

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—AUGUST 14, 2019

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountability Results: Updated Information Key Communication with Districts Student Assessment History Report Rollover Upcoming Opportunities 	<p>Aug. 21: Appeals window for accountability results closes at 4 p.m.</p> <p>Aug. 26: Embargoed summary accountability results available in Secure Reports</p> <p>Aug. 28: Media provided embargoed accountability results</p> <p>Aug. 29: Public release of final results in the Data Center</p> <p>Aug. 29: Results available in PearsonAccess Next (MCA/MTAS) and WIDA AMS (ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS)</p> <p>Aug. 29: Student reports arrive in districts</p>

Accountability Results: Updated Information

Embargoed results from the North Star accountability system are now available to districts in the Accountability Secure Reports section of Secure Reports. The [North Star Report](#) provides information about school and district performance on each indicator in the North Star system.

Accountability Appeals Window

The accountability appeals window is currently open, and requests for an appeal can be made through the [North Star Appeals online survey tool](#). The appeals window will close on Aug. 21 at 4 p.m. Contact Michael Diedrich at michael.diedrich@state.mn.us or 651-582-8332 with questions.

Note: The Important Dates section of the *Procedures Manual* has the appeals window for accountability results as Aug 7–16. The revised date range for the accountability appeals window is Aug. 7–21, which aligns with the information included in this week’s and last week’s *Assessment Update*.

Important Dates for Accountability Results

- Monday, Aug. 26—embargoed release of the public North Star file to districts in Secure Reports

- **Updated Date:** Wednesday, Aug. 28—embargoed release of the public North Star file to the press (Communications staff at MDE changed this date from Aug. 27 to Aug. 28.)
- Thursday, Aug. 29—public release, including updated data on the Minnesota Report Card, and general availability of the public North Star file

North Star Secure Release Webinar

MDE's Accountability team will provide two more opportunities to attend a webinar for users with questions about navigating and interpreting their accountability data, as well as some discussion of communicating the data to community members and the press. There are two remaining dates and times available for the webinar, and the same content will be covered at each session. Use the following links at the time of the webinar to join.

- [Join the North Star Secure Release Webinar on Thursday, Aug. 15, at 4 p.m.](#)
- [Join the North Star Secure Release Webinar on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 9 a.m.](#)

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Key Communication with Districts

With the start of the new school year approaching, ensure that the contact information in the [MDE-ORG system](#) is correct. If there is a new District Assessment Coordinator (DAC), ensure MDE-ORG is updated as soon as possible so that MDE can send them information about the New DAC Orientation, a training geared specifically for New DACs, which is scheduled for October.

All contact information in MDE-ORG is updated and maintained by the district's Site Verification Coordinator (SVC), who is listed in MDE-ORG. The SVC maintains the district's contact information within the [District and School Site Verification system](#). Work with the SVC for any changes or updates that are needed.

Assessment Update Distribution

MDE automatically sends the weekly *Assessment Update* to all DACs, District Technology Coordinators (DTCs), and Superintendents/Directors based on what is indicated in MDE-ORG. If there is more than one DAC, all of them will be included on the *Assessment Update* distribution list. Additional DACs may be designated as an Alternate DAC in MDE-ORG. Any additional staff interested in receiving the *Assessment Update* can send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us to be added to the distribution list.

Note: MDE includes key technology updates and articles in the *Assessment Update*, so it is important that DTC contact information is also accurate, and technology coordinators should especially pay attention to the information included in the *Tech Update* section.

PearsonAccess Next Accounts

Another reason it is important to update DAC and alternative DAC accounts right away in MDE-ORG is that Pearson uses information in MDE-ORG to create DAC user accounts in PearsonAccess Next. Pearson staff create and edit accounts in PearsonAccess Next within 2–3 business days of receiving updates from MDE-ORG.

WIDA and WIDA AMS Accounts

In order to complete the required trainings for the ACCESS for ELLs, Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, and the WIDA Online Screener, DACs need to have a user account in the WIDA Secure Portal. Also, in order to complete administrative tasks for online testing or the online screener, DACs need to have a user account in WIDA AMS. New DACs that need WIDA Secure Portal and WIDA AMS accounts should send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us with their request. As long as they are indicated as the DAC in MDE-ORG, MDE will approve the request and send it to the service providers to create both accounts.

Note: A new DAC should confirm they have already been indicated as the DAC in [MDE-ORG](#) before sending their request to mde.testing@state.mn.us.

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Student Assessment History Report Rollover

The [Student Assessment History Report](#) allows districts to look up the testing history for individuals who are enrolled in the district as verified by MARSS. As of today, districts can submit MARSS information for the 2019–20 school year. There will be no data in the Student Assessment History Report until districts submit MARSS enrollment data for the new school year.

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Upcoming Opportunities

Pearson Reporting Training

Pearson will provide an in-depth review of Published Reports, Longitudinal Reports, and Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next on Aug. 23 from 10–11 a.m. The webinar is limited to the first 150 participants. No registration is required. [Join the PearsonAccess Next: Published and Longitudinal Reports on Aug. 23.](#)

Use the link above to join the webinar. To join by phone, use the following information:

- Date: Aug. 23 from 10–11 a.m.
- Call-in phone number: 877-554-0877
- Conference code: 571 468 0293

The training will be recorded, and the session recording and PowerPoint presentation will be posted in the Training Management System on Friday, Aug. 30.

Note: While access to the new Benchmark Reports will be discussed in this training, detailed information about these reports will be provided in a separate training.

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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

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