

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—AUG. 10, 2022

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Results Remain Embargoed • Student Assessment History Report Rollover • Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR • Federal Testing Grant Awards Public Comment • Odds and Ends 	<p>Aug. 25: <i>Public release of final assessment and accountability results on MDE website</i></p> <p>Aug. 25: <i>Retrieve results in WIDA AMS</i></p> <p>Aug. 25: <i>Retrieve Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next</i></p> <p>Aug. 25: <i>Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in district (unless district declines to receive hard copies)</i></p>

Assessment Results Remain Embargoed

As districts prepare for back-to-school events, it is important to remember that all assessment results are under embargo until Aug. 25.

During the embargo, districts can use the final assessment results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders. They may share the results with district teachers and staff for planning or instructional purposes, but they may not share the results in public settings. Districts may also share individual scores with students and families for planning or instructional purposes. Refer to Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#), which provides guidelines for using the assessment data and abiding by the embargo.

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Student Assessment History Report Rollover

The Student Assessment History Report will roll over to the new school year on Aug. 17, and no data will be available in the Student Assessment History Report until MARSS enrollment data is submitted by the district for the 2022–23 school year. An updated version of the user guide will be posted to the [Assessment Secure Reports Data Submissions](#) page of the MDE website.

Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR

Districts that have received assessment results for the college entrance exam they administered (ACT or SAT) should enter requests for reimbursements in the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\)](#) system for eligible students. If a district has not previously received reimbursement for a grade 11 or 12 student, the following criteria applies to reimbursement requests:

- Districts will be reimbursed for students eligible for a free/reduced-priced meal (FRP) who are entered into GRR.
- Districts may also be reimbursed (on a prorated basis if necessary) for students who are unable to pay for the exam. Districts must determine the criteria for unable to pay and enter those requests in GRR.

Districts must submit eligible reimbursement requests no later than Sept. 9.

Common Issues

Any student identity error must first be resolved in MARSS and/or the Student ID Validation system before the record can be added into GRR. Student data entered in GRR must match MARSS data. If you receive the “Student match based on matching rules, but ID is different” message, check the following:

- A nickname has been entered instead of the full name (for example, “Ben” instead of “Benjamin”).
- The student’s last name is incomplete or not entered correctly (for example, “Carlson” or “Carlson-Hernandez” instead of “Carlson Hernandez”).

Reimbursement Reports

After districts enter reimbursement requests in GRR, they must confirm that the students for which they expect reimbursement are included in the reimbursement reports; these reports are refreshed each morning. It is important to confirm student information is entered correctly to avoid incorrect reimbursements made to the district. The following reports are available:

- The *Claimed Student Detail Report* details what records will be reimbursed (or the reason records will not be reimbursed).
- The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the amount to be received.

Resources

More information is in the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) User Guide](#) and in the *MDE Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) Training*, which is posted in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under the MDE Recorded Webinars category.

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 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 Aug. 31 by emailing mde.testing@state.mn.us.

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Odds and Ends

- Virginie Sanchez, who answers the majority of the phone calls and emails districts have about testing, is out of the office and will be back on Aug. 22. During this time, other assessment staff will be answering questions from districts sent to mde.testing@state.mn.us, and you may see a delayed response time.
- MDE voicemail will be unavailable from Friday, Aug. 12, at 10 p.m. through Saturday, Aug. 13 at 6 a.m. Anyone trying to reach MDE will be unable to leave a voicemail and should call back after the outage is over or send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.

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Minnesota Department of Education

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

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