mn DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Assessment Update

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- MDE Feedback Surveys - Parent/Guardian Refusal Form Clarification - MTAS Score Entry Reminders - Accountability Window - Student Testing TestNav - April Q&A Webinar for New DACs - Upcoming Training Opportunities - Odds and Ends - Tech Update	*May 4: Last day of the Math and Reading MCA testing window and for all MTAS subjects* *May 11: Last day of the MCA Science testing window*

MDE Feedback Surveys

On April 16, MDE will send an email to DACs with a link to two feedback surveys. One survey is focused on MDE resources and trainings that were developed this year, and the other is focused on MDE reporting. These surveys are much shorter than last year, and the responses will help drive the discussions we will have during the in-person feedback sessions in May; see *Upcoming Training Opportunities* below for more information. In addition to the email, the April 18 *Assessment Update* will include the DAC feedback survey links. Please set aside ample time during the survey window (April 16–May 1) to provide your feedback.

In addition to the surveys for DACs, MDE has developed a short survey for Test Monitors. This survey is focused on teacher and student resources, as well as training. On April 23, MDE will send an email to all staff with the Test Monitor/Data Entry user role in PearsonAccess Next with a link to the survey. Please encourage your staff to complete this survey during their survey window (April 23–May 8).

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Parent/Guardian Refusal Form Clarification

As communicated in the Nov. 29 *Assessment Update*, the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing Form* (MDE website > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing) was updated in the fall. Districts should ensure they are providing the current version of the form when it is requested and that the entire 3-page form is posted on the district website.

Individual Student Reports

The key change was in the language surrounding the term "not proficient." Despite the changes to the form, there has been some confusion across the state regarding what will appear on the Individual Student Report (ISR) when a parent refusal is indicated. The student will not receive a score or a message of "not proficient" on their ISR; rather, the ISR will indicate, "[Student Name] did not participate in the test" and include an explanation that the reason the student was not tested was due to a parent refusal (REF-P).

Accountability Calculations

When a parent refusal is indicated, the student will be included in the total district/school numbers (i.e., the denominator) for accountability calculations. The updated version of the form reflects this by saying, "A student not participating in the statewide assessments will be counted as 'not proficient' for the purposes of school and district accountability." See below for a visual representation of how accountability calculations will be done.

$$\frac{(\text{Exceeds} + \text{Meets Standards})}{(\text{Exceeds} + \text{Meets} + \text{Partially Meets} + \text{Does Not Meet Standards} + \text{Did Not Participate} + \text{No Valid Score})}$$

Email mde.testing@state.mn.us with questions about the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing Form*; email mde.analytics@state.mn.us with questions about accountability calculations.

MTAS Score Entry Reminders

When MTAS task scores are entered, cleared, or reset in PearsonAccess Next, they must be **saved before submitting**. You must save scores prior to submitting them whether or not you enter scores in one or multiple sittings. After all MTAS scores have been entered and saved, the test must be submitted. Once the test is submitted, it can no longer be edited. If you have additional questions, contact Pearson at (888)-817-8659 or submit a Pearson help desk request. Districts should remind staff to be sure to select Save before selecting Submit.

Accountability Window

The accountability window is the timeframe during which enrolled students will be included for accountability calculations. The accountability window for the standards-based accountability assessments (MCA and MTAS) is April 9–20.

Students who are reported as enrolled in your district at any point during the accountability window will be considered when determining accountability calculations. MDE uses the Status Begin and End Dates of a student's MARSS enrollment record to determine if a student was enrolled during the accountability window. Districts should attempt to test all students who are enrolled at any time during the testing window, not only during the accountability window.

Student Testing in TestNav

Scheduling the Test

While sections must still be included in the Reading, Mathematics, and Science MCA, scheduling of test sessions should not be based on sections because they are not equal in length nor are they designed as a scheduling tool.

Reviewing Items and Exiting the Test

Students may exit the Reading, Mathematics, and Science MCA at any point, and they are not required to complete a section before exiting. For Reading and Science MCA, students may choose to complete a passage or scenario before exiting so they do not need to read the passage or scenario again when they resume testing; however, they may exit on any question since the passage and scenario are repeated with each item.

Test Monitors should alert students before the end of the day's testing session so they have adequate time to review their answers. Once students exit the test for more than 20 minutes, they cannot access any previously completed items. Test Monitors may not review the student tests to determine where students should exit.

Resuming the Test

When testing over multiple days or signing back in to TestNav after a break (if tests were exited), student tests first must be resumed in PearsonAccess Next.

If less than 20 minutes has elapsed since the test was exited, the student will be able to go back to questions to review their answers. If more than 20 minutes has elapsed since the test was exited, the student will not be able to navigate back to any questions to review their answers.

NOTE: If the student is resumed to an unanswered question, the Next and Back buttons and the Review button will appear grayed out. Students must answer the question **before** they can select any of these buttons.

April Q&A Webinar for New DACs

The April Q&A webinar will be held on Tuesday, April 17, from 2–3 p.m. Like the March webinar, there are no prerequisite readings or trainings to review. Our focus will be on any questions you may have now that testing is underway; please submit any questions to MDE prior to the webinar.

- [Register for the New DAC Q&A here](#).
  - o Phone Number: 206-596-0378
  - o Access Code: 806 720 834

- [Submit questions via this link](#).
- As you think about possible questions for this Q&A, think about what questions have come up in regards to the following:
  - o Administering accommodations for students with IEPs or 504 plans or the MTAS
  - o Administering linguistic supports or English learners or other qualifying students
  - o Preparing MCA Test Monitors and MTAS Test Administrators for test administration
  - o Testing students that are in unique circumstances
  - o Following state or district policies and procedures for administering the MCA and MTAS

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

Release of Consistent Attendance Roster Downloads and Webinar

On Thursday, April 5, users with access to Secure Reports will be able to download rosters with consistent attendance data, including school- and district-level summary data, which will be used in the new accountability system under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Links to a summary of the consistent attendance calculation and an FAQ are available on the [ESSA web page](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) > Implementing ESSA).

If you are interested in learning more about the calculation or have questions, a webinar will be held on Monday, April 9, at 10 a.m.

- [Register for the Consistent Attendance Webinar](#).
- Access code: 804 497 831
- Call-in number: 844-302-0362

MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data

On April 27, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., a training opportunity for educators will take place in Fergus Falls. The following topics will be addressed: Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS), Minnesota Report Card, Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLEDS), DEED data tools (e.g., Graduate Employment Outcomes), and the MDE

teacher website. There is $15 registration fee as lunch will be provided. [Register for the Data Tools event](#), or contact Holly Pope (Brunson) at holly.brunson@state.mn.us with questions. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m.

MDE and Pearson Feedback Sessions

MDE and Pearson are hosting district feedback meetings for District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) at three locations this May. At these sessions, MDE will facilitate discussions on student resources, staff trainings, DAC resources, and MDE reporting; Pearson will facilitate discussions on PearsonAccess Next, TestNav, the Training Management System, and Pearson reporting.

These feedback sessions are intended for DACs and other district-level staff who work with test administration.

Date	Location
Tuesday, May 15	Courtyard by Marriott in Mankato (901 Raintree Rd.)
Wednesday, May 16	Courtyard in St. Cloud (404 W. St. Germain St.)
Thursday, May 17	Radisson Hotel in Roseville (2540 N. Cleveland Ave.)

Odds and Ends

- **Additional MARRS Errors No Longer Affect Precode**: In past years, additional MARSS errors became "active" in early April, which caused some issues with students being removed from test sessions in PearsonAccess Next. This year, there will continue to be MARSS errors, but many of those errors will not affect a student's precode in Test WES or PearsonAccess Next.
- **Minnesota Graduation Rates Recorded Webinar**: On April 13, the recorded webinar covering the Minnesota Graduation Rates will be removed from Data and Reporting tab of the [Training Management System (TMS)](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training).

Tech Update

Upcoming Support for iOS 11.3

Apple recently released iOS 11.3, and Pearson is reviewing overall compatibility with TestNav. Pearson plans to add support for 11.3 after confirming compatibility with TestNav. NOTE: iOS 11.2.6 is currently supported.