m1 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | **Assessment Update**

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- New DAC Q&A: Save the Date - ACCESS for ELLs Test Administration Trainings - Student Resources - Seeking Parent Feedback for ISR Change - Resource for Nonpublic Schools - Upcoming Opportunities - Tech Update	*Nov. 25–Dec. 13: Indicate the number of online testers for grades 1–12, and order test materials in WIDA AMS*

New DAC Q&A: Save the Date

The next New DAC Q&A webinar is Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 2–3 p.m. To prepare for this webinar, DACs should review Chapters 2, 3, and 4 of the *Procedures Manual*.

ACCESS for ELLs Test Administration Trainings

Professional Development staff from the WIDA Consortium will conduct the following in-person, ACCESS for ELLs test administration trainings. These face-to-face trainings allow participants to get their questions answered and reflect on the test preparation and administration process as a group. *Note: These trainings do not replace the required ACCESS for ELLs Training Courses on the WIDA Secure Portal.*

- **ACCESS for ELLs Test Coordinator Training** is intended for District or School Assessment Coordinators or EL Coordinators who will set up user accounts, prepare for online testing and test management, verify that all Test Administrators have been appropriately trained, and serve as the "how-to" resource for Test Administrators in their districts and schools.

- **Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Training** is intended for educators who will administer the Kindergarten ACCESS for the first time this year. The Kindergarten ACCESS is a one-on-one paper administration.

These trainings are provided at no cost. Lunch is not provided.

Each training is a half-day session, and space for each session is limited. If space is no longer available for your preferred date and time, you will need to select another date or time. Registration is limited to three people from a district or charter school in any session.

Date	Training and Registration	Location
Tuesday, Dec. 3	ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (8:30 a.m.–noon) Register for the Dec. 3 ACCESS Test Coordinator training in Mankato. Kindergarten ACCESS: Test Administrators (1–4 p.m.) Register for the Dec. 3 Kindergarten ACCESS training in Mankato.	South Central Service Cooperative (SCSC) Conference Center 2075 Lookout Drive North Mankato, MN 56003
Wednesday, Dec. 4	ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (8:30 a.m.–noon) Register for the Dec. 4 ACCESS Test Coordinator training. Kindergarten ACCESS: Test Administrators (1–4 p.m.) Register for the Dec. 4 Kindergarten ACCESS training.	Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center A: Room 13 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113
Thursday, Dec. 5	ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (8:30 a.m.–noon) Register for the Dec. 5 ACCESS Test Coordinator morning training. ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (1–4:30 p.m.) Register for the Dec. 5 ACCESS Test Coordinator afternoon training.	Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center A: Rooms 13 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113

Student Resources

MDE requires districts to ensure that all students are familiar with the test they will be taking. Students should be able to successfully navigate the test, use the applicable tools, and respond to different item types. Each district determines which resources will be used and how they will be used. MDE does not require all students to use all resources; districts must determine the resources to use, which may vary by school, grade, or student.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Districts should use the *QuickStart Guide for Preparing Students for ACCESS Online* (available on the [Preparing Students for ACCESS for ELLs page](#)), as they consider which student resources will be used to prepare students for ACCESS. This guide provides information about the purpose of each resource, the links to the resources, as well as additional guidance for EL teachers.

As districts consider what resources to use with students for ACCESS, they should become familiar with the resources below, which are available on the. Districts can start by downloading the *QuickStart Guide for Preparing Students for ACCESS Online* for more information about the purpose of each resource.

- The **test demo** is available for each grade-level cluster to show students how to navigate different features of the test. WIDA recommends that students watch the test demo before taking the practice test.

- The **practice test** can be used to familiarize students with the ACCESS test format. These items are very easy, but will help students become familiar with the test environment.

- For students who have experience taking the ACCESS, the **sample items** are recommended. These items can be used to familiarize students with the content and grade-level appropriate language development expectations, and they are representative of the item difficulty a student will experience on the actual test. WIDA also advises using the previous year's ACCESS score report to focus on domains where students may need additional support.

Similar to ACCESS, there is a *QuickStart Guide for Preparing to Administer Alternate ACCESS for ELLs* (available on the [Preparing to Administer Alternate ACCESS for ELLs page](#)).

MCA and MTAS

The [*Purposes of Student Resources*](#) document helps clarify the purposes of the resources available for MCA and MTAS.

- The [student tutorial](#) is used to familiarize students and educators with the general functionality of the online test. There are three components of the tutorial—Navigation, Tools, and Item Types—each accompanied by a teacher guide. The Item Types component has already been updated for 2019–20, and the other components will be available by January.

- The [item samplers](#) are used to familiarize students and educators with how the content is presented in the test. Item samplers are available in every grade and subject for the MCA and MTAS, as well as for applicable accommodations and linguistic supports.

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Seeking Parent Feedback for ISR Change

During the 2019 legislative session, there was a legislative change that removed the requirement for reporting progress scores for grade 3–8 on the MCAs. This change requires a modification to the Individual Student Reports (ISRs), as the section with progress scores on page 3 will be removed. MDE is seeking feedback from parents on the proposed redesign of the layout to page 3 of the ISR. The changes include adding text about how families should use the results and how to understand the results from year to year. The student's performance history will still be included, but presented in a different format.

If your district has any parent groups or parent meetings coming up in November, MDE would be interested in either presenting the proposed draft to the group for feedback or doing a webinar to show the changes. Please contact Kate Beattie at kate.beattie@state.mn.us if you are interested in having a parent group provide feedback.

Resource for Nonpublic Schools

For nonpublic schools wanting information about the opportunity to participate in statewide assessments (MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS), the *Nonpublic School Participation in Minnesota Assessments* document has been updated for the 2019–20 school year and is available on the District Resources page.

Upcoming Opportunities

WIDA Webinar: Managing Students in WIDA AMS

On Nov. 13, WIDA will provide a webinar with information on managing demographic information and accommodations in WIDA AMS. Join the WIDA webinar: *Managing Students in WIDA AMS* on Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.

Tech Update

WIDA Webinar: Technology Coordinator Support

On Nov. 7, WIDA will provide a technology webinar with the following goals:

- Provide Technology Coordinators information to communicate with District/School Assessment Coordinators (WIDA refers to these roles as Test Coordinators) and building administrators.

- Facilitate how to establish a local communication plan to identify issues and troubleshoot if problems arise.

- Review when to support Test Administrators at their testing sites by training them to respond to technical issues and when/how to report them.

Join the WIDA webinar: *Technology Coordinator Support for Test Administrators* on Nov. 7 at 11 a.m.

STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing

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