

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
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Final Reports Resources Overview

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS were delivered to districts on Aug. 26. Electronic copies of ISRs can be retrieved in [PearsonAccess Next](#) and [WIDA AMS \(DRC\)](#) respectively.

ISRs must be provided to parents/guardians no later than Dec. 1. Each district decides if the paper reports are distributed or if electronic versions are provided (i.e., through a secure parent portal). If provided electronically, the final version from WIDA AMS or Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next must be used. Paper results must be securely disposed of if providing electronically. More information on *Individual Student Reports (ISRs)* is available in Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#).

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Reporting Resources

The following 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*, is posted on the [More about ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS](#) section of the MDE website. This resource can be provided to help families understand the purpose and uses of their student's results from spring 2021.

MCA/MTAS Reporting Resources

Related resources and samples for MCA and MTAS ISRs are available on the [ISR Resources page](#) of PearsonAccess Next:

- *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 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 and may be a useful resource to provide to parents/guardians when reviewing results for their student at home.
- Samples of MCA and MTAS ISRs.

In addition, a new resource, *What Families Need to Know about Using MCA and MTAS Results*, is posted on the [More about MCA and MTAS](#) section of the MDE website. This resource can be provided to help families understand the purpose and uses of their student's results from spring 2021.

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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 this Friday, Sept. 10.

As of 1 p.m. today, Pearson has received a commitment to use the extracts from the following vendor:

- JMC Inc. (JMC)
- cmERDC (Viewpoint)
- Sourcewell (formerly TIES)
- Illuminate Education

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

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

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 they have not already made a commitment to Pearson based on the list above). 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.

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Preparing for 2021–22 ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS

As districts prepare to administer the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS this year, WIDA has developed a webpage, [What to know: WIDA assessments in 2021-22 school year](#), that highlights changes for this year.

In addition, WIDA has updated the following resources for this year:

- The [Accessibility and Accommodations Manual](#) is a guide on selecting supports and accommodations and must be used along with the test specific *Test Administrator Manual*. Recommendations in the *Accessibility and Accommodations Manual* do not replace or amend state policy. Districts must refer to Chapter 4 of the [Procedures Manual](#) when making decisions about how students will participate in statewide testing.
- The [WIDA Secure Portal](#) has been redesigned. WIDA has reorganized resources and all assessment training materials have been moved into their own set of courses. In addition, all upcoming webinars, including some in September, are available on the [Webinars](#) page. Refer to the [Redesign WIDA Secure Portal is live](#) page to learn more about using the portal.
- The [ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Essentials](#) [login required] is a quick reference guide for Test Administrators to keep on hand during testing. It provides critical details around student grouping, scheduling, and domain specific tips and reminders for Test Administrators and students.
- The [ACCESS for ELLs District and School Test Coordinator Manual](#) [login required] is an in-depth reference document for processes and procedures for District and School Assessment Coordinators.
- The [ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Manual](#) is an in-depth reference document for test administration processes and procedures for Test Administrators.

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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 participate in 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 between Sept. 22 and Oct. 4 **and** also commit to attending the live webinars on Oct. 5 and Oct. 12 from 3–4:30 p.m. The total time commitment for this learning series is estimated to be less than five 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 noon on Sept. 20. For registration and additional details, please visit [REGISTRATION](#). Registered participants will receive an e-mail from WIDA by Sept. 22 with next steps and a link to the self-paced learning module.

Please direct any questions about any of these sessions to MDE.EL@state.mn.us.

If you need access to eLearning content in the WIDA secure portal, contact your district's WIDA eLearning Coordinator or contact MDE.EL@state.mn.us.

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Odds and Ends

Updated Contact Information for MDE Statewide Testing

Virginie Sanchez, who answers the majority of the phone calls and emails districts have about testing, can be reached at 651-582-8674 or mde.testing@state.mn.us. If you have an alternate phone number for Virginie, make sure to update the contact information.

Longitudinal Reports/Exports, Historical Student Data, and Subscore Report

On Sept. 9, longitudinal reports/exports and historical student data will be posted in PearsonAccess Next. The Subscore Report will be publicly available on the [PearsonAccess Next website](#) under Reporting Resources > Subscore Report. User guides providing instruction on viewing, printing, downloading, and exporting the data are posted on the [Additional Reporting Resources page](#).

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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

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.