DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Assessment Update

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• New Benchmark Report Webinar for DACs: Save the Date • Final Reports Delivery • Public Assessment Files: Upcoming Changes • Removal of October 1 Filter • WIDA Updates for 2019-20 • District Testing Calendar • Testing 1, 2, 3 Website • Reimbursement Reports in GRR • Upcoming Opportunities	*Aug. 21:* Appeals window for accountability results closes at 4 p.m. *Aug. 26:* Embargoed summary accountability results available in Secure Reports *Aug. 28:* Media provided embargoed accountability results *Aug. 29:* Public release of final results in the Data Center *Aug. 29:* Results available in PearsonAccess Next (MCA/MTAS) and WIDA AMS (ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS) *Aug. 29:* Student reports arrive in districts

New Benchmark Report Webinar for DACs: Save the Date

MDE is offering a webinar for DACs on Thursday, Sept. 12, from 1¬2 p.m. on the redesigned MCA Benchmark Reports. This webinar will provide an overview of the information in benchmark reports and the new calculation method used to measure and report school- and district-level performance on the benchmarks assessed from the Minnesota Academic Standards. It will also provide information about the intended use of data in the benchmark reports and the available resources. Registration information will be provided in next week's *Assessment Update*. A recording of this webinar will be posted in the Training Management System (TMS), scheduled to be posted on Sept. 20.

New and improved resources will be available to support districts in the appropriate use and understanding of the benchmark reports.

- The *Benchmark Report Interpretive Guide* is available on the Additional Reporting Resources page. Note that in the *Benchmark Report Interpretive Guide*, there is a reference and link to the *Benchmark Report Calculations Resource*, which is not yet available.

- *Benchmark Report "How To" Quick Guides* for each subject (now scheduled to be available on Aug. 26)

- *Benchmark Report Calculation Resource* (scheduled to be available in late August)

- *Benchmark Report Video Guide* (scheduled to be available in mid-September)

Note: Benchmark report resources from previous test administrations are still available on PearsonAccess Next, but will be removed on Monday, Aug. 26.

Final Reports Delivery

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS are scheduled to arrive in districts on Thursday, Aug. 29. Since ISRs contain private student date, it is important for districts to ensure someone is available to receive the reports and secure them until distribution. Note: For MCA/MTAS, a few districts may not receive their reports until Friday, Aug. 30.

The ISR shipment will be sent to districts, and each school will have its own box labeled with the school name. For nonpublic schools, ISRs will be packaged by school and shipped to the nonpublic school.

MCA/MTAS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following:

- Packing list of contents and cover memo (in box 1 for each school)

- Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for MCA and MTAS

  o Reports will be sorted by grade, subject, and test administration (MCA or MTAS).

  o To assist with the sorting, each ISR is marked with a color tab according to grade, subject, and assessment. The packing list indicates the sort order and corresponding color tabs.

- Student results labels (if the district requested these in Test WES)

Related resources and samples are available on the ISR Resources page. If you have any questions regarding your shipment, submit a Pearson help desk request or call the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following reports for both ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS:

- Individual Student Reports (ISRs)

- Student Roster Reports

- Frequency Distribution Reports

Related resources and samples are available on the [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports page](#). If you have any questions regarding your reports shipment, contact DRC Customer Service at [WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com](#) or 855-787-9615.

Public Assessment Files: Upcoming Changes

On Aug. 29, the 2019 public assessment files available under the Assessment and Growth Files on the [Data Reports and Analytics page](#) (under Accountability and Assessment), will have a new format. Only the 2019 assessment files (MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and Alternate ACCES) will have the new format on Aug. 29; the growth files and assessment files prior to 2019 will remain unchanged at this time. An updated user guide is scheduled to be available on the [Assessment and Growth Files page](#) by Aug. 29.

In order to better match the data in the [Minnesota Report Card](#), assessment data for MCA and MTAS will be combined and labeled as "All Academic Accountability Tests." Currently, data is only available separated by individual test. (ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS will remain as two separate files.)

The following changes will be made to the 2019 assessment files available to download:

- Columns to be added:
    - Count Valid Scores MCA – Number of students receiving a valid score on the MCA
    - Filter MCA – Indication that the count of students receiving a valid MCA score is less than 10
    - Count Valid Scores MTAS – Number of students receiving a valid score on the MTAS
    - Filter MTAS – Indication that the count of students receiving a valid MTAS score is less than 10
    - Percent Proficient – Count of student who meet or exceed standards divided by the total tested (MCA and MTAS combined)
    - MTAS Average Score – Average scale score for the MTAS
    - MTAS Standard Deviation – Standard deviation of the scale scores for the MTAS
- Columns to be deleted:
    - Test Date
    - Standard Error of the Mean
    - Confidence Interval
    - October 1 Enrollment Count columns
- There will be revised tab names and column names to simplify the data contained in the file.
- Each file will include a "Columns Definitions" help tab specific to the test and subject selected. Currently, a separate document is needed for column definitions and field descriptions.

- Data for all the student groups will be available in the Excel files. Currently, information for the student groups is only available in the TAB files.

- Student group changes:

  o Group to be added: Military Family Status – Students with an active duty parent and students with no active duty parent

  o Group to be removed: Mobility (which includes Oct. 1 enrollment information)

Note: Later this fall, the 2015–2018 files for MCA, MTAS, ACCESS, and Alternate ACCESS will be updated to the new format. All data prior to 2015 will be removed, including data from other tests. A future *Assessment Update* will have more detailed information, including a specific date.

Removal of October 1 Filter

Since MDE no longer uses Oct. 1 enrollment information for accountability calculations, the Oct. 1 filter is no longer available in the Minnesota Report Card. Districts should not use Oct. 1 enrollment information when setting goals. Districts can still access the Oct. 1 enrollment information in Secure Reports (in the District & School Student Results (DSR & SSR) files and Test Results Summary) for 2019 data, but it is scheduled to be removed for 2020 data.

WIDA Updates for 2019-20

The 2019–20 WIDA Assessment Changes flyer communicates high-level changes for the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, as well as the WIDA Screener. Note: In order to access the flyer, use the link above, and log in to the WIDA Secure Portal.

District Testing Calendar

To increase transparency on assessments, both state legislation and ESSA include requirements for a comprehensive district testing calendar to be posted before the first day of the school year on the district website. Districts choose how to provide the information (e.g., links or separate documents) and its format (e.g., in a chart or in calendar format). While links to the information may be provided rather than including all the information in one place, districts should make sure the information is publicly available and as accessible as possible. For example, if your district uses Google Calendar, ensure that the links are available to everyone, not just internal staff.

On the testing calendar, districts must:

- Provide information about all tests administered, which includes both statewide testing and any local assessments given.

- Provide the subject matter for each assessment.

- Provide the purpose for each assessment.

- Include the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment.

- Post the specific dates when most students will be testing for each grade and subject at each school within the district; for grades 1–12 ACCESS, this includes specifying by domain. The actual test administration dates must be posted, not just the dates of the state-designated testing window.

  o **Clarified Information for 2019–20**: Specific dates must be indicated for grades 1–12 ACCESS, even if there is only one EL (or very few) in the school.

  o For each assessment individually administered (i.e., MTAS, Kindergarten ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS), the range of dates the assessments will be administered should be indicated. **Clarified Information for 2019–20**: This guidance now includes Kindergarten ACCESS, in addition to MTAS and Alternate ACCESS.

- At the beginning of the school year, districts should include the best estimates for test administration dates. Specific testing schedules by grade and subject should be updated as changes are identified, preferably no later than two months before the applicable testing window.

- Include the timeline and format for disseminating assessment results.

Note: Points of clarification are noted above. As the requirements have not otherwise changed, more detailed information is available starting on page 125 of the *2018–19 Procedures Manual*.

Testing 1, 2, 3 Website

Testing 1, 2, 3 is a new website for educators designed to provide information on assessment and data resources on a central site, including test details organized by subject and grade, explanations of MCA data and appropriate uses in the classroom, and helpful resources for data literacy. Please share this information with teachers and other educators who work with teachers, curriculum, or assessment data.

If you have questions or feedback—or if your district would like to request online or in-person professional development related to the resources on the site—contact Kendra Olsen at kendra.olsen@state.mn.us.

Reimbursement Reports in GRR

Districts must enter requests for reimbursements in the [Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system](#) for eligible students by Sept. 13. After requesting reimbursement, the district should confirm expected records using the reimbursement reports, which are refreshed early each morning.

- The *Claimed Student Detail Report* denotes what records will be reimbursed and provides the reason for any record that will not be reimbursed.

- The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the total reimbursement amount.

For more information, see the [*Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide*](#) or the *MDE Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) Training* posted in the [Training Management System (TMS)](#)—on the District Assessment Coordinator tab, under the MDE Recorded Webinars category.

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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 a webinar this Friday, 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.

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

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