

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—NOVEMBER 27, 2019

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretest Editing in Test WES • Pretest Editing Training Registration • New DAC Q&A: Save the Date • Preparing for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs • Alternate Assessment Participation • WIDA Webinars • Odds and Ends • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update 	<p>Nov. 25–Dec. 13: Indicate the number of online testers for grades 1–12, and order test materials in WIDA AMS</p> <p>Dec. 9: Pretest Editing window opens in Test WES</p> <p>Dec. 18: Revised deadline to submit MARSS updates for ELs to be sent in precode for loading students into WIDA AMS and printing student labels</p>

Pretest Editing in Test WES

Beginning Dec. 9, DACs can start working in Pretest Editing in Test WES to ensure students are loaded for online testing and data entry, and that the appropriate MCA paper test materials and MTAS test materials will be shipped to the district or schools from Pearson.

DACs must also enter important information under the District Options and District Confirmations screens in Test WES, such as verifying ISRs from 2019 have been delivered and indicating information about the shipment of test materials.

An updated *Pretest Editing User Guide*, with step-by-step instructions and screenshots, will be available prior to the opening of Pretest Editing.

New in Pretest Editing

The main change for Pretest Editing is that separate codes have been added for contracted braille (BC) and uncontracted braille (BU) test books. Each year, the code will default to the BC code; districts must change the code to BU if a student requires uncontracted materials.

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Pretest Editing Training Registration

The *MDE Pretest Editing Training* for New DACs will take place on Dec. 10 from 1–3 p.m. This training is designed to provide detailed information about tasks DACs must complete during Pretest Editing in Test WES. It is intended for New DACs who have been in the position for less than 3 years; experienced DACs are welcome to attend.

[Register for the Pretest Editing Training](#). On Dec. 10, use the following information to join the webinar:

- Call-in Number: 415-655-0003
- Access Code: 967 948 818
- Password for webinar: MDEDACs

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New DAC Q&A: Save the Date

The next New DAC Q&A is Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 2–3 p.m. The prerequisites are to review Chapters 5 and 6 of the [Procedures Manual](#). Chapter 5 focuses on accommodations for students with IEPs and 504 plans; Chapter 6 focuses on linguistic supports for English learners.

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Preparing for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

WIDA AMS Tasks

Districts can now complete the following tasks in WIDA AMS. For more information, please refer to the [WIDA AMS User Guide](#) [Log in is required] or the [Ordering Materials tutorial](#) [Log in is required].

- Indicate the number of online testers for each grade band.
- Indicate the number of kindergarten testers.
- Indicate the quantities of large print, braille, or paper test booklets needed.
- Indicate the quantities of Alternate ACCESS test booklets needed.

Precode File for WIDA AMS

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. It is important to ensure that all English Learners (ELs) are indicated correctly in MARSS by Dec. 18 for accurate information being sent to WIDA AMS.

Alternate Assessment Participation

Over the years, students with disabilities have been included in accountability systems in more meaningful ways. Alternate assessments, such as the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), are designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. From 2003–2015, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) set forth a 1.0 percent cap on the amount of proficient or advanced alternate assessment scores that could be counted in district and statewide totals for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In 2016, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) revised the cap to limit alternate assessment takers to a 1.0 percent statewide participation rate, or rather, no more than 1.0 percent of the total number of students statewide may take an alternate assessment in each subject.

This summer, the U.S. Department of Education informed MDE that Minnesota was above the 1.0 percent participation cap and would require MDE to create an action plan to come into compliance with the 1.0 percent requirement set forth in ESSA. Part of the action plan MDE submitted to the U.S. Department of Education described how MDE will collect information from districts regarding the following:

- Statewide and local participation on the MTAS
- Assurances that each student is provided the appropriate assessment
- A narrative describing local context and rationales to support the district's participation rate, if needed

To accomplish this, MDE formed an Alternate Assessment Workgroup. This workgroup includes both district and community stakeholders who have been meeting from October 2019 through April 2020. Their work includes analyzing statewide participation rates and providing feedback on how to best provide support to districts. One of the tasks of the workgroup is to create and finalize individual district reports of MTAS participation. A communication will go out in January to all Special Education Directors, DACs, and Superintendents/Directors, with the location of these reports, as well as a guide and Assurance, Rationale, and Context (ARC) template for districts to submit information, assurances, and where appropriate, narratives regarding alternate assessment participation rates to MDE.

Contact MDE's Alternate Assessment Specialist Lauren Walker (lauren.walker@state.mn.us) with any questions.

WIDA Webinars

Alternate ACCESS Administration

On Dec. 3, WIDA will provide a webinar with an overview of Alternate ACCESS including scheduling, administration basics, and training resources. The intended audience are those administering the Alternate ACCESS. [Join the WIDA webinar: Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Administration on Dec. 3 at 11 a.m.](#)

Managing Test Sessions

On Dec. 11, WIDA will provide a webinar with information on how to create and manage online test sessions in WIDA AMS. [Join the WIDA webinar: Managing Test Sessions on Dec. 11 at 1 p.m.](#)

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Odds and Ends

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, MDE will be closed tomorrow and Friday, Nov. 28–29.

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Upcoming Opportunities

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 some sessions have already reached their capacity. If the session for your preferred date and time is closed, 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) This session is closed. Kindergarten ACCESS: Test Administrators (1–4 p.m.) This session is closed.	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) This session is closed. 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

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Tech Update

2019–20 Support for iPadOS 13.x

WIDA and DRC have finished testing the DRC INSIGHT Secure App for iPad 10.3, which is compatible with Apple iPadOS 13.x. WIDA has approved the use of all Apple iPadOS versions for WIDA Screener and ACCESS. All iPad users must update to the new version of the DRC INSIGHT Secure App for iPad 10.3 in order to test.

Instructions to install DRC INSIGHT on iPad devices can be found in the Installing INSIGHT on iPad Devices section of the *Technology User Guide*, which can be found on [WIDA AMS](#) under All Applications > General Information > Documents > [leave filters set to All] > Show Documents.

Technology Training Opportunities from Pearson

Pearson will provide webinars for new and experienced Technology Coordinators. The *Upcoming Technology Trainings 2019–20* document describes the topics available for each training and is available under Additional Technology Resources on the [Technology page](#). The recorded version of the trainings will later be posted in the

Training Management System (TMS) in PearsonAccess Next. See the table below for more information about the *Technology Coordinator Trainings*.

DATE	TRAINING AND REGISTRATION	WEBINAR DETAILS
<p>Wednesday, Dec. 11 9–10 a.m.</p>	<p><i>New Technology Coordinator Training</i> (1–3 years of experience)</p> <p>Join the Dec. 11 webinar for new tech coordinators at 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Call-in phone number: 877-554-0877</p> <p>Conference code: 571 468 0293</p>
<p>Thursday, Dec. 12 1–2 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Experienced Technology Coordinator Training</i> (3+ years of experience)</p> <p>Join the Dec. 12 webinar for experienced tech coordinators at 1 p.m.</p>	<p>Call-in phone number: 877-554-0877</p> <p>Conference code: 571 468 0293</p>

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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