

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JUNE 23, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">New DAC Reporting Training 1: Save the Date</a></li> <li><a href="#">Posttest Editing Final Reminders</a></li> <li><a href="#">Federal Testing Grant Awards Public Comment</a></li> <li><a href="#">2021 Testing Time Report Available in PearsonAccess Next</a></li> <li><a href="#">WIDA Data Dashboard</a></li> <li><a href="#">Odds and Ends</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>June 25:</b> End of Posttest Editing in Test WES</p> <p><b>June 7–July 13 :</b> Retrieve early student-level results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS available in Test WES</p> <p><b>July 14:</b> Retrieve embargoed final DSR and SSR files in Secure Reports.</p>

## ***New DAC Reporting Training 1: Save the Date***

The *New DAC Reporting Training 1: Types of Assessments, Reporting Stages, Secure Systems, and District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) Files* training will be held on Tuesday, July 13, from 2–3:30 p.m. The training will also be recorded and posted in the [Training Management System](#) (TMS). Registration information will be available in next week’s *Assessment Update*.

This is the first of two 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 Final Reminders***

Posttest Editing is available **until 5 p.m. on Friday, June 25**. On June 24, additional ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS and MCA/MTAS assessment records with EXC-N test codes will be added for students with updated enrollments in MARSS.

## 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.

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## 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**.

## 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.

## 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 this 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.

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## ***Federal Testing Grant Awards Public Comment***

Due to the unanticipated reduction in testing spending caused by COVID-19, MDE is working to manage these remaining funds so that they will be available to cover upcoming development and standard setting expenses associated with implementing assessments aligned to revised standards. MDE is requesting tydings for federal testing grant awards S369A190024 and S369A200024 from the U.S. Department of Education. Under the federal Tydings Amendment, Section 421(b) of the General Education Provisions Act any funds that are not obligated at the end of the federal funding period shall remain available for obligation for an additional period of 12 months.

As stated in ESEA statute, section 8401, the “State educational agency shall provide the public and any interested local educational agency in the State with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and

provide input on the request, to the extent that the request impacts the local educational agency.” As such, the public is invited to comment on the Tydings request for federal grant awards now through July 7 by emailing [mde.testing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us).

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## ***2021 Testing Time Report Available in PearsonAccess Next***

The *Testing Time Report* for the 2021 MCA test administration will be available for District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) on Monday, June 28, in [PearsonAccess Next](#) under Published Reports. MCA Testing Time Reports are available at the district-level and provide cumulative testing time information by student. The time (in seconds) indicates the total time a student spent on both scorable and non-scorable (e.g. student directions, section end pages, start of section, etc.) items.

This report is intended to provide districts information to plan for future administrations by confirming the amount of time students tested, or to identify trends by grade or subject across the district. The data provided in this report is not meant to be used to make decisions about individual students. Refer to the [Published Reports Quick Guide](#) for detailed instructions on how to access published reports in PearsonAccess Next.

Contact Pearson at 888-817-8659 or submit a [Pearson help desk request](#) with any questions.

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## ***WIDA Data Dashboard***

On June 30, 2021, the ACCESS Percentile Growth information will be removed from the [WIDA Data Dashboard](#). ACCESS is a criterion-referenced assessment; it measures performance against a fixed set of criteria: the WIDA English Language Development Standards. Criterion-referenced assessments are used to determine mastery of concepts and skills and to measure progress toward goals and objectives.

The percentile growth calculations focus on how much students improved on ACCESS compared to other students. A growth measure that relies on comparisons to other students is not appropriate for a criterion-referenced test. The growth percentile information is being removed to encourage the most appropriate analyses of the data provided by ACCESS.

MDE 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](#) document located under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading for additional information on using ACCESS results in your district.

Note: The WIDA Data Dashboard is a component within the framework of the WIDA Data Warehouse. 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. Districts can log in to the WIDA State Dashboard using their WIDA Secure Portal information to analyze data at the consortium and state levels.

## ***Odds and Ends***

### **Employment Opportunity at Minnesota Department of Education**

MDE 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.

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

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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).