

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—SEPT. 21, 2022

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New DAC Orientation: Registration

In October, MDE and Pearson will host New DAC Orientation. This training will provide an overview of the various roles and responsibilities of a DAC, the statewide assessments administered in Minnesota, relevant MDE and WIDA systems, available resources, and future training opportunities. Pearson will provide information on Pearson systems and available resources. While designed as an introduction for new DACs in their first or second year, other relatively new DACs are also welcome to attend.

MDE is offering this training in three formats:

- An all-day in-person training event at a metro location
- Live virtual training sessions divided and spread over three days
- Pre-recorded trainings that will be posted in the Training Management System (TMS)

MDE recommends that DACs attend either the in-person or virtual sessions, if possible, as they will include opportunities to collaborate with other DACs from across the state.

Note: Since March 2020, MDE has only offered virtual trainings. To meet the needs of DACs, MDE is offering a variety of live training options. While the in-person training is offered in only one location, offering live virtual sessions in addition to a recording allows for the greatest flexibility for participation.

Prerequisites

To prepare for the orientation, new DACs are encouraged to review the *New District Assessment Coordinators: Getting Access* document under the District Assessment Coordinator Resources expandable header on the [District Resources page](#) on the MDE website.

Registration

Registration links are in the table below. MDE aims to deliver our presentations in a way that will be accessible for our participants. If you anticipate needing accommodations, contact mde.testing@state.mn.us. MDE requests a two-week advance notice to provide accommodations and 48-hour notice to cancel them. If the request comes within two weeks of the event, MDE will still make an effort to provide the accommodation.

FORMAT	DATE AND TIME	REGISTRATION LINK
In Person	Thursday, October 6, 2022 9–3:30 p.m. Delta Hotels by Marriot Minneapolis Northeast Minneapolis Ballroom 1330 Industrial Boulevard Northeast Minneapolis, MN 55413	Register for In-Person Training
Virtual (Plan on attending all three sessions)	Session 1: Tuesday, October 11, 2022 9–11 a.m. Session 2: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 9–11 a.m. Session 3: Thursday, October 13, 2022 9–11 a.m.	Register for Virtual Trainings Note: The same link is used for all three sessions for convenience. You only need to register once.

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District Test Security Procedure Reviews

Each year, districts are required to have a district test security procedure in place addressing how test security procedures will be implemented in the district for all statewide assessments. Districts may create their own procedure or use the template available on the [Policies and Procedures](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website. The full list of required procedures starts on page 272 of the [Procedures Manual](#). While the 2022–23 *Procedures Manual* is not yet available, there are no additions to this list for 2022–23 and no changes were made to the existing template.

The MDE Test Security and Data Integrity (TSDI) team will select a sampling of districts and review their district test security procedures. The TSDI team will then provide feedback and may recommend changes and/or require action. The rubric that TSDI uses to evaluate these procedures is on page 290 of the *Procedures Manual*. Districts are randomly selected, and DACs at selected districts will be contacted in mid-October with a request for a copy of their district test security procedure. Even if your district is not contacted for an MDE review, ensure your district test security procedure is in place before testing begins for 2022–23.

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Apply to be an MTAS Field Auditor

Each year, MDE employs Field Auditors to observe MTAS administrations in selected schools around the state and to gather evidence to evaluate the validity and reliability of the assessment. MTAS Field Auditors serve as evidence-gatherers; their job is to obtain evidence that will determine 1) the extent to which the training of the administration was properly implemented and 2) the consistency of the administration for students across the state. For 2022–23, MDE is looking for auditors to do between 8–10 days of work from February–May 2023.

MTAS Field Auditors must be able to travel within an approximate 100-mile radius of their home area. This year, MDE is especially seeking auditors who can serve the regions of Sartell, Rochester, and the Twin Cities Metro.

Field auditors must have these minimum qualifications:

- Current or retired educator or administrator, with licensure in Minnesota
- Experience working with students with disabilities in an educational setting
- Three years of classroom experience

If you or one of your peers may be interested in learning more about this contract work, an application to become an MTAS Field Auditor as well as details on compensation, schedule and tasks can be requested by emailing: alt.assessment.mde@state.mn.us.

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Reimbursements for College Entrance Exams

MDE issued reimbursements to districts based on the requests entered by the Sept. 9 deadline in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system. The payment is identified with “ACT/SAT REIM,” followed by the date (2022-09-15), and a unique number (e.g., N0000039).

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Data and Assessment Literacy (MnDAL) Online Learning Modules for Teachers

MDE is excited to announce the launch of the first strand of the Minnesota Data and Assessment Literacy (MnDAL) modules. The MnDAL series of online learning modules is aimed at supporting educators and leaders to use assessment and data as tools to transform teaching and learning. Each module includes slides, articles, videos, activities, and tools that can be applied within classroom instruction.

The learning series is differentiated through two paths: one for teachers and one for leaders. Each module requires about 60-90 minutes to complete and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are awarded for module completion. Educators and leaders are encouraged to use the downloadable reflection questions, facilitation guides, and activities with a group of teachers or as a curriculum for professional learning.

Individuals can currently access the content of Modules 1–4 for teachers on the [On-Demand Learning](#) page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website through the MDE Canvas learning management system; the leader set will be released in October:

- Module 1: The Role of Assessment in a Balanced, Comprehensive and Equitable Learning System
- Module 2: Balanced, Comprehensive and Equitable Assessment Systems
- Module 3: The Role of State Summative Assessments in a Balanced, Comprehensive and Equitable Assessment System
- Module 4: Balanced Classroom Assessment Systems

Throughout the 2022–23 school year, additional modules and facilitator guides will be posted on the [On-Demand Learning](#) page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website. For more information or questions, please contact [Kendra Olsen](#).

Accessing MnDAL Modules

Links to each module's content and a facilitator's guide are posted on the [On-Demand Learning](#) page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website. The module links will direct you to MDE's Canvas page. You will then need to click the "Join this course" button in the upper right corner.

If you do not have an MDE Canvas account, select the "I am a new user" radio button, enter your email in the Username field, enter your first and last name in the Full Name field, and agree to the Acceptable use policy. Select "Enroll in Course" and then select "Go to the Course" to access the modules in Canvas. Note: You will receive an email asking you to finish setting up your account by creating your password for future logins.

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Science MCA Test Materials

Please share this newly available accommodation with your Special Education Teachers.

A 12-point regular print test book will be available for the Science MCA next spring. It may be used by any student with an IEP or 504 plan whose disability prevents them from accessing the content on a computer. Requests for this accommodation must be determined by the IEP or 504 team rather than student or administrator preference.

Large print test books for the Science MCA will continue to be available for students with low vision who need an increased font size to see the test items. Large print test books are available in 18-point and 24-point fonts.

Note: A paper Science MCA item sampler in 12 point is now available on the [Science MCA Item Samplers](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website.

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Odds and Ends

Minnesota-Specific WIDA Page

The [Minnesota](#) page of the WIDA website has been updated with assessment information for the 2022–23 school year.

Interpreting ACCESS for ELLs Score Reports – Overview Webinar Recording

In case you missed it, a recording of the Sept. 19 webinar is now posted on the webinar page of the [WIDA Secure Portal](#). This webinar provides Minnesota educators and school administrators with an overview of the different types and uses of the various ACCESS for ELLs score reports.

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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.