

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – OCTOBER 17, 2018

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New DAC Q&A Webinar

MDE will host the first New DAC Q&A Webinar of the 2018–19 school year on Tuesday, Oct. 30, from 2–3 p.m. To prepare for the webinar, please review the following modules in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#); they are available on the District Assessment Coordinator tab in the New DAC Modules category (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training).

- Minnesota Assessments Overview (optional for DACs who attended the New DAC Orientation)
- Understanding Training Requirements
- Scheduling Testing
- Testing Policies and Procedures

[Register for the New DAC Orientation Webinar](#). MDE uses questions from New DACs to prepare for the webinar. Please [submit any questions you have from the New DAC trainings](#) to MDE prior to the webinar in order to help with the organization and structure of the webinar. On Oct. 30, use the following information to join the webinar:

Call-in Number: 206-596-0378

Access Code: 805 110 398

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Educator Resources on PearsonAccess Next

Pearson Perspective

[Perspective for Educators](#) and [Perspective for Families](#) provide thousands of learning resources aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards (PearsonAccess Next > Perspective for Educators/Families (under Quick Links)). Teachers can create assignments, build tests, and differentiate resources using Learning Locators. Teachers may use the pass phrase “mn_edu” to sign up. Send questions to [Pearson Perspective Support](#).

WriteToLearn

[WriteToLearn](#), an online literacy tool available for free to Minnesota students in grades 8 and 10, focuses on writing skills and expanded vocabulary (PearsonAccess Next > WriteToLearn (under Quick Links)). Students receive personalized feedback to encourage, instruct, and reward their progress. DACs can email MNWriteToLearn@Pearson.com to receive their log-in credentials and get started.

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MDE Data Special Interest Group

MDE is “reinstating” the Data Special Interest Group (SIG) to discuss any and all items related to collecting and reporting data to MDE. The intended audience is any staff involved with data submissions to MDE with a focus on MARSS.

The first webinar will be on Thursday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. and will focus specifically on the transition to Ed-Fi for the 2019–20 school year. This discussion and presentation will help districts better understand the process and timeline for transitioning their MARSS data collection and reporting to Ed-Fi.

[Register for the Oct. 25 Data SIG webinar](#). On the Webex page, go to the “Upcoming” tab and search for “DATA SIG”. If you have any questions, contact Gayra Ostgaard at Gayra.ostgaard@state.mn.us or 651-582-8339.

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Upcoming Opportunities

MDE Educator Workshop and Focus Group

MDE will continue their full-day educator workshop (designed for teachers and DACs) around the state with Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Professor of Educational Measurement and Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development from the University of Minnesota.

The workshop includes a discussion on the formative uses of assessments, practice time with classroom assessments, and an update on the redesign of the Benchmark Reports. The day will conclude with a focus group for teachers on the Testing 1, 2, 3 website and work time for DACs with Dr. Rodriguez.

Lunch will be provided to all participants who attend the full-day workshop.

DATE & REGISTRATION	LOCATION
Monday, Oct. 29 Register for the Educator Workshop and Focus Group in St. Cloud.	Resource Training and Solutions: St. Cloud
Tuesday, Oct. 30 Register for the Educator Workshop and Focus Group in Fergus Falls.	Lakes Country Service Cooperative: Fergus Falls
Wednesday, Oct. 31 Register for the Educator Workshop and Focus Group in Staples.	Sourcewell (previously known as National Joint Powers Alliance): Staples
Thursday, Nov. 1 Register for the Educator Workshop and Focus Group in Thief River Falls.	Northwest Service Cooperative: Thief River Falls
Tuesday, Nov. 6 Register for the Educator Workshop and Focus Group in Roseville.	Metro Educational Cooperative Service Unit (ECSU): Roseville
Thursday, Nov. 8 Register for the Educator Workshop and Focus Group in Hermantown.	Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium (ARCC): Hermantown
Tuesday, Nov. 13 Register for the Educator Workshop and Focus Group in Rochester.	Southeast Service Cooperative: Rochester

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Odds and Ends

- New DAC Orientation Recording:** Last week, MDE recorded the MDE portion of the New DAC Orientation. The recording is now available in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the District

Assessment Coordinator tab in the MDE Recorded Webinars category (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training). The Pearson portion of the training will be posted in the [TMS](#) on Friday, Oct. 19 on the District Assessment Coordinator tab in the Pearson Recorded Webinars category.

- **Procedures Manual:** As announced in last week's *Assessment Update*, The [2018–19 Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessments](#) is now available (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing

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