

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—NOVEMBER 6, 2019

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New DAC Q&A: Registration • What's New and Changed for 2019–20 • Updated DAC Resource • Calculator Usage: Updated Online Graphing Calculator • Technology Readiness • Additional Assessment Data Available • Seeking Parent Feedback for ISR Change (repeat) • 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>

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!

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What's New and Changed for 2019–20

As DACs start preparing for upcoming test administrations, a helpful resource is the “New for 2019–20” list in Chapter 1 of the [Procedures Manual](#). This list provides a summary of the changes for the year, organized by topic (e.g., additions to information on assessments, changes in test security policies, changes to policies and procedures for test administration). Since it is a summary, chapter references are also provided so DACs can see the additions or changes in context, and the  symbol is used within the manual itself.

In addition to what's new, there are also a number of clarifications in the *Procedures Manual*. While these are not summarized in Chapter 1, as they are best understood within the information that is being clarified, they are easily identifiable by the  symbol. For this year specifically, many sections were clarified based on emphasis of the following:

- Adding more information about the purpose and appropriate use of the Minnesota Assessments within the context of other information
- Adding more explanations for why policies and procedures exist
- Continuing to ensure ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS are reflected in applicable policies and procedures

DACs may find it helpful to start their fall preparations for statewide testing by reviewing the new and clarified information; this can be especially helpful when they update their internal policies and procedures or plan their staff training. The new and clarified information will also form the basis of the required DAC Test Administration Training provided by MDE in January.

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Updated DAC Resource

An updated version of the *MDE District Assessment Coordinator Webinars and Trainings (2019–20)* has been posted to MDE's website on the [District Resources page](#). This document now includes the prerequisites for the monthly Q&A webinars as well as the ACCESS test administration training dates.

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Calculator Usage: Updated Online Graphing Calculator

All MCA (and MTAS) mathematics test items can be solved in a variety of ways; therefore, calculators are not required. However, they may be used to answer items when a calculator is allowed. Guidelines for calculator use are outlined in Chapter 8 (starting on page 160) and Appendix B (starting on page 249) of the [Procedures Manual](#).

New for 2019–20: The graphing calculator used in the Mathematics MCA for grades 8 and 11 has been updated to the TI-84 Plus CE (Color Edition). The main change from the TE-84 Plus to the CE version is that the CE version allows for graphing in color.

Students may view and use the online calculators that are available for the MCAs on the [stand-alone calculators page](#). Students may also practice using the online calculator by using the [item samplers](#). See the recent [MathBits article](#) for more information about the online calculators.

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Technology Readiness

Districts must ensure that they are ready to administer required online tests. District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) must make necessary technology preparations and be familiar with the requirements and processes for each test. Information for DTCs is (and will be) included in the Tech Update section of *Assessment Updates* as relevant information is available. This week’s Tech Update includes information about technology resources available for review.

Note: MDE sends the *Assessment Update* to all DTCs according to what is indicated in the [MDE-ORG system](#); previous updates are available on the [Assessment Update page](#).

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Additional Assessment Data Available

Earlier this week, straggler data (i.e., “late” assessment records) for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS were added to the District and School Student Results (DSR & SSR) and Student Assessment History Report in [Secure Reports](#). This data comes from tests that were not included or available during Posttest Editing. For MCA and MTAS, this is typically due to a district making a late score entry request past the initial deadline; for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS, this is typically due to later returns of paper test materials (e.g., Kindergarten ACCESS or test booklets for the writing domain) or any score appeals or transcription requests.

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Seeking Parent Feedback for ISR Change (repeat)

During the 2019 legislative session, there was a legislative change that removed the requirement for reporting progress scores for grades 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.

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Odds and Ends

MDE will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

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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.](#)

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) Register for the Dec. 3 ACCESS Test Coordinator training in Mankato.</p> <p>Kindergarten ACCESS: Test Administrators (1–4 p.m.) Register for the Dec. 3 Kindergarten ACCESS training in Mankato.</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) Register for the Dec. 4 ACCESS Test Coordinator training.</p> <p>Kindergarten ACCESS: Test Administrators (1–4 p.m.) Register for the Dec. 4 Kindergarten ACCESS training.</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) Register for the Dec. 5 ACCESS Test Coordinator morning training.</p> <p>ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (1–4:30 p.m.) Register for the Dec. 5 ACCESS Test Coordinator afternoon training.</p>	<p>Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center A: Rooms 13 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113</p>

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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.](#)

2019–20 Support for iPadOS 13.x

WIDA recently announced that iPadOS 13.x is not a supported operating system for iPad administrations of ACCESS for ELLs due to compatibility concerns. In an effort to resolve these compatibility issues, DRC recently released a new DAC INSIGHT app in the Apple app store, and WIDA will test the following configurations:

- New version of iPad Secure Browser App on iOS 12.x
- New version of iPad Secure Browser App on iPadOS 13.x

WIDA plans to provide additional guidance on supported iPad/iOS configurations for 2019–20 ACCESS testing as soon as possible. Contact DRC at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 with any questions.

Key Technology Information for ACCESS

- **Testing Window:** Jan. 27–March 20
- **Service Provider and Website:** Data Recognition Corporation (DRC); wida-ams.us
- **System Requirements:** [Technology Requirements for WIDA assessments](#)
- **Customer Support:** 855-787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com
- **Key Technology Resources:** *WIDA AMS User Guide*, *COS-SD Technology Readiness Checklist for WIDA Online Assessment*, and other related resources are available in WIDA AMS. In order to access technical resources, log in to [WIDA AMS](#) > All Applications > General Information > Documents; leave all filters at All to see the resources.
- **Training Opportunities:** Live and recorded webinars are included in the *2019–20 Q&A Webinar Schedule for Technology Coordinators* document, which is included in the list of technology resources in WIDA AMS, referenced in the previous bullet.

Key Technology Information for MCA

- **Testing Window:** Reading/Mathematics MCA from March 2–May 1; Science MCA from March 2–May 8
- **Service Provider and Website:** Pearson; minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com
- **System Requirements:** [TestNav system requirements for MCA administration](#)
- **Customer Support:** 888-817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#)
- **Key Technology Resources:** The *Infrastructure Readiness Checklist* (to be posted in early December) and other information and resources are on [Pearson's Technology page](#).
- **Training Opportunities:** Webinars for new and experienced Technology Coordinators will be provided in December; topics covered in each training are included in the *Upcoming Technology Trainings 2019–20* document available under Additional Technology Resources on the [Technology page](#). The recorded version of the trainings will later be posted in the Training Management System in PearsonAccess Next. See table below for more information about the *Technology Coordinator Trainings*.

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

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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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