AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JUNE 22, 2022

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
• New DAC Reporting Training 1 • Posttest Editing Discrepancies Report • Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS • Embargoed Student Results in Secure Reports • WIDA Updates • Upcoming Opportunities	*June 28:* Last day to retrieve early student-level results in Test WES for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS *June 29:* District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files available in Secure Reports

New DAC Reporting Training 1

The *New DAC Reporting Training 1* will be held on Thursday, June 30, from 2–3:30 p.m. It will focus on reporting stages, and how to find and use the District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files. Register for the New DAC Reporting Training 1. For those unable to attend, the training will also be recorded and posted on July 1 in the Training Management System (TMS).

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.

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Posttest Editing Discrepancies Report

The Posttest Editing Discrepancies Report is a list of the district's discrepancies that remained at the end of Posttest Editing that is available under File Transfer on the Test WES Dashboard. This report may be helpful if there are questions about a student's results following the release of final assessment results. Note that remaining discrepancies can no longer be resolved.

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Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS

Early student-level results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will only be available for download in Test WES until **June 28**. The final ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results will be included in the embargoed District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files released on June 29.

Districts must download and save the early student-level results by June 28 if they want access to the data after the final results release (for example, for a student whose score was invalidated due to not being indicated as EL in MARSS). Remember that the early results do not reflect any edits made during Posttest Editing.

Embargoed Student Results in Secure Reports

Final student-level assessment results will be available in the District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files on June 29. These results will be under embargo until the public release of assessment results on Aug. 25. During the embargo, districts can use final assessment results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders. It is up to the district to determine whether or not to share embargoed assessment data with students, families, and staff for instructional purposes. Preliminary or embargoed results cannot, however, be discussed in public forums, reflected in public meeting minutes (such as school board meetings), or shared with the general public or media until the final assessment results have been released publicly.

Data Privacy and Sharing Results

Individually-identifying student results should not be shared publicly at any point as required under FERPA regulations. Student-level results should only be shared with those who have a legitimate educational interest or others permitted by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act or FERPA to access private educational data. Be sure to remind building principals and any other staff that have access to assessment data of the policies regarding sharing embargoed data and ensure they understand what it means to abide by the embargo.

Districts and schools may share preliminary results or final embargoed assessment results with school officials who are not district or school staff, including school board members and charter school authorizers if specific requirements are met. See *Sharing Students' Private Information and Results Outside the School and District* in Chapter 11 of the *Procedures Manual* for more information.

Late Returns and Late Score Entries

Any late returns (for ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS) or late score entries (for MCA/MTAS) that were not available in Test WES during Posttest Editing will not be included in the DSR and SSR files. These scores will be added later this fall and will not be available for the embargoed release on June 29 or the public release.

Additional Resources

The following resources are or will be available to support districts with using and understanding the results:

- Chapter 11 of the *Procedures Manual* provides guidelines for using the assessment data and abiding by the embargo.

- The *2021–22 District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) User Guide* posted on the Assessment Secure Reports page provides information the content and file format of the DSR and SSR files, as well as how to access it in Secure Reports. The DSR/SSR files contain the student-level data from the assessments, including demographic information, achievement level information, and various test scores and data as applicable.

- The *Statewide Assessments: Using District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) Files* one-page resource posted on the District Resources page (under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading) provides information for district staff about using the district and school student results (DSR/SSR) files with final student-level data.

WIDA Updates

WIDA Data Dashboard

WIDA launched the redesigned WIDA Data Dashboard on June 16. It is an interactive site used by WIDA researchers, staff members, and WIDA Consortium member state educational agencies to view aggregated analytical information for ACCESS at the consortium level. Districts can access the data dashboard in the WIDA Secure Portal, by clicking the Data Dashboard button in the gray bar at the bottom right of the page.

The data dashboard shows ACCESS demographic information, proficiency level distributions, and percentile growth for test years 2020–21 and prior. The data dashboard also displays national EL and former EL student performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Note: While percentile growth information is available for the consortium, those calculations focus on how much students improved on ACCESS compared to other students. MDE considers that a growth measure that relies on comparisons to other students is not appropriate for a criterion-referenced test.

- ACCESS for ELLs is a criterion-referenced assessment because it measures performance against a fixed set of criteria: the WIDA English Language Development Standards. Criterion-referenced assessments are used to determine student learning of concepts and skills and to measure progress toward goals and objectives.

- MDE instead recommends using a progress calculation that looks at the change in scale scores between years and the associated change in proficiency level as that is a more appropriate measure to use. Refer to the *Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data* located on the District Resources page (under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading) for additional information on using ACCESS results in your district.

In addition, while the data dashboard provides data at a national level, keep in mind that official results for Minnesota are available in the Minnesota Report Card website under How Well are Students Doing > Are English Learners Progressing.

WIDA Screener Updates

On June 30, the current WIDA Screener Administration in WIDA AMS will become read-only and a new 2022–23 WIDA Screener Administration will become available for new student records and test sessions. **All Speaking and Writing responses from the 2021–2022 administration year must be scored by Thursday, June 30**.

Please contact DRC at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 for support as needed.

WIDA Non-Disclosure and User Agreement

The first time users log in to the WIDA Secure Portal on or after July 1, they will be prompted to agree to the *Non-Disclosure and User Agreement (NDUA)*. Users will not be able to view secure materials and resources without first agreeing to the *Non-Disclosure and User Agreement (NDUA).*

Note: This *Non-Disclosure and User Agreement (NDUA)* is specific to the WIDA Secure Portal and does not apply or replace the MDE Test Security training that will be posted next school year.

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Upcoming Opportunities

MDE Summer Training Opportunities for DACs

As announced in the May 25 *Assessment Update*, MDE is providing the following virtual events to support DACs. Use the links below to access a description and register for each ZoomGov event. All of the events listed below start at 2 p.m.

- Tuesday, July 19 – July Q&A Webinar for New DACs
- Thursday, July 28 – New DAC Reporting Training 2
- Tuesday, Aug. 9 – August Q&A Webinar for New DACs

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Minnesota Department of Education

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