

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—AUGUST 25, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Assessments Results Release • Final Reports Delivery and Resources • TestNav Apps and Operating System (OS) Support • Service Available for Spring 2022 MCA and MTAS: Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors • Tech Update • Upcoming Opportunities • Odds and Ends 	<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> <p>Sept. 20: Retrieve Benchmark Reports in PearsonAccess Next</p>

Final Assessments Results Release

Public Release of Results

The public release of final 2021 assessments results will be this Friday, Aug. 27.

Once results are released publicly, the information is available in two places on the MDE website for families, educators, and community stakeholders to access:

- The [Minnesota Report Card](#) allows users to create graphs and tables to view results for various groups of students across the state and within districts and schools.
- Downloadable data files are under [Assessment Files](#) (MDE website > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics), which provide summary assessment data for the state, county, districts, and schools that can be used to perform analyses. These are the same files that will be provided to districts and the media ahead of the public release.

Educator and School Leader Toolkit

The *Toolkit for School Leaders and Educators: Communicating Statewide Assessment Results* is now available to help support school leaders and educators in communicating results with their staff, families, and the community. This toolkit contains links to existing materials for interpreting and understanding results and new customizable materials, such as a PowerPoint presentation and template letter, that can be modified as needed and shared with school staff and families. Use of these resources is optional but they are being provided to support districts in communicating assessment results from spring 2021.

The educator toolkit can be accessed through a link at the top of the Test Results Summary page. To access the Test Results Summary page, select Test Results Summary, located under Assessment Secure Reports on the [Secure Reports](#) page. While other links on the page will be removed following the public release of results, this link will remain in Test Results Summary for districts to access. It will not be posted on the MDE website as the resources are intended to be accessed and modified by district staff before being shared.

Toolkit for Families

The [Toolkit for Families: Understanding Statewide Assessment Results](#) is now available to provide information in one place for families about interpreting and understanding results. The direct link may be provided to families and the toolkit is also available on the [Students and Families Statewide Testing](#) page. It includes links to existing materials, including Individual Student Report (ISR) resources, and to the new *What Families Need to Know about Using MCA and MTAS Results* and *What Families Need to Know about Using ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Results* resources.

Additional Resources

The following resources are available to support districts with using and understanding the public release of 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 abiding by the embargo and using assessment data.
- The *2021 Statewide Assessment Reporting Guidance* provides guidance for districts with information on using 2021 results appropriately and in context. The second phase of this document, with data included,

is posted in Test Results Summary. It will be posted on the [District Resources](#) page (under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading) on Aug. 27.

- A [Minnesota Report Card User Guide](#) (select Using the Report Card menu choice) provides information on interpreting and using the data on the Report Card.
- The [Assessment Files User Guide](#) (linked at the end of the overview paragraph located at the top of the Assessment Files page) provides information about the content of the files, and an updated version will be posted by Aug. 25; information is available on the first tab of the files.
- The [Statewide Assessments: Using Public Results](#), located under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading, is a one-page resource that provides information for district staff about using these summary results for statewide assessments, including specific contexts to consider for this year.
- The recording of the *New DAC Reporting Training 2: Test Results Summary Reports and Public Reporting* training is available in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars.
- Educator resources are available on the [Testing 1, 2, 3 website](#) to provide information on assessment and data resources on one central site, including test details organized by subject and grade, explanations of MCA data and appropriate uses in the classroom, and helpful resources for data literacy.

[Back to Top](#)

Final Reports Delivery and Resources

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS are scheduled to arrive in districts tomorrow, 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 (that will be receiving an ISR shipment) to ensure someone is available to receive the reports and secure them until distribution.** Refer to the [Aug. 11 Assessment Update](#) for detailed information on the content of each shipment.

Final Results in Vendor Systems

Electronic copies of ISRs and other final results will also be available in the applicable vendor systems tomorrow, Aug. 26.

- For ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, electronic copies of ISRs and rosters will be available in WIDA AMS. Translated versions of ISRs can be downloaded in WIDA AMS, as needed.

- For MCA and MTAS, electronic copies of ISRs will be available in PearsonAccess Next under Published Reports. These ISRs are available by grade and subject (by school) or in a zipped file of individual results separated by student (by district and school). Note: Users will need software such as WinZip, WinRAR, 7-Zip, etc. to open the zipped file.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Score Interpretation Resources

As educators review ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS scores, WIDA has updated the [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) and the [Alternate ACCESS Scores and Reports](#) pages on their website.

Here are some key resources:

- An [Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) for both ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS
- WIDA's [ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding your Child's Scores](#) and [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs: Understanding your Child's Scores](#) to help discuss student scores with families
- [Lesson plans](#) for talking with students about ACCESS testing and results
- ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS [Speaking and Writing rubrics](#) for classroom assessment
- An [infographic for educators](#) providing more information on how to analyze ACCESS scores, communicate results, collaborate with colleagues, and take action

MCA and MTAS Resources

ISR resources are available on the [ISR Resources](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website, including:

- *Interpretive Guide for Minnesota Reports*: This comprehensive guide contains detailed information on how to read the ISRs and interpret the test data
- *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 or 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 and rosters

[Back to Top](#)

TestNav Apps and Operating System (OS) Support

Refer to the [Tech Update](#) for important information on Version 1.10.X of TestNav apps and OS support for the 2021–22 school year.

[Back to Top](#)

Service Available for Spring 2022 MCA and MTAS: Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors

For the spring 2022 test administrations, Student Information System (SIS) and data warehouse vendors will have the opportunity to receive regularly scheduled extracts of preliminary on-demand data for the MCA and MTAS during the testing window and/or final data extracts for MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS following the release of the District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files. These extracts will allow vendors to load the data directly into their system for access by school districts who enter into a data sharing agreement with their associated vendor and MDE. Vendors have the option of receiving preliminary data, final data, or both on behalf of their member districts. In order to participate, vendors need to make a commitment **no later than Sept. 10, 2021**.

Pearson has currently contacted the following SIS vendors and data warehouse vendors to participate in the program.

- EduPoint (Synergy)
- Infinite Campus (Campus)
- JMC, Inc. (JMC)
- MBA (PowerSchool)
- Skyward, Inc. (Web School)
- Tyler Technologies (Schoolmaster)
- cmERDC (Viewpoint)
- Region 1
- Mach B
- Sourcewell (formerly TIES)
- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEDGE)
- Illuminate Education
- Strategic Partnerships (Hoonuit)
- Panorama Education

For school year 2021–22, only vendors who have provided commitment to use the extracts to Pearson by **Sept. 10, 2021**, will be eligible to receive regularly scheduled extracts from Pearson and/or the final data from MDE for the spring 2022 test administrations.

In order for the data to be included on the extract, DACs will be required to authorize in PearsonAccess Next which vendor(s) should receive their student data on a regularly scheduled extract. If the DAC does not authorize the data to be sent to an SIS or data warehouse vendor extract, it will not be included. DACs will be able to begin authorizing Pearson to provide data to vendors in February 2022; the first extract will be provided in March 2022.

The SIS and data warehouse vendors will need to configure their system to receive the data in the file layout provided by Pearson. A preliminary file layout has been provided to the vendors listed above. The final file layout will be available to vendors in October.

If your district would like to use this service, consider contacting your SIS vendor or data warehouse vendor to express your interest and encourage them to participate. If your SIS vendor or data warehouse is not listed above, you can request that they contact Pearson at 888-817-8659 or [submit a help desk request](#) for more information.

[Back to Top](#)

Tech Update

TestNav Apps Available for the 2021–22 School Year

TestNav apps for the 2021–22 school year are now available. Version 1.10.X of the TestNav apps can be downloaded from the [TestNav 8 Online Support Page](#) or from the following locations.

OS	Download Available
Chrome OS	Chrome Web Store
iOS	iTunes App Store
Windows desktop	download.testnav.com for all supported Windows, choice of Windows Store for Windows 10
Mac desktop	download.testnav.com
Linux desktop	download.testnav.com

Prior to testing, ensure that all devices being used for spring 2022 MCA online testing have been updated to the latest version. Desktop apps will need to be downloaded and re-installed each year. Chrome, iOS, and Windows Store apps (Windows 10 only) will auto update unless the auto-update feature is disabled. If TestNav was not previously installed, instructions for your OS can be found on the [Set up and Use TestNav](#) page.

Operating System (OS) Support for 2021–22 School Year

The following operating systems will be supported for running TestNav for spring 2022 MCA online testing:

- Chrome OS 91
- iOS 13-14.x
- macOS 10.14-11 (Intel Mac); Apple silicon (ARM64)

- Windows 10 x64 – 20H2, 21H1
- Linux Fedora 33 x64, Ubuntu 18.04 x64

Browser versions supported (used only for item samplers):

- Google Chrome 91
- Safari 13.x-14.x
- Firefox 63-84
- Microsoft Edge

Review the [TestNav System Requirements](#) for more information about what is supported for the 2021–22 school year. If you have any questions, please contact the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#).

[Back to Top](#)

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.

[Back to Top](#)

Odds and Ends

- 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.

- WIDA Secure Portal downtime: The WIDA Secure Portal will be down for a planned upgrade beginning Tuesday, Aug. 31, at 3 p.m. until Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 7 a.m.

[Back to Top](#)

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Minnesota Department of Education

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

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