

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—AUG. 31, 2022

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Final Assessment Results Data

Public assessment results were released on Aug. 25. Families, educators, and community members can retrieve this information in two places on the MDE website:

- The [Minnesota Report Card](#) allows users to create graphs and tables to view results for various groups of students across the state as well as within districts and schools. 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.
- 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. The [Assessment Files User Guide](#) (linked in the overview paragraph located at the top of the Assessment Files page) provides information about the content of the files; information is also available on the first tab of the files.

Note: Due to COVID-19, there is no summarized assessment data for all statewide assessments for 2020 (MCA/MTAS, and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS). In addition, no accountability results were calculated in 2021, so in order to retrieve summarized assessment data for 2021 in the Minnesota Report Card, select “All Tested” under “Student included.”

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Benchmark Reports Coming Soon

The 2021–22 MCA Benchmark Reports will be available on Sept. 7 in [PearsonAccess Next](#) under Reports > Published Reports for DAC and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles [login required].

Benchmark reports are generated at a school or district level for each grade and subject. They may be helpful as an additional resource for understanding school or district performance on each benchmark assessed on the MCA from the grade-level standards. The reports also provide summarized information about student performance on each strand or substrand from the standards. Educators should always consider additional information about student learning and instruction when reviewing benchmark reports, but may find the report helpful as one piece of information when making decisions that are larger in scope like curriculum alignment or scope and sequence planning. Before digging in and making inferences from the benchmark reports, review the following resources:

- The 2021–22 *Benchmark Report Interpretive Guide* and 2021–22 *Benchmark Report “How To” Quick Guides* are posted on the [Additional Reporting Resources](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website.
- The 2021–22 *Benchmark Report Video* on the [Additional Reporting Resources](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website.
- The new Minnesota Questions Tool posted on [the Released MCA Questions](#) page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website includes contains released test questions (items) from past MCAs, as well as links to data about each item. Educators can use these items to better understand how the MCA is aligned to the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards, and how the items are written to reflect the rigor and complexity of the standards.
- MDE staff developed and posted Benchmark Achievement Level Descriptors for reading and mathematics on the [Success Criteria](#) page of Testing 1, 2, 3 website (under the Achievement Level Descriptors expandable header). The Benchmark ALDs can help make meaning out of the benchmark reports as they describe the knowledge and skills students typically demonstrate across the four achievement levels for each benchmark from the standards. These documents are in the process of being updated by October 1 to include additional examples for each achievement level.

For the technical details of the benchmark report calculations, refer to Appendix A: Benchmark Report Calculations Resource of the *Technical Manual for Minnesota’s Statewide Assessments* posted on the [Technical Reports](#) page of the MDE website (under the Technical Manual expandable header).

For questions about the benchmark reports, please contact mde.testing@state.mn.us. If DACs or AAs have questions about accessing the benchmark reports, contact Pearson at 888-817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#).

Note: There were no benchmark reports produced for 2020 due to COVID-19. In 2019, the MCA Benchmark Report was redesigned using a different calculation method to report school and district performance on

benchmarks. School and district staff should not compare benchmark reports before 2019 to benchmark reports from 2019, 2021 and 2022.

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Family Resources

Hmong, Somali, and Spanish translations of the *Statewide Assessments: What Families Need to Know about Using ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Results* and *Statewide Assessments: What Families Need to Know about Using MCA and MTAS Results* are available on the [Students and Families Statewide Testing](#) page of the MDE website (under Translated Documents). The *Assessment Update* will include information when these resources are available in additional languages.

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Educator Edition

The MDE division of Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment is launching a new monthly newsletter: the *Educator Edition*. This new communication is aimed at educators and will replace both the *Testing 1, 2, 3 Update* newsletter and the Curriculum Director newsletter beginning in September. The *Educator Edition* will include spotlights on the following topics:

- New MDE resources
- Links to professional learning and other opportunities
- Relevant ideas regarding standards-based classroom instruction and assessments

The *Educator Edition* is the best way to keep up with what is happening in the division of Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment.

Current recipients of the Testing 1, 2, 3 or Curriculum Director newsletters will receive the *Educator Edition* automatically.

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Odds and Ends

September WIDA Q&A Webinars

Please join WIDA and DRC to learn about the following topics:

- Welcome Back: What's New in 2022?: Sept.13 , 1–2 p.m.
- Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New Test Administrators: Sept. 15, 1–2 p.m.

- Pre-Testing: ACCESS for ELLs for New District Test Coordinators: Sept. 20, 1–2 p.m.
- Pre-Testing: Ordering Materials in WIDA AMS: Sept. 27, 1–2 p.m.

More information and login details can be found on the [Webinars](#) page of the WIDA Secure Portal [login required]. WIDA posts recordings of WIDA Q&A Webinars to the Webinars page within a week of the presentation.

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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

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