mn DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Assessment Update

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- District Testing Calendar - Reimbursement Reports in GRR - New WIDA Website - Accountability: Secure Release and Appeals Window - Accountability: Overview of Public Release Webinar - Upcoming Opportunities - Odds and Ends - Tech Update	*Aug. 8–17:* Accountability appeals window *Aug. 27:* Embargoed accountability data file available in Secure Reports *Aug. 30:* Public release of assessment and accountability results in the Data Center *Aug. 30:* Assessment results available in PearsonAccess Next and WIDA AMS *Aug. 30:* Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in districts

District Testing Calendar

As in the past, districts must post their testing calendar on the district website; this information may also be posted on the school-level website(s), if the district chooses. Districts may choose how to display the information (e.g., in a chart, in calendar format). While links to the information may be provided rather than including all the information in one place, districts should present the information so it is accessible as possible. This is especially important for test administration dates. For example, the test administration dates for each school can be directly posted on the district's website with the other testing calendar information, or links to each school's website could be provided.

Requirements

Districts are required to have their testing calendars posted by the first day of the school year; the following requirements have not changed from last year. For more information, refer to the list on page 129 of the *2017–18 Procedures Manual* (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

- Include information about all tests administered, not just statewide testing.
- Post the specific dates when the majority of students will be testing for each grade and subject at each school within the district. The actual test administration dates must be posted, not just the dates of the state-designated testing window. However, at the beginning of the school year, the best estimates for

the dates should be included. Specific dates should be updated as changes are identified, preferably no later than two months before the applicable testing window.

- Provide the subject matter for each assessment.
- Provide the purpose and rationale for each assessment, including the source of the requirement.
- Include the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment.
- Include the timeline and format for disseminating assessment results.

Reimbursement Reports in GRR

After districts request reimbursement in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) for 2017–18, districts should confirm expected reimbursements using the reimbursement reports, which are refreshed early each morning to reflect the current state of entries in GRR:

- The *Claimed Student Detail Report* details what records will be reimbursed (or the reason records will not be reimbursed).

- The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the amount that will be received.

Note: For unable to pay, reimbursement may be on a pro-rated basis depending on number of requests. The *Estimated Student Amount Report* will estimate pro-rated amounts, when applicable, and will remain an estimate until requests are finalized.

See the updated *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide* for more information (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Graduation Requirements (GRR)).

New WIDA Website

Starting on Aug. 15, WIDA will have a new website and a new URL (wida.wisc.edu). This new site will contain general information about the WIDA suite of assessments, the WIDA Standards, and professional learning. As with the current website, there will be a login to access the WIDA Secure Portal, which will remain largely the same. For more information, view the new WIDA website overview video (*revised link*), or contact the WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us or 866-276-7735.

Accountability: Secure Release and Appeals Window

As of 3 p.m. this afternoon, district and school staff with Secure Reports (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports) access can view data for the North Star accountability system (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > School Achievement > School and District Accountability). In the Accountability Secure Reports

section of Secure Reports, access the *North Star Secure Report* for information about school and district identification for support as well as performance on each indicator in the North Star system. If a school in your district has been identified because a student group is performing similarly to the bottom 5% of Title I schools in stages 1–3, you will have information regarding this identification in a document sent via the File Exchange (under File Transfer) on Test WES (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Test WES).

Users can download secure rosters for *Academic Achievement and Progress* and for *Progress Toward English Language Proficiency*. Note: Secure rosters for *Graduation* and *Consistent Attendance* have been available since the spring.

Accountability Data Webinar

Staff at MDE will offer two webinars for users with questions about navigating and interpreting their data. These will be held on:

- Friday, Aug. 10, from 9–10 a.m.
  - Meeting number: 803 938 661
  - Join the Accountability Data Webinar on Aug. 10.
  - Call in number: 844-302-0362
- Wednesday, Aug. 15, from 1–2 p.m.
  - Meeting number: 801 814 939
  - Join the Accountability Data Webinar on Aug. 15.
  - Call in number: 844-302-0362

Appeals Window

Also as of this afternoon, the accountability appeals window is now open. Requests for an appeal can be made through this online survey tool for accountability appeals. The two grounds for appeal are:

- An error has been found in the accountability calculations.
- Unusual circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster) impacted the data for a school or district such that the data are unreliable.

The appeals window will close on Aug. 17 at 4 p.m. Contact Michael Diedrich at michael.diedrich@state.mn.us or 651-582-8332 with questions.

Accountability: Overview of Public Release Webinar

In addition to the accountability data webinars on Aug. 10 and 15, MDE will hold a webinar on Aug. 15 to provide district and charter school staff with an overview of the upcoming Aug. 30 public release of North Star accountability data. The session will include overviews of:

- How North Star and our equity commitments are important to Minnesotans.

- How North Star connects the state's plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and World's Best Workforce requirements to enable MDE to identify schools and districts for support.

- How North Star allows us to recognize schools whose work in supporting students deserves commendations.

- Logistics relating to the district embargo on Aug. 27, the media embargo on Aug. 28, and the public release on Aug. 30.

This webinar is important for charter and district leadership and staff—especially superintendents/executive directors, communications staff, and anyone responsible for supporting school improvement initiatives.

- Date: Wednesday, Aug. 15

- Time: 10 a.m.–noon

- Join the accountability webinar on Aug. 15 overviewing the public release of accountability data.

Get prepared for the webinar by viewing the growing collection of training modules on North Star (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > School Achievement > School and District Accountability > Training: Accountability). Questions about the webinar or the upcoming release of data may be directed to Josh Collins at josh.collins@state.mn.us or 651-582-8205.

Upcoming Opportunities

Reporting Training from Pearson

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, Pearson will offer a webinar to provide DACs and other interested staff an in-depth review of Published Reports, Longitudinal Reports, and Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next. The training will be recorded and posted in the Training Management System (TMS) a few days after the session. The webinar is limited to the first 150 participants. No registration is required.

Use the following call-in phone number, conference code, and password to join the webinar:

- Join the reporting webinar on Aug. 22.

- Time: 10–11 a.m.

- Call-in phone number: 877-554-0877

- Conference code: 571 468 0293

- Password: Pearson

Odds and Ends

- **Precode Student Eligibility Year-End Transition**: Precode Student Eligibility in Test WES will close for 2017–18 on Aug. 10; it will reopen on Oct. 15 for 2018–19. Precode Student Eligibility will not be available between Aug. 10 and Oct. 15.

- **Longitudinal Reports and Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next Unavailable**: In preparation for loading the MCA and MTAS 2018 data in PearsonAccess Next, Longitudinal Reports and Historical Student Data will be unavailable from Aug. 13–29. Updated Longitudinal Reports and Historical Student Data will be available at 8:00 a.m. on Aug. 30.

Tech Update

TestNav Apps Available for the 2018–19 School Year

TestNav apps are now available for the 2018–19 school year. Version 1.7.3 of the TestNav apps can be downloaded from the TestNav 8 Online Support Page (PearsonAccess Next > TestNav 8 Online Support (under Quick Links)) or from the following locations. Prior to testing, ensure that all devices being used for spring 2019 MCA testing have been updated to the latest version.

OS	Download Available
Chrome OS	Chrome Web Store
iOS	iTunes App Store
Windows or Mac desktop	download.testnav.com
Android	Google Play Store

Desktop apps and iOS apps will need to be downloaded each year. Android, Chrome, and Windows Store apps (Windows 10 only) will automatically update unless the auto-update feature is disabled.

As previously announced, Pearson will no longer be supporting the following browsers and operating systems beginning in the spring of 2019.

Browser No Longer Supported: Firefox ESR 52

Operating Systems No Longer Supported:

- Android 5 and 6

- Chrome OS versions 57–66

- iOS versions 10.2 and 10.2.1

- macOS versions 10.9 and 10.10

If you have any questions, please contact the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or submit a Pearson help desk request.

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