

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—SEPT. 7, 2022

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline This Friday: Reimbursement Requests Student Assessment History Report ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Updates and Resources Invitation to Math Teachers and Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (repeat) 	<p>Sept. 7: Retrieve Benchmark Reports in PearsonAccess Next</p> <p>Sept. 9: Submit reimbursement requests in GRR for college entrance exams</p>

Deadline This Friday: Reimbursement Requests

Districts must enter requests for reimbursements for college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) in the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) system](#) for eligible students **no later than this Friday, Sept. 9**. Reimbursements will be sent by the end of September. Tip: If using the file upload, make sure student MARSS numbers are formatted as text and include leading zeros.

After submitting reimbursement requests, the next step is to confirm expected records using the reimbursement reports, which are refreshed each morning.

- The *Claimed Student Detail Report* shows the records that will be reimbursed and provides the reason for any record that will not be reimbursed.
- The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the total reimbursement amount.

For additional information, use the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) User Guide](#) and [MDE Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) Training](#) (available in the Training Management System on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars).

Note: Requests can be entered for any fall or spring administrations offered by districts in 2021–22. Reimbursement requests entered after Sept. 9 will be reimbursed in September 2023 based on available funds. Refer to the *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide*, as needed, for reminders about student eligibility for reimbursement.

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Student Assessment History Report Availability

If your district is not included in the drop-down menu of the Student Assessment History Report, it means that MARSS enrollment data has yet to be submitted by the district for the 2022–23 school year. DACs must work with their district MARSS Coordinator to find out when a MARSS submission will be completed.

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ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Updates and Resources

Deadline This Friday for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Requests

The deadline to request a scoring appeal, transcription request, or test booklet search for spring 2022 ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS is this Friday, Sept. 9.

- Scoring appeals may be requested for either the Writing (paper or online) or Speaking (online only) domains of the grades 1–12 ACCESS when there is a concern that a student’s test may have been scored incorrectly. DACs must email mde.testing@state.mn.us with the student’s MARSS number and the rationale for the score appeal.
- Transcription requests may be submitted if there is concern that a student or Test Administrator did not use a Number 2 pencil or did not fill in the bubble or answer area to completion for paper test materials.
- Test booklet searches may be requested when student’s score was not included results and it is suspected that a completed test booklet 1) had a district/school label but no student information bubbled, 2) bubbled student information but no district/school label, or 3) a Do Not Score Label applied.

More detail, including possible costs, are described in Chapter 10 of the [Procedures Manual](#) starting on page 212.

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Nurturing Speaking Growth—WIDA Webinar Series & Self-Paced Learning Module

English language development teachers, program coordinators, and District Assessment Coordinators are invited to a free, online professional learning series to explore the connection between the ACCESS Speaking Test and classroom practices that promote oral language development. Participants will share ideas during two live webinars. Registration is limited to participants who can commit to completing the required self-paced learning module (30-60 minutes) prior to Oct. 3, and commit to attending the live webinars on Oct. 3 and Oct. 10 from 2–3:30 p.m. We anticipate the total time commitment for this learning series to be no more than 4 hours.

By engaging in this eLearning series, participants will:

- Apply the underpinnings of the Speaking assessment to classroom practice
- Connect the Key Language Uses to instructional practices in speaking

- Explore the impact of holding the floor for extended classroom discourse
- Choose Teacher Moves to support student voice
- Develop an ear for language to support precision decisions.

Registration is limited and will close at **6 p.m. on Sept. 13**. For registration and additional details, please visit the [Nurturing Speaking Growth Eventbrite](#) page. Confirmed participants will receive an email from WIDA by Sept. 17 with next steps and a link to the self-paced learning module. If you are interested in this topic and not able to commit at this time, or you later find registration has already closed (we may reach our enrollment cap fairly quickly), you may be interested in the WIDA Focus Bulletin on Oral Language, available on the [Oral Language in the Classroom](#) page of the WIDA website. We also encourage you to explore the eWorkshop options available to Minnesota K–12 educators in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#). Please direct any questions about any of these sessions to MDE.EL@state.mn.us.

Interpreting ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports – Overview Webinar

Minnesota educators and school administrators who want to learn about the different types and uses of the various ACCESS for ELLs score reports are invited to join a free webinar on Sept. 19 from 2–3:30 p.m. To join the webinar, [use this Zoom link](#) at the time of the meeting. A recording of the live webinar will be posted on the webinar page of the [WIDA Secure Portal](#).

2022–2023 ACCESS for ELLs Manuals Now Available

The *ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual*, *District and School Test Coordinator Manual*, and *Test Administrator Essentials* have been updated for the 2022–23 testing year and are available on the Resources page of the [WIDA Secure Portal](#).

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Invitation to Math Teachers and Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (repeat)

MDE is looking for a diverse group of **K–12 math, special education, and English learner teacher leaders** to use their expertise in developing test specifications for the Mathematics MCA-IV and Alternate MCA. The Alternate MCA is the redesigned alternate assessment (formerly the MTAS) aligned to alternate achievement standards designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The purpose of the test specifications committee is to develop assessment boundaries and inform decisions about the assessment of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in Mathematics. The committee will meet both in-person and virtually throughout the 2022–23 school year.

Please share this opportunity with educators in your districts who work directly with the mathematics standards, English learners or with students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Interested educators can find additional information on the [application form](#), which must be submitted **by Sept. 14**.

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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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