

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—AUGUST 11, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Results Remain Embargoed • Register Now: Preparation for Public Release of Statewide Results Webinar • Final Reports Delivery • Student Assessment History Report Rollover • PearsonAccess Next Reports: Planned Unavailability • Odds and Ends • Upcoming Opportunities 	<p>Aug. 25: Access embargoed assessment downloadable data files including state, all districts, and all schools in Secure Reports</p> <p>Aug. 26: Retrieve Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and other reports in WIDA AMS</p> <p>Aug. 26: Retrieve Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and roster PDFs under Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next</p> <p>Aug. 26: Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and other reports arrive in districts (unless district requested not to receive paper copies for MCA/MTAS)</p> <p>Aug. 26: Media receives access to embargoed assessment downloadable data files including state, all districts, and all schools</p> <p>Aug. 27: Public release of final assessment results in Data Center</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. 27, including the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) that will be delivered on Aug. 26.

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, but they may not share ISRs before Aug. 27 as these reports include school- and district-level summary results.

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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Register Now: Preparation for Public Release of Statewide Results Webinar

District Assessment Coordinators (DACs), as well as district and school staff involved in communicating assessment results, are invited to attend a *Preparation for Public Release of Statewide Assessment Results Webinar* on Wednesday, Aug. 25, from 2–3 p.m.

Staff from the MDE Communications and Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment divisions will share information in preparation for the public release of assessment results. This webinar will also include a discussion about the press release information and terminology MDE uses when talking about results and next steps.

District and school staff who attend can expect to discuss the templates for communicating with staff and local communities about assessment results (including template letters and PowerPoint decks). These resources will be available Wednesday morning. **These resources will be embargoed until the public release on Aug. 27.**

Registration form: [Preparation for Public Release of Statewide Assessment Results Webinar](#). Information on how to access the webinar will be shared with registered participants one day prior to the webinar.

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Final Reports Delivery

Final reports, including Individual Student Reports (ISRs), for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS are scheduled to arrive in districts on Thursday, Aug. 26.

- ISRs for ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS will be provided for all students who participated in ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS.
- ISRs for MCA/MTAS will be provided only for students with a valid score in at least one subject.

Since ISRs contain private student data, **it is important for districts to ensure someone is available to receive the reports and secure them until distribution.** The final reports shipment will be sent to districts, and each school will have its own box labeled with the school name. For nonpublic schools, final reports will be packaged and shipped directly to each school.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following reports for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS:

- Individual Student Reports (ISRs)
- Student Roster Reports
- District and School Frequency Reports

Updated resources are available on the WIDA website:

- The updated [ACCESS for ELLs parent letters](#) are now available in the same 47 languages as the ACCESS ISRs. They provide general information about the ACCESS and are meant to be provided to parents/guardians alongside the ISR. The letters are available in Word format so that they can be customized at the district as desired with local test administration information and state or district policies.
- The [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) provide an overview of the various types of score reports, explain how scores are calculated, and how to use proficiency level and scale scores to support students' language growth.
- The [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#) flyer, available in 13 languages, helps explain ACCESS scores and the ISR to families. Use the [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding Your Child's Scores](#) flyer for students who took Alternate ACCESS.
- Find sample score reports and additional information about ACCESS scores on the [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS Scores and Reports](#) pages.

In addition, a new resource, *What Families Need to Know about Using ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Results*, will be posted on MDE [Students and Families Statewide Testing](#) page by next week. This resource can be provided to help families understand the purpose and uses of their student's results from spring 2021.

If you have any questions regarding your reports shipment, contact DRC Customer Service at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615.

MCA/MTAS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following:

- Packing list of contents and cover memo (in box 1 for each school)
- ISRs for MCA and MTAS
 - Reports will be sorted by grade and test administration (MCA or MTAS).
 - To assist with the sorting, each ISR is marked with a color tab according to grade, subject, and assessment. The packing list indicates the sort order and corresponding color tabs.
- Student results labels (if requested in Test WES)

Related resources and samples will be available on the [ISR Resources page](#) by Aug. 23.

- *Interpretive Guide for Minnesota Reports*: This comprehensive guide contains detailed information on how to read the ISRs and use the results, including important context to consider for this year's extenuating circumstances.
- *MCA and MTAS ISR Quick Guides*: The quick guides provide a high-level overview of how to read the ISRs and may be useful for educators to use when reviewing student results with parents/guardians.
- *Understanding the MCA and MTAS ISR Videos*: These short videos provide a high-level overview of the information presented on the ISRs.
- Samples of MCA and MTAS ISRs.

In addition, a new resource, *What Families Need to Know about Using MCA and MTAS Results*, will be posted on MDE [Students and Families Statewide Testing](#) page by next week. This resource can be provided to help families understand the purpose and uses of their student's results from spring 2021.

If you have any questions regarding your shipment, submit a [Pearson help desk request](#) or call the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659. If you have any questions about the data reported on the ISR, contact mde.testing@state.mn.us.

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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 2021–22 school year.

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PearsonAccess Next Reports: Planned Unavailability

In preparation for loading the MCA and MTAS 2021 reporting data in PearsonAccess Next, the Historical Student Data and Longitudinal Reports will be unavailable Aug. 11–Sept. 8 in PearsonAccess Next. All current Longitudinal Reports and Historical Student Data will again be available on Sept. 9.

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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 Aug. 6–13. During this time, other assessment staff are answering questions from districts sent to mde.testing@state.mn.us each day, and you may see a delayed response time.

- Minnesota Report Card Planned Outage: The Minnesota Report Card will be unavailable from Thursday, Aug. 26 at noon through Friday, Aug. 27 at 8 a.m. for updates related to the public release of results. A message will appear when a user tries to access the site letting them know when the site will be available.

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Upcoming Opportunities

Reading Alternate MCA Test Specifications

Following the 2020 revisions to the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in English Language Arts (ELA), the Reading Alternate MCA (formerly MTAS) will begin assessing these standards in the spring of 2026 for students with significant cognitive disabilities. In collaboration with a committee of Minnesota educators, MDE has drafted the [Reading Alternate Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Test Specifications](#) to assist with the development of the new assessments. In addition to test specifications, the document includes extended benchmarks, which are based on the new Minnesota reading benchmarks but reduced in depth, breadth, and complexity.

Members of the public are encouraged to review the proposed test specifications and provide feedback through the [Reading Alternate MCA Test Specifications Feedback Survey](#). The survey will be open until Friday, Sept. 3.

Feedback from multiple perspectives, including language arts and special education teachers, is important in creating the best assessment possible for Minnesota students with significant cognitive disabilities. Please share this information with applicable district staff.

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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.