

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JUNE 30, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New DAC Reporting Training 1: Registration • Posttest Editing Discrepancies Report • Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS • Embargoed Student Results in Secure Reports • Confirm Shipping Address for Final Reports • WIDA Data Dashboard (repeat) • Odds and Ends 	<p>July 13 : Last day to retrieve early student-level results for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS available in Test WES</p> <p>July 14: Retrieve embargoed final DSR and SSR files in Secure Reports</p> <p>Aug. 6: Retrieve embargoed Test Results Summaries in Secure Reports</p>

New DAC Reporting Training 1: Registration

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).

This is the first of two trainings geared to new DACs about reporting; the second training will be held Aug. 3. 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.

[Register for the New DAC Reporting Training 1](#). Details for joining the webinar will be provided once participants register.

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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 and 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.

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 July 13. The final ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS results will be included in the embargoed District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files released on July 14.

Districts must download and save the early student-level results by July 13 if they want access to the data after the final results release (e.g., 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 assessment results will be available in the [District and School Student Results](#) (DSR and SSR) files on July 14. These results will be under embargo until the public release of assessment results (week of Aug. 30, exact date to be confirmed). 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 (e.g., 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 July 14 or the public release.

Guidance and Context Document

MDE will be providing a *2021 Statewide Assessment Reporting Guidance* document that will provide information and guidance for districts on using 2021 results appropriately and in context. MDE is planning to release information in this document in phases; the first phase is planned to be available by July 16, and the second phase is planned to be available near the end of August.

Additional Resources

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

- The [Revised 2020–21 Important Dates](#) provides an updated timeline for the release of results.
- Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#) provides guidelines for using the assessment data and abiding by the embargo.
- The [2020–21 District and School Student Results \(DSR and SSR\) User Guide](#) will be posted by July 7. It will provide information about the content and file format of the DSR and SSR.
- The *Statewide Assessments: Using District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) Files* one-page resource will be available on the [District Resources page](#) under Test Score Interpretation Resources in early July.

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Confirm Shipping Address for Final Reports

As Pearson prepares to distribute Individual Student Results (ISRs) to districts in late August, it is important that districts confirm the correct address is listed in [MDE-ORG](#). Unless there is an Assessment Shipping Address indicated, Pearson will send ISRs to the district's physical address that is indicated in MDE-ORG. If testing results should be sent to an alternate address, the Assessment Shipping Address should be added or verified. Note that UPS will not deliver to a PO Box. The district's Site Verification Coordinator (SVC) maintains the information in the [District and School Site Verification system](#). Work with the SVC for any needed changes.

Note: For ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS, DRC will ship paper reports to the district's mailing address MDE provided last September. Contact DRC at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 no later than July 30 to indicate an address change.

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WIDA Data Dashboard (repeat)

On June 30, 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.

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Odds and Ends

MDE Closed in Observance of Independence Day

The mde.testing@state.mn.us inbox and associated phone number will not be monitored on July 5.

Federal Testing Grant Awards Public Comment

MDE is requesting tydings for federal testing grant awards S369A190024 and S369A200024 from the U.S. Department of Education and the public is invited to comment through July 7 by emailing mde.testing@state.mn.us. More information is available on the [Statewide Testing](#) page of MDE website.

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