

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—NOVEMBER 13, 2019

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Student Precode File: Revised Date</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Procedures Manual Available in Avocet</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Feedback Requested: Fall 2020 Precode Timelines</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">(Mis)Understanding Scale Scores on the MCA</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Upcoming Opportunities</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Nov. 25–Dec. 13:</b> Indicate the number of online testers for grades 1–12, and order test materials in WIDA AMS</p> <p><b>Dec. 9:</b> Pretest Editing window opens in Test WES</p>

## ***ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Student Precode File: Revised Date***

In December, MDE will send the student precode file for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS to DRC, which is used to load student information in WIDA AMS for online testing and to create student labels for all paper test materials (i.e., Kindergarten ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, accommodations, and applicable booklets for the writing domain). It is important to ensure that all English Learners (ELs) are indicated correctly in MARSS, since that information is what MDE sends in the precode file.

### **Update to Important Dates**

Districts now have until **Dec. 18** to submit MARSS updates to MDE with accurate information for ELs. MDE recently revised the date that we will send the precode file to DRC to better align with the MARSS deadline for district submission. MDE will now send the file to DRC on Dec. 19, a day later than originally communicated in the *Important Dates* section of the [Procedures Manual](#). **Districts must make all relevant changes in MARSS by Dec. 18** so that updated EL information will be included in the file MDE sends DRC. Note: This date may be earlier if using a student information service provider.

[Back to Top](#)

## ***Procedures Manual Available in Avocet***

The *Procedures Manual* is now available in [Avocet](#) on PearsonAccess Next. Avocet provides quick access to information across a range of assessment resources. Avocet has the functionality to search the full text of documents and resources and includes an online alphabetical index of assessment topics found within these resources. No sign-in is required.

[Back to Top](#)

## ***Feedback Requested: Fall 2020 Student Precode Timelines***

Beginning in the 2020–21 school year, MDE is considering changing when student precode files are initially sent to Pearson from mid-October to mid-December, to align with the opening of Pretest Editing. Historically, precode files with student enrollment information have been sent to Pearson in mid-October in order to update Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next for students who are enrolled for the current school year. If precode files are not sent until mid-December, districts would not have access to Historical Student Data for students who have newly enrolled until that time; however, districts would still have access to student testing history through the Student Assessment History Report on MDE’s website as soon as MARSS data for the current year is submitted.

MDE is considering this change as usage of Historical Student Data in October and November has been low. If you use Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next in the fall and have questions or concerns about this change, please send them to [mde.testing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us) by Nov. 27.

[Back to Top](#)

## ***(Mis)Understanding Scale Scores on the MCA***

Members of the MDE’s Statewide Testing team who work directly with test content and results released a MathBits article in September titled [\(Mis\)Understanding Scale Scores on the MCA](#). This article clarifies how student scale scores are calculated, and how they should (and should not) be used when comparing performance from year to year. This is a helpful resource for better understanding how to interpret a student’s MCA score, and district staff and teacher can reference it when discussing results with parents.

While this article is focused on math, the general principles about scale scores apply to other subjects as well. There is also information and resources about understanding and using scale scores for all subjects on the [Reports page on Testing 1, 2, 3](#), especially the documents posted under the Resources section.

[Back to Top](#)

# Upcoming Opportunities

## New DAC Q&A: Registration

The next New DAC Q&A webinar is Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 2–3 p.m. Experienced DACs are welcome to attend as well. [Register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar](#).

The prerequisites for this webinar are to review Chapters 2, 3, and 4 of the [Procedures Manual](#). After reading the chapters, [submit questions for the New DAC Q&A webinar](#). MDE will answer these questions during the webinar.

- Phone number: 415-655-0003
- Access code: 969 955 173
- Password for webinar: newDACsrock!

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

[Back to Top](#)

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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

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