was used and the parents indicated that their child would not benefit from ELD instruction, staff will need to use the WIDA Screener to verify formal EL status as soon as it is possible to do so.
- MDE recommends that confirmation of EL status happen prior to the start of the 2021-22 school year. Verification of EL status must be completed for all students no later than September 15, 2021. Any MARSS submissions including retroactive changes impacting EL reporting must be completed on or before October 1, 2021.
- If a student's EL status changes when verifying EL status using the WIDA Screener, you will need to work with your MARSS coordinator to retroactively report the student's correct EL status in MARSS/ED-Fi for 2020-21. For example, if the student turns out to be proficient in English, then report the student as EL = No, with no start date for this school year (2020-21).

Special Cases

Students Meeting Minimum Proficiency Criteria on the 2020 ACCESS Test

- Students who did not take the 2021 ACCESS and who met the minimum proficiency criteria in 2020 with an overall composite score of at least 4.5 with at least three domain scores at or above 3.5, may be reclassified as English proficient when staff document in a the student's cumulative file that the additional criteria process now provides evidence of readiness for exit. This is a flexibility available this year only during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Determining Continuing EL Eligibility for Students Transferring from another District

- Use the Student Assessment History Report at MDE Secure Reports to get data from 2020 and earlier that may help inform continuing eligibility determinations, placement and instruction.
- If you will not have data within 30 days of enrollment to verify a student's EL status, use the WIDA Screener if the student's primary home language is not English.

[Back to Top](#)

2021–22 Annual DRC Technology Updates for WIDA Screener and ACCESS for ELLs Online Tests

Consult the [Tech Update](#) article below regarding annual DRC technology updates.

[Back to Top](#)

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and Test Code Information

For 2021, whether students receive an ISR will vary by test and the test code indicated.

- An ISR for MCA or MTAS will be generated for students with a valid score or test code other than EXC-A or EXC-N. An ISR will be generated for a student with a combination of valid score, EXC codes, and other non-VS codes. A student with only one or more EXC-A or EXC-N codes will not have an ISR created.
- For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, only students who received a valid score in at least one domain or who had Do Not Score Codes indicated in WIDA AMS will receive an ISR. The EXC-A and EXC-N test codes are specific to Minnesota and will not appear on any student's ISR.

For students who will receive an ISR with an EXC-N or EXC-A test code, the message will indicate that the student did not test or did not complete the test due to COVID-19. Since MDE defaulted the EXC-N and EXC-A test codes during Posttest Editing, districts may need to communicate with families on what these codes mean, especially if the reason a student did not participate or finish was related to a different extenuating circumstance and not specific to COVID-19.

[Back to Top](#)

Employment Opportunity at Minnesota Department of Education

The MDE's Academic Standards and Instruction team is looking to hire both a state science content specialist and a state mathematics content specialist.

These roles will lead collaborative statewide initiatives to strengthen the capacity of Minnesota's schools so that they can provide high quality science or mathematics education. They will help districts to fully implement the standards through aligned instruction, curriculum, assessment, and professional development. For full details, see the job posting on the [Minnesota Careers website](#). Search by Job ID for each position. Application period is June 9-30, 2021.

- [State Science Content Specialist](#), Job ID 46400
- [State Math Content Specialist](#), Job ID 46438

[Back to Top](#)

Tech Update

2021–22 Annual DRC Technology Updates for WIDA Screener and ACCESS for ELLs Online Tests

DRC sent an email to Technology Coordinators on June 15 regarding 2021–22 Annual DRC Technology Updates. On the evening of **Thursday, June 24**, DRC will release annual updates for the DRC INSIGHT Online Learning System which will include related documentation, user guides, and installation links. Additionally, WIDA AMS accounts will be updated to include the 2021–22 WIDA Screener Administration.

Review the resources below, which will be posted on Thursday June 24 in the evening, prior to administering the WIDA Screener or ACCESS for ELLs online tests. These resources are located in [WIDA AMS](#) under My Applications > General Information > Documents unless otherwise noted.

- The *COS Online Help* contains several topics describing how to use COS. It is linked and available in the *Technology User Guide*.
- Review the *Technology Readiness Checklist for WIDA Online Assessments*. This document provides Technology Coordinators a timeline and activities to prepare the technology for administering the online test.
- Review the *Supported System Requirements for ACCESS for ELLs and Screener*.
- Review the *ACCESS for ELLs Headset Specifications* for administering the Speaking test.
- View the Test Demo (videos) and Test Practice (interactive items) in DRC INSIGHT. This is an important step to ensure the headset components are working properly.

Contact DRC Customer Support with any questions or concerns at WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com or 855-787-9615.

[Back to Top](#)

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Minnesota Department of Education

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

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