

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – FEBRUARY 7, 2018

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017–18 Assessment and Accountability Reporting • Save the Date: February New DAC Q&A Webinar • Student Inactivity Timer in TestNav • Historical Student Data Now Available • Testing Calendar Requirements • MTAS Field Audits • Upcoming Training Opportunities • Odds and Ends 	<p>Jan. 29–March 23: Testing window for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs</p> <p>Feb. 19: Begin creating and preparing test sessions for MCA and proctor caching in PearsonAccess Next</p> <p>Feb 20: Order additional MCA/MTAS paper materials in PearsonAccess Next</p>

2017–18 Assessment and Accountability Reporting

The public release of statewide assessment results and district accountability ratings will be released on the same day in late August. As a reminder, MDE is streamlining our public release of assessment and accountability data in order to provide clearer context of assessment scores and accountability ratings and to ensure consistency with regards to ESSA and the World’s Best Workforce.

An updated timeline is provided below. An updated *Important Dates for 2017–18* with these deliverables is also attached.

Date and Deliverable

- June 25: Districts retrieve embargoed final individual student test results.
- July 23: Districts retrieve embargoed final school and district summary results.
- Aug. 8: Districts retrieve preliminary embargoed accountability results.
- Aug. 8–17: District appeals window for accountability results.
- Aug. 27: Districts retrieve embargoed summary accountability results.
- Aug. 28–29: Media embargo of final assessment and accountability results.
- Aug. 30: Public release of final assessment and accountability results in data center.

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Save the Date: February New DAC Q&A Webinar

The February Q&A webinar for New DACs will be on Feb. 27 from 2–3 p.m. The prerequisites are to review the following:

- Chapter 7 of the [Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures)
- *Understanding Student Precode* mini module in the [Training Management System](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training) under the District Assessment Coordinator role, New DAC Modules category

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Student Inactivity Timer in TestNav

Student tests in TestNav time out after 20 minutes of inactivity. Inactivity is defined as not touching the screen, moving the mouse, and/or pressing keys. Students will not receive a warning that their test is about to be exited due to inactivity, but they will receive a message that the test session has closed due to inactivity and they will need to be resumed to continue testing. Note that when a student exits from the MCA for any reason, including due to inactivity, they still have 20 minutes to resume the test with the ability to go back and review. After the test has been exited for 20 minutes, students will not be able to access any items completed previously. The [MCA Online Testing User Guide](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > User Guides) will be updated by Friday with these additional details.

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Historical Student Data Now Available

Historical Student Data is now available in PearsonAccess Next. How Historical Student Data is accessed depends on if the student is currently enrolled in your district (under Setup > Students) or has previously tested in your district (under Reports > Historical Student Data). Data is available in both locations for students who are currently enrolled and previously tested in your district.

Reference the [Historical Student Data Quick Guide](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Reporting Resources) for full details.

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Testing Calendar Requirements

Districts are required to have specific testing calendar information posted to the district website; the information may also be posted on the school-level websites, if the district chooses. Districts may decide how to format the information, and it should be easily accessible to students and families.

Districts are required to include the dates when most students will be testing for each grade and subject, including the following details:

- The dates that tests will actually be administered by grade and subject must be posted, not just the dates of the state-designated testing window.
- If changes have been identified throughout the year, updates to the calendar must be made as soon as possible. It is important that your posted calendar is accurate prior to testing.

For a full list of requirements, reference the District Testing Calendar section (starting on page 129) of the [Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

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MTAS Field Audits

Each year, MDE employs Field Auditors to observe MTAS administrations in selected schools. The primary purpose of MTAS field audits is to gather evidence to evaluate the validity and reliability of the assessment. Since the assessment is scored by the Test Administrator at the school site, it is critical that the Test Administrator is properly trained in the assessment and able to apply that training consistently when assessing each student. Likewise, it is critical that all Test Administrators are applying this training consistently across the state. Further information about MTAS field audits can be found in Chapter 3 of the [Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

Districts that were either required or eligible for Field Auditor visits this spring have been notified of their selection. The email notification was sent to DACs, Superintendents/Directors, and Special Education Directors. Districts who received the notice should follow the instructions in their email to provide information to the auditor.

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

Recording of DAC Test Administration Training

Recordings of MDE's and Pearson's DAC Test Administration Training will be posted to the [Training Management System](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training) by this Friday, Feb. 9, under the District Assessment Coordinator role in the MDE Recorded Webinars and Pearson Recorded Webinars categories, respectively.

DAC Trainings from Pearson

Pearson will be offering the following webinars for District Assessment Coordinators and any other interested staff in the district. For full details, access the [Upcoming Pearson Trainings](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training).

- [TestNav and Item Samplers: For New DACs and Educators](#) – Wednesday, Feb. 14, 10–11 a.m.
- [PearsonAccess Next and Reporting: For New DACs](#) – Thursday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m.–Noon

Registration is not required. Use the links above to join the sessions; links are also included in the posted document.

MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data

On Feb. 13 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m., a training opportunity for all educators will take place in Sartell. The following topics will be addressed:

- Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS)
- Minnesota Report Card
- Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLEDS)
- DEED data tools (e.g., Graduate Employment Outcomes)
- MDE teacher website

Lunch will be on your own. [Register for the Data Tools event](#), or contact Holly Pope (Brunson) at holly.brunson@state.mn.us with questions. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m.

Accountability Public Download File Feedback

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 2–4 p.m. MDE will host a webinar to gain feedback on a draft of a new Accountability Public Download file. If you are interested in using MDE public download files and the accountability system, [register for the accountability public download file feedback webinar](#). When registering, enter “Northstar” and select Search to find the correct webinar. Contact Gayra Ostgaard with at gayra.ostgaard@state.mn.us or 651-582-8339.

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Odds and Ends

- **Clarification on District Requirements for the Parent Refusal Form:** The [Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing Form](#) (MDE website > Students and Families > Statewide Testing) was updated this fall to include additional information as required by legislation. Districts must post the complete, 3-page form on the district website and include it in the district’s student handbook. Posting only the student handbook online with the refusal form is not sufficient; the form must be posted separately on the district’s website. Note: including the updated form in the handbook may not have been possible in 2017–18 if handbooks were printed before the updated form was provided; however, the updated form must be posted on the district’s website.
- **Attachment:** Important Dates for 2017–18

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

education.state.mn.us > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing

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