

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – NOVEMBER 1, 2017

QUICK LINKS

- [Changes for 2017–18 Test Administrations](#)
- [Draft Important Dates for 2017–18](#)
- [Archived Assessment Update](#)
- [New Option for Reporting Groups in PearsonAccess Next](#)
- [Upcoming Training Opportunities](#)
- [Odds and Ends](#)

Changes for 2017–18 Test Administrations

MDE and Pearson have made several changes for the 2017–18 test administrations, including changes to the Training Management System (TMS) layout, training requirements, and student resources. For more details, see last week's *Assessment Update* or view the recording of the [Fall DAC Webinar](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training Management System (TMS)), which has been posted to the MDE Recorded Webinars page of the DAC tab. The following sections outline some additional changes addressed during the Fall DAC webinar.

Test Directions for Students and Test Monitors

Student Directions are embedded in the first section of the student online tests. Students will read these directions after they log in and before they begin each test. MDE has not increased estimated test administration times based on embedding the directions.

The *Directions for Online Administrations* (formerly named *Test Monitor Directions*) will continue to contain general instructions for Test Monitors about test administration, scripted directions that are read to students, and a transcript of the student directions embedded in the student tests.

Exiting the Test

Students will no longer be required to complete a section before exiting the test because of new functionality Pearson has implemented in TestNav. Once students exit the test for more than 20 minutes or stop testing for the day, they cannot access any items completed previously. Students must answer each item before going to the next item, which is a change for Science MCA, but they can review items before going to the next section or exiting the test. Test Monitors will use scripted language in the *Directions for Online Administrations* to alert

students prior to the end of the day's testing so that they have time to review their answers before exiting. The Test Monitor may not review student tests to determine where students should exit.

District Assessment Coordinators will want to consider this new functionality when scheduling testing, as the process for exiting the test will be easier for students and Test Monitors.

[Back to Top](#)

Draft Important Dates for 2017–18

Important Dates for the 2017–18 statewide assessments are attached to today's *Assessment Update*. Final versions will be available in the *Procedures Manual*, which will be posted in November. Reporting timelines have not been finalized and are not included in these drafts.

Note: The receipt of the MCA paper accommodated and MTAS test materials is provided in a two-day range. Pearson will target the shipment of the materials so the vast majority of districts will receive them on the first day. However, UPS will only guarantee 98% delivery of materials on a specific day, leaving 2% to be delivered the following day. Additional details about these shipping ranges will be provided in an upcoming *Assessment Update*.

[Back to Top](#)

Archived Assessment Updates

This fall, MDE added archived versions of the [Assessment Updates](#) on PearsonAccess Next (PearsonAccess Next > MDE Updates > Assessment Update). These archives are available for you to reference past *Assessment Updates* and the articles they contained, as needed. Due to this, there will be fewer articles repeated from week to week. Additionally, there is a recurring Upcoming Training Opportunities section in the *Assessment Update*, which will include training opportunities for other staff in the district and all upcoming training opportunities for DACs that have been included in past updates.

[Back to Top](#)

New Option for Reporting Groups in PearsonAccess Next

Beginning in January, District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and Assessment Administrators (AAs) will have an additional option for managing reporting groups in PearsonAccess Next. Reporting groups are created in order for teachers to access their students' On-Demand Reports and Historical Student Data. Note that On-Demand Reports will also be available for MTAS this year.

Each student test assignment will be automatically added to a Default Registration Reporting Group based on Grade and Subject within each Organization (e.g., GRADE 03 MATH, GRADE 04 READING). If a student test assignment is added or deleted, the student will be automatically added or removed from the reporting group.

Like all reporting groups, a DAC or AA must assign staff the Test Monitor/Data Entry and/or MTAS Score Entry user role in order to access student results in the Default Registration Reporting Group.

An updated *Reporting Group User Guide* with detailed information about all reporting group options will be available on PearsonAccess Next in January. Pearson will also provide reporting trainings in spring 2018.

[Back to Top](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

Teacher Professional Development and Focus Groups

MDE is partnering with Educational Service Cooperatives across the state to provide free professional development for teachers. The morning will include a presentation about MDE data, reports, and resources while the afternoon will be a focus group for the new teacher website. Lunch will be provided for all participants. Registration is required and space is limited. For more information, access the cooperative's website using the links below or send an email to Holly Brunson at holly.brunson@state.mn.us.

Training City	Date	Link to Website
North Mankato	Thursday, Nov. 2	South Central Service Cooperative (mnsccsc.org)
Marshall	Friday, Nov. 3	Southwest West Central Cooperative (swsc.org)
Minneapolis	Tuesday, Nov. 7	Metro Education Service Unit (metroecsu.k12.mn.us)
Thief River Falls	Tuesday, Nov. 28	Northwest Service Cooperative (nw-service.k12.mn.us)
Fergus Falls	Wednesday, Nov. 29	Lakes Country Service Cooperative (lcsc.org)
Staples	Thursday, Nov. 30	National Joint Powers Alliance (njpacoop.org)

SLEDS Webinar: MCCC Reports and the K–12 Data Mart

On Nov. 7, from 1–2 p.m., MDE will host a webinar introducing the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS) analytics website's latest reports, including the K-12 Data Mart, using the Minnesota Common Course Catalogue (MCCC) data. There will be time for questions and an opportunity to meet your regional SLEDS Network contact. [Select this link to register for the SLEDS Webinar.](#)

Longitudinal Reporting in PearsonAccess Next

Pearson will provide a longitudinal reporting webinar on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 10–10:45 a.m. It will provide details on Longitudinal Reports, Longitudinal Export, Historical Student Data, and the Longitudinal Dashboard. [Select this link to join the webinar on Nov. 9.](#) No registration is required, but it is limited to 150 participants.

- Call-in phone number: 877-554-0877
- Conference Code: 571 468 0293
- Password: Pearson

Odds and Ends

- **ISR Distribution Reminder:** Individual Student Reports (ISRs), which were delivered to districts in August, must be provided to families no later than fall conferences. If ISRs have not yet been distributed, districts will need to determine how and when they will be provided within this timeline. During Pretest Editing, which opens in December, DACs will need to confirm the ISRs were delivered in this timeframe.
- **PearsonAccess Next Accounts:** For security purposes, user accounts are locked after five consecutive invalid login attempts. If an account gets locked, the user can reset their password by using [Forgot Password](#) (minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com > PearsonAccess Next). Users do not need to contact Pearson for locked accounts.
- **NAEP Opportunity:** NAEP is looking for schools near the metro area to participate in a field trial for the new NAEP digital based assessment system. NAEP is seeking two classes in grades 4, 8, and 12. The trial will be conducted the week of Dec. 11. In a token of appreciation, participating schools will receive a \$200 gift card to Staples or Office Depot. If you want to volunteer or have any questions, contact Jenny Cain at (651) 582-8218 or jennifer.cain@state.mn.us. The deadline is Nov. 8.
- **Attachment:** *Draft Important Dates for 2017–18*

STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us