

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—JULY 12, 2023

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCESS Alternate Composite Calculations • 2023–24 WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Updates • 2023–24 WIDA AM Technology Documentation • MDE Employment Opportunity: Data Governance Manager • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update 	<p>July 26 Access embargoed final school, district, and state summary results in Test Results Summary in Secure Reports</p>

ACCESS Alternate Composite Calculations

As communicated in the May 17 *Assessment Update*, MDE provides an alternate composite calculation for English Learners with Disabilities (ELSWD) who are not able to participate in one or more ACCESS domains (listening, speaking, reading, or writing) due to the student’s disability. In order to receive the alternate composite calculation, students must also meet all of the following criteria:

- The student must have received a valid score for each completed domain,
- The domain(s) in which the student cannot participate must have a test code of special education deferred (SPD), and
- The student must have completed (meaning, received a valid score) on at least two domains

At this time, MDE has contacted the District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) at each district with one or more students who were eligible to receive an alternate composite calculation. If your district was not contacted, you did not have any eligible students for this year. If you have questions about alternate composite calculations or exit pathways for ELSWD, contact mde.el@state.mn.us.

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2023–24 WIDA Accessibility and Accommodations Updates

The 2023–2024 *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* and related resources for accessibility have been posted to the WIDA website. The [Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) has been updated to reflect changes to universal tools in DRC INSIGHT, and the [Accommodations Checklists](#) have been updated with minor changes.

Minnesota follows all guidelines and accommodations recommended in the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual*. Contact mde.testing@state.mn.us with any questions related to references to state-specific information or guidance in this manual. In addition, state-specific guidance is included in the [Procedures Manual](#), which is updated each October.

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2023–24 WIDA AMS Technology Documentation

Refer to the [Tech Update](#) section below for information on technology documentation available in WIDA AMS.

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MDE Employment Opportunity: Data Governance Manager

The Data Practices and Analytics division is currently seeking a data governance manager to support and advance enterprise data governance for the Minnesota Department of Education.

If you or someone you know may be interested in a new and challenging opportunity, consult the position description and application instructions on the State of Minnesota Careers website. The Job ID is 67104, and the **posting is open until July 24**. Visit the [State of Minnesota Careers](#) website for more information and to apply.

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Upcoming Opportunities

July Q&A Session

MDE will host a virtual Q&A session for DACs on Tuesday, July 18, from 2–3 p.m. that will focus on the reporting stages and the District and School Student Results files. New and experienced DACs are welcome to attend. Register for [July Q&A Session](#). Details for joining are provided once participants register.

The prerequisite for the July Q&A session is completion of the New DAC Reporting Training 1, which is available on the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#).

MDE collects questions from DACs prior to the event to help prepare and find relevant resources to share. After completing the prerequisites, please [submit questions for the July Q&A Session](#). Q&A Sessions will not be recorded nor will CEUs be provided as these sessions are an additional support rather than a training event.

WIDA Screener Webinars

WIDA and DRC will be hosting the following webinars in July and August:

- **WIDA Screener for Kindergarten** Tuesday, July 25, from 1–2 p.m.
- **WIDA Screener Online** Tuesday, Aug. 1, from 1–2 p.m.
- **WIDA Screener Paper** Thursday, Aug. 3, from 1–2 p.m.

More information, including the webinar link, can be found in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#) on the Webinars page. The recordings for WIDA Q&A Webinars are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal on the Webinars page within a week of the presentation.

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Tech Update

2023–24 WIDA AMS Technology Documentation

The following documents are now available in [WIDA AMS](#), under **My Applications > General Information > Documents**. Unless otherwise indicated, no changes were made to the content of the document.

- DRC INSIGHT Technology User Guide
 - This user guide has been updated to include the new requirement that only an admin user may update the DRC INSIGHT secure student browser.
- WIDA AMS User Guide
 - Information regarding the Import Management, Student Management, and Test Management applications has been removed from this document and can be found in the Online Help feature of WIDA AMS.
- ACCESS for ELLs Headset Specifications
- DRC Network Evaluation and Troubleshooting
- Site Technology Readiness Checklist
- Testing Site Capacity Estimator
- Chrome OS Device Support for 2023–24

- DRC INSIGHT Supported System Requirements for June 2023–October 2023
- Tech Bulletin: Windows All-in-One Quick Reference Guide
 - References to enabling the auto-update feature have been removed.
- Tech Bulletin: macOS All-in-One Quick Reference Guide
 - References to enabling the auto-update feature have been removed.
- Tech Bulletin: Extended Retries
- Tech Bulletin: Updating DRC INSIGHT Secure Browser on Windows and Mac Testing Devices
- Technology Troubleshooting and Issue Report Form

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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.