AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—DECEMBER 12, 2018

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- Pretest Editing Open in Test WES - WIDA AMS Tasks - DAC Test Administration Training Registration - Alternate Assessments - Important Update about Minnesota Report Card - Additional Released Items - WIDA Scale Score to Proficiency Lookup Tables Available - Data SIG Meetings - Upcoming Opportunities - Odds and Ends - Tech Update	*Dec. 14: Last day for districts to indicate the number of online testers and order test materials in WIDA AMS* *Dec. 18: Last day for districts to submit MARSS information for ELs to be sent in precode to WIDA AMS*

Pretest Editing Open in Test WES

Pretest Editing is now open, and DACs can start working on Pretest Editing in Test WES, such as indicating accommodations/linguistic supports and selecting shipping options.

See the *Pretest Editing User Guide* for more detailed information (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Test WES). A recording of the Pretest Editing Training will be posted in the Training Management System (TMS) by Monday, Dec. 17 on the District Assessment Coordinator tab in the MDE Recorded Webinars category (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training).

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WIDA AMS Tasks

The window for indicating the number of online testers for grades 1–12 and ordering test materials in WIDA AMS ends **this Friday, Dec. 14.** If a district does not order tests during this timeframe, they will not receive any materials in the initial shipment. For more information, refer to the *Ordering Materials* tutorial ([Log In to WIDA Secure Portal] > Online Grades 1–12 > Preparing).

In order to get the accurate student label for test booklets and precode files sent to WIDA AMS, be sure EL indications are up-to-date and submitted to MDE in MARSS by Dec. 18.

Note: If a district does not have any EL students enrolled, they do not have any tasks to complete in WIDA AMS.

DAC Test Administration Training Registration

In mid-January, MDE and Pearson will conduct DAC Test Administration Trainings at three different locations. The Test Administration Training is designed for all DACs to prepare for spring testing. Because this training will focus on changes for this year, New DACs will have opportunities to get more information from MDE and Pearson prior to the training.

- MDE will focus on changes to policies and procedures for the 2018–19 school year.

- Pearson will present changes and updates to PearsonAccess Next, TestNav, Training Management System, and reporting.

Each training will be from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. with check-in beginning at 8:30 a.m. Morning refreshments and lunch will be provided. For those unable to attend one of the trainings, MDE will provide a webinar option as an alternative; Pearson will post a recording of their portion of the training to the TMS. Registration and information is in the table below.

DATE	TRAINING AND REGISTRATION	LOCATION
Monday, Jan. 14	Registration for the webinar option coming soon.	Webinar for MDE portion 9 a.m.–noon
Tuesday, Jan. 15	Register for the Mankato Test Administration Training.	Courtyard Mankato 901 Raintree Rd. Gallery D Mankato, MN 56001
Wednesday, Jan. 16	Register for the St. Cloud Test Administration Training.	Courtyard St. Cloud 404 W. St. Germain St.

DATE	TRAINING AND REGISTRATION	LOCATION
		Ballroom St. Cloud, MN 56301
Thursday, Jan. 17	Register for the Roseville Test Administration Training.	MDE 1500 Hwy 36 West Rooms 17 & 18 Roseville, MN 55113

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

Important Update about Minnesota Report Card

Tomorrow, 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.

Additional Released Items

MDE has released 42 more Mathematics MCA items for educators. The released items are statistically valid and reliable and have been previously used on the MCA. They provide a sampling of how the content assessed on the MCA is aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards and a model for how to write classroom test items that align to the standards at a variety of cognitive and difficulty levels.

For more information, access the *Released Item and Data Table User Guide*, available on the [Released Items and Passage Sets page](#) (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Released Items and Passage Sets).

WIDA Scale Score to Proficiency Lookup Tables Available

WIDA has provided MDE the Scale Score to Proficiency Look-Up Tables for both ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. These tables provide the scale scores that correspond to the proficiency levels for each grade and

domain. The scale score cuts for the proficiency levels remain the same from year to year and can be applied back through the 2017 administration. For a copy of these tables, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Data SIG Meetings

Though the goal of the Data Special Interest Group (SIG) is to meet monthly, there will be no meeting this month due to the holidays and scheduling conflicts. The next Data SIG is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 17.

By the end of this month, the Data SIG presentations from October and November will be posted on the SIS Vendor Information page (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Counting All Students > SIS Vendor Information). Send any questions about transitioning to Ed-Fi to mde.cas@state.mn.us.

Upcoming Opportunities

New DAC Q&A Webinar

The next New DAC Q&A is Tuesday, Dec. 18 from 2–3 p.m. The prerequisites are to review Chapters 5 and 6 of the *Procedures Manual* (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures). Chapter 5 focuses on accommodations for students with IEPs and 504 plans; Chapter 6 focuses on linguistic supports for English learners.

After reading the chapters, submit questions via this link. MDE will answer these questions during the webinar.

Register for the New DAC Q&A. On Dec. 18, use the following information to join the webinar:

- Call-in Number: 206-596-0378

- Access Code: 804 193 865

Odds and Ends

- **Updated Resource in PearsonAccess Next**: The *Item Types Teacher Guide* for the Item Types student tutorial was updated to include accurate information about allowable characters for Science MCA fill-in-the-blank items (PearsonAccess Next > Preparing for Testing > Student Tutorial). Please replace any previously downloaded copies of this teacher guide with the updated one.

- **School Users in Test WES**: As asked during the Pretest Editing webinar yesterday, there may be a case in which a district would like a school staff member to only have access to a specific school in Test WES. There may be more steps required for the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) to preauthorize users

for SchoolUserReadWrite. IOwAs can email mde.testing@state.mn.us to find out more information about this process.

Tech Update

Technology Readiness and System Requirements for ACCESS for ELLs

In order to make technology preparations for ACCESS testing, districts can use the following resources (among others), which are available in WIDA AMS. Log in to WIDA AMS > All Applications > General Information > Documents; leave all filters at All and select Show Documents.

- *Technology Readiness Checklist*

- *Technology User Guide*

- *Online Testing Network Evaluation*

- *Supported System Requirements*

Support Added for Chrome OS 70 in 2018–19

Pearson has confirmed compatibility between Chrome OS 70 and TestNav and has added support for Chrome OS 70 for the spring 2019 administration.

See the TestNav System Requirements for supported devices, operating systems, and browsers (PearsonAccess Next > TestNav 8 Online Support (under Quick Links) > TestNav System Requirements).

STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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

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