

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – NOVEMBER 15, 2017

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures Manual Update • New DAC Question and Answer Registration and Schedule • Recently Arrived English Learners (RAELs) • Upcoming Training Opportunities • Tech Update 	<p>Nov. 27–Dec. 15: Indicate online testers and order materials in WIDA AMS</p>

Procedures Manual Update

The *Procedures Manual for the Minnesota Assessment 2017–18* is nearing completion. It should be posted in PearsonAccess Next by Wednesday, Nov. 22. Next week’s *Assessment Update* will include more information.

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New DAC Question and Answer Registration and Schedule

November New DAC Q&A Registration

The next New DAC Q&A webinar, primarily for DACs who have been in the position for three years or less, is Nov. 28 at 2 p.m. Experienced DACs are welcome to attend as well. The pre-requisites for this webinar are to review Chapter 2 (optional), Chapter 3, and Chapter 4 of the forthcoming 2017–18 *Procedures Manual*. In order to give DACs time to review the prerequisites, Chapters 2–4 of the *Procedures Manual* will be available for download on the registration page by Friday, Nov. 17.

After reading the chapters, [submit questions via this link](#). MDE will answer these questions during the webinar.

- Date: Tuesday, Nov. 28
- Webinar: 2–3 p.m. (Join webinar: 1:30–2 p.m.)
- [Select this link to register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar.](#)
- Phone number: 206-596-0378
- Access code: 808 129 219

Draft Schedule for 2017–18 Q&A Webinars

The planned dates for New DAC Q&A's throughout the 2017–18 school year are as follows. These dates are subject to change but can be used to assist with your planning. If there are any changes to this schedule, they will be communicated in the *Assessment Update*.

- Nov. 28
- Dec. 19
- Jan. 16
- Feb. 27
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15

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Recently Arrived English Learners (RAELs)

A Recently Arrived English Learner (RAEL) is a K–12 student who has been identified as an English learner and who first enrolled in a U.S. school less than 12 months from the first day of the MCA/MTAS accountability window. Previously, many of these students were reported as New-to-Country in Test WES.

Starting in 2017–18, districts must annually identify RAELs in the [Student Support Data Collection](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Student Support Data Collection). All RAELs must take the appropriate Mathematics, Reading, and Science MCA or MTAS and all domains of the ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. There are no longer any testing exemptions for these students.

More information about identifying, reporting, testing, and inclusion in accountability is in a handout called [Recently Arrived English Learners \(RAELs\)](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > English Learner Education).

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

ACCESS Training Registration

In late November, professional development staff from WIDA will conduct in-person ACCESS trainings. These trainings do not replace the required Training Courses on the WIDA website.

- ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Test Coordinator Training is intended for District or School Assessment Coordinators who will set up user accounts, prepare for online testing, and verify staff have been trained.
- Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Training is intended for educators who will administer the Kindergarten ACCESS, a one-on-one paper administration, for the first time this year.

Each training is a half-day session. If space is no longer available for your preferred date and time, it will be closed. Please do not register more than three people from a district in a session. SurveyMonkey, the application used to gather registrations, does not provide automatic confirmation emails. MDE will send a confirmation email by Nov. 24.

[Select this link to register for one of the ACCESS for ELLs trainings.](#)

TRAINING	DATE	LOCATION
ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (8:30 a.m.–noon) ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (1–4:30 p.m.)	Tuesday, Nov. 28	MDE – Conference Center B; CC-16 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113
ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (8:30 a.m.–noon) Kindergarten ACCESS: Test Administrators (1–4 p.m.)	Wednesday, Nov. 29	MDE – Conference Center B; CC-16 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113
ACCESS for ELLs: Test Coordinators (8:30 a.m.–noon) Kindergarten ACCESS: Test Administrators (1–4 p.m.)	Thursday, Nov. 30	Rasmussen College-Mankato; Rm. 110 130 St. Andrews Dr. Mankato, MN 56001

Teacher Professional Development and Focus Groups

MDE is partnering with Educational Service Cooperatives to provide professional development focused on MDE data, reports, resources, and the new teacher website. Lunch will be provided, and registration is required.

LOCATION	DATE	LINK TO WEBSITE/REGISTRATION
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)
Mountain Iron	Wednesday, Dec. 6	Register for the Mountain Iron training.

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Tech Update

Technology Training from Pearson

In December, Pearson will provide training sessions to support technology staff in preparation for the 2018 MCA test administration. Access the *Upcoming Pearson Trainings* document for detailed information on what will be covered in each training; the document is available on the Additional Technology Resources tab of the [Technology page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Technology > Additional Technology Resources > Upcoming Pearson Trainings). These trainings will also be recorded and posted to the Training Management System.

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

TRAINING	DATE	REGISTRATION LINK
New Technology Coordinator Training	Tuesday, Dec. 12: 1–2 p.m.	Select this link to join the webinar on Dec. 12.
Experienced Technology Coordinator Training	Wednesday, Dec. 13: 10–11 a.m.	Select this link to join the webinar on Dec. 13.

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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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