

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT—SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

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## ***Staffing Update***

Tracy Montez Lindner, who has most recently worked in the Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment division as an English Learner Assessment and Training Project Manager, will be leaving MDE to start a new and exciting adventure in New Mexico. Tracy's last day will be Oct. 8. Those of you who have attended Tracy's trainings or have interacted with her will understand how much she will be missed in our division, agency and the state. We are happy for her and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

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## ***Virtual New DAC Orientation: Save the Dates***

In October, MDE and Pearson will provide a virtual New DAC Orientation. This virtual event will be spread across three days for a few hours each day, and each session will cover unique topics. MDE recommends that DACs attend the live sessions if possible as they will include interactive information sharing as well as time to discuss topics with colleagues. However, the presentation will be recorded for each day's sessions if participants are unable to attend all three sessions live.

MDE 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 training opportunities. Pearson will provide information on Pearson systems and available resources.

Though designed as an introduction for new DACs in their first or second year, other relatively new DACs are also welcome to attend.

The dates and session times are as follows; links to register will be provided in an upcoming *Assessment Update*:

- Session 1: Tuesday, Oct. 26, from 9–11 a.m.
- Session 2: Wednesday, Oct. 27, from 9–11 a.m.
- Session 3: Thursday, Oct. 28, from 9–11:30 a.m.

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## ***DAC Resources Available***

The 2021–22 versions of the following DAC Resources are available on the [District Resources](#) page (under the District Assessment Coordinator Resources expandable header). Only minor updates were made for the 2021–22 school year.

- *Getting Started in your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Role* provides a quick reference for new DACs on getting started in their role.
- *Statewide Testing: 6 Reasons Why* can be used by DACs as a resource for teachers and other staff to explain statewide testing policies and procedures.
- *Statewide Testing Tasks: A Year At-A-Glance* provides an overview for new DACs on the tasks for statewide testing throughout the year.
- *Resource Overview for District Assessment Coordinators* provides a description of the various resources designed for DACs.
- *Nonpublic School Participation in Statewide Assessments* provides information for nonpublic schools participating in statewide assessments.
- *New District Assessment Coordinators: Getting Access* provides information for new DACs on access to systems and resources used for the statewide assessments.

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## ***Reimbursements for College Entrance Exams***

MDE issued reimbursements to districts based on the requests made (by the Sept. 17 deadline) in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system for eligible students who took a qualifying college entrance exam (ACT or SAT). The payment is identified with “ACT/SAT REIM,” followed by the date (2021-09-21), and a unique number (e.g., N0000039).

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## ***Apply for the Mathematics Standards Review Committee***

The application for serving on the 2021–22 Minnesota Academic Standards Mathematics Review Committee is posted on the [MDE Mathematics](#) page. The deadline for application is **Oct. 15**.

MDE seeks to establish a highly qualified, diverse committee with a broad representation of stakeholders including teachers, administrators, school board members, higher education, business/industry, and citizens; content specialists with expertise across all developmental levels; people from diverse educational settings and from urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Serving on the committee means a commitment of at least 10 full-day committee meetings from Nov. 18 through August 2022, as well as work between these meetings. Please encourage teaching staff to participate. While it requires seven days out of the classroom, it is a fantastic professional development opportunity for teachers.

The applications for the Mathematics Review Committee are due **Oct. 15**. Committee members will be announced Oct. 25 on the [MDE Mathematics](#) page. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Paulson at [mde.academic-standards@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.academic-standards@state.mn.us).

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## ***Tech Update***

The WIDA Pre-Testing: Software Updates & Technology Readiness Checklist webinar will be held on Sept. 23 from 1–2 p.m. This webinar provides an overview of the Central Office Services (COS) layout within WIDA AMS, along with a walk-through of the updated System Requirements for the year, updates to DRC INSIGHT, and COS-Service Devices.

There is no need to register in advance. Join the [WIDA Pre-Testing: Software Updates & Technology Readiness Checklist](#) webinar on Sept. 23 at 1 p.m.

If you are unable to attend, a recording will be available in [WIDA AMS](#) under My Applications > General Information > Documents after the presentation.

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## ***Odds and Ends***

### **Minnesota-Specific WIDA Page**

The [Minnesota-specific](#) page of the WIDA website has been updated with assessment information for the 2021–22 school year.

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ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

[education.mn.gov](http://education.mn.gov) > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing

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