

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – JULY 18, 2018

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embargoed Assessment Summary Results • Minnesota Report Card Updates • 2018 Accountability and Assessment Results Release • Reimbursement Reports in GRR • 2018–19 College Entrance Exams 	<p>July 23: Embargoed assessment summary results available in Secure Reports</p> <p>Aug. 8–17: Accountability appeals window</p>

Embargoed Assessment Summary Results

On July 23, embargoed assessment summary results will be available in Test Results Summary in [Secure Reports](#) (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports). By July 23, the updated versions of the two related resources will be available on the [Assessment Secure Reports Data Submissions page](#) (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Assessment Secure Reports).

- The *2017–18 Test Results Summary User Guide* describes how to access the Test Results Summary files in Secure Reports.
- The *2017–18 Test Results Summary Field Descriptions* document describes the column headers and field descriptions in the Test Results Summary files downloaded as TAB or Excel files.

All assessment results are under embargo until Aug. 30. During the embargo, districts can use the final assessment results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders. They may share the results with district teachers and staff for planning or instructional purposes, but they may not share the results publicly. See the *Sharing Embargoed Results with School Officials* article from the June 20 *Assessment Update* for more information about sharing results with school officials (e.g., school board members).

Note: Assessment summary results are also available in the School Improvement Assessment Reports available at the bottom of the Secure Reports page. There are additional options for filtering on and comparing student groups in this report.

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Minnesota Report Card Updates

Last week, several changes were made to the Minnesota Report Card reports for State Assessments, MCA/MTAS, and ACCESS for ELLs. The two biggest changes were the addition of an Accountability Criteria Met filter and Participation information, which are described in more detail below. Contact mde.analytics@state.mn.us for more information.

Accountability Criteria

In the past, schools and districts typically used the October 1 filter to estimate the students included in accountability. In an effort to improve usability of reports, a new filter is now available. The Accountability Criteria Met filter means a student was enrolled at least half an academic year (greater than or equal to 0.5 ADM), enrolled on or before Dec. 15, enrolled during the accountability window, did not have a significant gap in attendance between Dec. 15 and the beginning of the accountability window, and is not a Recently Arrived English Learner (RAEL) in their first two years in a school in the 50 states or Washington D.C.

Though the Accountability Criteria Met filter can still be used to estimate the students included in accountability, the following information should be considered:

- In the accountability system, all students expected to test are included in the denominator of the academic achievement calculations, but only students with a valid score on an assessment are included in the Minnesota Report Card when looking at proficiency.
- Within the Minnesota Report Card, there is a different set of students under the different panes.
 - On the Proficiency pane, only students with scores are included.
 - On the Participation pane, all students expected to test are included.
- The English learner filter and Special Education filters on the Proficiency pane only include students currently in those groups and does not include students who have exited in previous years, who are considered in the accountability calculations.

Participation Information

Participation is defined as any student attempting to complete the test, which includes a valid score, an invalid test code, or a not complete test code. These are the same test codes included for participation calculations under the previous accountability systems. In the past, if a student refused to test, the invalid test code was used, and they were counted as participating. Now student refusals are considered **not** participating, same as parent refusals.

At this time, participation data is only available for the standards-based accountability assessments (MCA/MTAS) and is not available for the English language proficiency accountability assessments (ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs).

Note: The count of students reported as expected to test in the Participation pane may differ from the denominator in the accountability calculations when the Accountability Criteria Met filter is set to "yes", even though both counts represent the number of students expected to be tested.

High School Science Participation

High school science participation is calculated based on a cohort of students because students do not have to complete the science test in any specific grade. The participation denominator is based on the number of students who are graduating in the reporting year. The numerator is all students who took the high school science test at any point during their high school years.

Because participation is based on a cohort of students, you may see counts that greatly differ for the participation data than in the proficiency data. Proficiency data reports only on students completing the high school science test in the specific year rather than at any point during high school. Science is not included in accountability calculations, so the accountability criteria met flag must be set to no to see the available data.

Note: The requirement for testing high school students has not changed. Students who move in to your district are not required to take the high school Science MCA or MTAS if they are not completing their life science or biology coursework in your district, even if they have not yet taken the high school science test.

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2018 Accountability and Assessment Results Release

As outlined in the June 27 *Assessment Update*, MDE will use the North Star accountability system to publicly release assessment and accountability results together this year in order to provide greater context around results and improve public understanding of how Minnesota schools are held accountable under state and federal law. There will be a single public reporting date in August for assessment and accountability.

As part of this effort, MDE will:

- Include assessment results within the accountability results PowerPoint rather than release an assessment results PowerPoint separately. This allows MDE and districts to provide more context and a deeper understanding of the role assessments have in overall district or school accountability.
- No longer provide assessment-only downloadable data files to districts or the media prior to public release. However, these downloadable data files, which include summary assessment data for all districts, will be available publicly under Assessment and Growth Files on Aug. 30.

Visit MDE's [School and District Accountability page](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > School Achievement > School and District Accountability) for more information on North Star, including a series of e-learning modules, or send an email to mde.essa@state.mn.us with any questions related to accountability. See the table below for a timeline for the 2018 reporting release.

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE OR EVENT
Monday, July 23	Embargoed state and district assessment summary results (Test Results Summary and School Improvement Assessment Reports) available to districts in Secure Reports. This includes only your district and school(s) assessment data with the state data.
Wednesday, Aug. 8	Accountability appeals window opens. Embargoed accountability results available to districts in Secure Reports around 3 p.m.
Mid-August	Webinar with districts to interpret accountability data and understand appeals process.
Friday, Aug. 17	Accountability appeals window closes.
Week of Aug. 27	Embargoed recognition information sent to recognized schools.
Monday, Aug. 27	Embargoed accountability downloadable data file available in Secure Reports (summary accountability data for all districts). This includes state, all districts, and all school-level data.
Tuesday, Aug. 28	Media receives access to embargoed accountability downloadable data file. This includes state, all districts, and all school-level data.
Thursday, Aug. 30	Public release of assessment and accountability results, including school recognition, in Data Center. Assessment results available in Published Reports, Longitudinal Reports, and Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next. Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in districts.

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Reimbursement Reports in GRR

All reimbursement requests for school year 2017–18 must be entered no later than Sept. 14 with a tested date prior to Sept. 1. Districts should confirm expected reimbursements using the reimbursement reports, which are now available in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system.

- Use the Claimed Student Detail Report to see which records will be reimbursed (or to see the reason a record will not be reimbursed).
- Use the Estimated Student Amount Report Reimbursement Reports review the estimated amounts that will be received.

These reports are refreshed early each morning to reflect the current state of entries in GRR.

Note: students identified as eligible for free and reduced price meals will be reimbursed first and should be reimbursed at full rate. Students unable to pay may be reimbursed on a pro-rated basis depending on number of requests. The Estimated Student Amount report will begin to estimate pro-rated amounts, when applicable, but it will be an estimate until reimbursement requests are finalized.

For more information about requesting reimbursements and using the reports, refer to the updated [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) User Guide](#) that will be posted early next week (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Graduation Requirements (GRR)).

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2018–19 College Entrance Exam

As in past years, districts are required to offer a nationally recognized college entrance exam to grade 11 and 12 students during a 2018–19 school day. There are two nationally recognized college entrance exams available to districts: the ACT and the SAT. Districts must enter into a contract directly with the test vendor for each. Test dates and registration deadlines are determined by the vendor. Refer to Chapter 2 of the [Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures) for more information; refer to the information below for more information about the vendors.

ACT

- View information about administration dates and details on the [ACT State and District Testing page](#).
- Contact April Hansen at april.hansen@act.org with any questions.

College Board

- View administration information on the [SAT School Day page](#).
- Contact Andy Houpt at ahoupt@collegeboard.org with any questions.

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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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