

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—NOVEMBER 28, 2018

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs • Pretest Editing in Test WES • Alternate Assessments • Important Updates about Minnesota Report Card • Update to Additional Student Assessment Data Available • Tech Update 	<p>Nov. 26–Dec. 14: Districts indicate the number of online testers and order test materials in WIDA AMS</p> <p>Dec. 10: Pretest Editing window opens</p> <p>Dec. 18: Last day for districts to submit MARSS information for ELs to be sent in precode to WIDA AMS</p>

Preparing for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

WIDA AMS Tasks

The following tasks are available from Nov. 26–Dec. 14 for DACs to complete by school in WIDA AMS. **It is very important that districts complete this information by Dec. 14.** The grades 1–12 ACCESS is administered online; Kindergarten ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS are paper-based administrations.

- 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 for accommodations.
- Indicate the quantities of Alternate ACCESS for ELLs test booklets needed.

For more information, please refer to the [WIDA AMS User Guide](#) ([Log In to WIDA Secure Portal] > Online Grades 1–12 > WIDA AMS Guide and Videos) or the [Ordering Materials tutorial](#) ([Log In to WIDA Secure Portal] > Online Grades 1–12 > Preparing).

Precode File

In December, MDE will send the student precode file to WIDA AMS, which is used to load student data files for online testing and to create student labels for all paper test materials (i.e., Kindergarten ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, accommodated booklets, and applicable booklets for the writing domain). It is important to ensure that all English Learners (ELs) are indicated correctly in MARSS, since that information dictates what MDE sends in

the precode file. **The last day for districts to submit MARSS for this file is Dec 18.** The date may be earlier if using a student information service provider.

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Pretest Editing in Test WES

Beginning Dec. 10, 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 accommodated 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 2018 have been delivered and indicating information about the shipment of test materials.

An updated *Pretest Editing User Guide*, which contains 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 custom groups can be entered or uploaded throughout the testing windows. There is not a separate deadline as in the past. Custom groups are used to have student records for MCA loaded to PearsonAccess Next in particular groups (e.g., a teacher name or homeroom number) to make the setup of online test sessions easier.

Since custom group can be indicated throughout the testing windows, this also means that files can be uploaded throughout the entire testing windows. This allows districts to continue uploading changes to accommodation and linguistic support codes, in addition to custom group. (However, in order to receive test materials automatically for accommodations and linguistic supports, any codes must be entered by Jan. 18.)

Note: Custom group is used for setting up test sessions and is different than the reporting groups that can be created in PearsonAccess Next and are used for reporting purposes.

Pretest Editing Training: Save the Date

The MDE Pretest Editing Training for New DACs will take place on Dec. 11 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; any new functionality will also be covered in the user guide.

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Alternate Assessments

Alternate assessments (MTAS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs) are designed for students with significant cognitive disabilities; only a student with an IEP who has a significant cognitive disability is eligible to participate in an alternate assessment. The IEP team is responsible to annually determine which test a student will take and to ensure that only a student who meets all the eligibility requirements takes an alternate assessment. For the Alternate ACCESS, it is recommended that the IEP team collaborates with EL staff when making this determination.

- [MTAS Eligibility Requirements](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Minnesota Tests)
- [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs participation criteria](#) (WIDA > Assess > Alternate ACCESS for ELLs)

Note: participation decisions must **not** be made based on the following factors:

- Student's disability category
- Placement
- Participation in a separate, specialized curriculum
- Expectations about the student's performance on the MCA or ACCESS for ELLs
- Language, social, cultural, or economic differences
- Concern for accountability calculations

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Important Update about Minnesota Report Card

On Thursday, Dec. 13 at noon, the [Minnesota Report Card](#) (MDE website > Data Center > Minnesota Report Card) will be taken offline while updates and improvements are made to the site. The report card will be back online at 8 a.m. Friday, Dec. 14.

Updates include:

- Reorienting the site's navigation around questions a parent might ask about a school. For example, data about test results will be found by selecting the question, "Are students mastering standards?" School staffing data are found by selecting, "Who works here?"
- A new "My School" report features a message to families from the school, providing information about a school that might not be evident by simply looking at data. This report will also include a selection of the most commonly looked up school data, such as academic indicators, graduation rates and school climate information.

Very soon, more information than ever before on the report card will be available in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali, in addition to English. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and state statutes require certain information to be available on our state's report card. Reports related to student discipline will become available in the Minnesota Report Card this coming spring, and school financial data will be available in spring 2020.

If you have any questions about the Minnesota Report Card, contact mde.communications@state.mn.us.

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Update to Additional Student Assessment Data Available

As announced in last week's *Assessment Update*, MDE will update all of the Secure Reports under Assessment Secure Reports and Minnesota Report Card with straggler assessment data (i.e., assessment data updated after final results were published) for MCA and MTAS on Dec. 3. This data typically comes from MTAS or paper accommodated MCA late score entry requests that were processed after the deadline for being included in reporting.

Also on Dec. 3, ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs straggler data will be added first to the District and School Student Results (DSR & SSR) and Student Assessment History Report. This data typically comes from paper test materials (e.g., Kindergarten ACCESS or test booklets for the writing domain) that were returned to DRC after the deadline. The straggler data for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will be added to the Minnesota Report Card, as applicable, and Test Results Summary on Dec. 14.

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Tech Update

As districts make technology preparations for the ACCESS for ELLs and MCA, note the following resources:

ACCESS for ELLs

- **Testing Window:** Jan. 28–March 22
- **Service Provider and Website:** Data Recognition Corporation (DRC); wida-ams.us
- **Technology Requirements:** [Technology Requirements for ACCESS for ELLs](#) (wida.wisc.edu > Assess > Technology)
- **Customer Support:** 855-787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com
- **Key technology resources:** The *Technology User Guide*, *Technology Readiness Checklist*, 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 *WIDA Q&A Webinars 2018–2019 for Technology Coordinators* document, which is included in the list of technology resources in WIDA AMS, referenced in the previous bullet.

MCA

- **Testing Window:** Reading/Mathematics MCA from March 4–May 3; Science MCA from March 4–May 10
- **Service Provider and Website:** Pearson; minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com
- **System Requirements:** [TestNav system requirements for MCA administration](#) (PearsonAccess Next > TestNav 8 Online Support [under Quick Links] > TestNav System Requirements)
- **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](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Technology).
- **Training Opportunities:** Pearson will provide trainings to support technology staff for 2019 MCA administrations. The trainings will be recorded and posted 2–3 days after the session in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) on the Technology Staff tab in the Pearson Recorded Webinars category (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training). A high-level agenda can be found in the *Upcoming Technology Trainings 2018–19* document available under the Additional Technology Resources section of the [Technology page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Technology), and details are below.
 - Call-in phone number: 877-554-0877
 - Conference code: 571 468 0293
 - Password: Pearson

DATE	TRAINING	LINK TO JOIN
Tuesday, Dec. 11 9–10 a.m.	New Technology Coordinator Training	Join Pearson’s Technology Training on Dec. 11.
Wednesday, Dec. 12 1–2 p.m.	Experienced Technology Coordinator Training	Join Pearson’s Technology Training on Dec. 12.

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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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