

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRR Deadline for ACT/SAT Reimbursements is Friday • Required Delivery of ISRs • New DAC Orientation: Registration • WIDA Webinar for New DACs • Benchmark Reports Coming Soon • MDE Accounts Conversion: New Authorization Required • Alternate Assessment Workgroup: Participants Needed • ACCESS Resources • WIDA Resource Library: Improvements and Additions • ACCESS Scoring Appeal Requests • Upcoming Opportunities 	<p>Sept. 13: <i>Deadline to submit reimbursement requests for college entrance exams in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR)</i></p> <p>Sept. 16: <i>Benchmark Reports available in PearsonAccess Next</i></p>

GRR Deadline for ACT/SAT Reimbursements is Friday

Districts must enter requests for reimbursement for college entrance exams in the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) system](#) for eligible students by this Friday, Sept. 13. Due to the financial nature of the requests, it is critical to confirm that all students eligible for reimbursement on the reports actually completed the applicable assessment in your district. The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the amount to be received.

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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Required Delivery of ISRs

Districts received Individual Student Reports (ISRs) at the end of August. As in previous years, ISRs must be distributed to parents/guardians no later than fall conferences—for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS. Districts determine how ISRs will be distributed following best practices for data privacy.

Note: Starting this year, districts did not receive a DVD with electronic copies of the ISRs; electronic copies are available in PearsonAccess Next > Published Reports. Note: A school must first be selected in PearsonAccess Next in order to access the ISRs. They cannot be accessed in the district-level view.

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New DAC Orientation: Registration

In October, MDE and Pearson will provide a New DAC Orientation at various locations across the state. Though designed as an introduction for new DACs in their first or second year, other relatively new DACs are also welcome to attend. MDE will provide an overview of the various roles and responsibilities of a DAC, the Minnesota Assessments, relevant MDE systems, available resources, and training opportunities. Pearson will provide information on PearsonAccess Next, TestNav, and reporting resources.

Each in-person session will be from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. with on-site registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. Morning refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. A webinar option for MDE’s portion is also available. Registration links and location details are in the following table:

DATE/TIME	TRAINING AND REGISTRATION	LOCATION/NOTE
Monday, Oct. 7 9:30 a.m.–noon	Register for MDE’s portion of the New DAC Orientation webinar.	Only MDE’s portion of the training will take place on Oct. 7. Pearson’s portion will be posted in the Training Management System as a recorded training.
Tuesday, Oct. 8 9 a.m.–3 p.m.	Register for the New DAC Orientation in Mankato.	AmericInn by Wyndham – Mankato 240 Stadium Rd. Conference Center – Gallery A Mankato, MN 56001
Wednesday, Oct. 9 9 a.m.–3 p.m.	Register for the New DAC Orientation in St. Cloud.	St. Cloud River’s Edge Convention Center 10 4 th Ave. S Alexander Bell Room St. Cloud, MN 56301

DATE/TIME	TRAINING AND REGISTRATION	LOCATION/NOTE
Thursday, Oct. 10 9 a.m.–3 p.m.	Register for the New DAC Orientation in the Metro.	Delta Hotels Minneapolis Northeast 1330 Industrial Blvd. NE St. Paul Ballroom Minneapolis, MN 55413

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WIDA Webinar for New DACs

WIDA will have a webinar designed for new District Test Coordinators (i.e., DACs) on Sept. 26 from 1–2 p.m. [Join WIDA’s ACCESS for ELLs New District Test Coordinators webinar on Sept. 26 at 1 p.m.](#)

The webinar will provide information on the following topics:

- Creating WIDA user accounts
- Monitoring test administrator training completion
- Using WIDA AMS as a District Test Coordinator

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Benchmark Reports Coming Soon

The MCA Benchmark Reports will be available on Sept. 16 in PearsonAccess Next under Reports > Published Reports for DAC and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles. Over the past year, MDE and Pearson worked with various stakeholders to redesign the reports to make them easier to understand and allow them to be used more effectively.

While information about strands or substrands are not very useful or reliable at the student level, looking at the benchmark reports with a school-wide or district-wide view may be helpful as an additional resource for educators to evaluate an educational program or instructional system. Educators should only analyze benchmark reports within the context of a broad scope and should consider other factors, such as curriculum, instructional practices, and all local assessments, when making any inferences about the benchmark reports.

See the *Upcoming Opportunities* article below for information about the Benchmark Report webinar taking place tomorrow, Sept. 12, and see the following list for resources related to the benchmark reports:

- The *Benchmark Report Interpretive Guide* and Benchmark Report “How To” Quick Guides are available on the [Additional Reporting Resources page](#).

- The Benchmark Report Video Guide will also be available on the Additional Reporting Resources page, and is scheduled to be available tomorrow, Sept. 12.
- The *Benchmark Report Calculation Resource* is available on the [Technical Reports page](#) (posted under the Other Students heading at the bottom of the webpage).

If you have questions about the benchmark reports or would like in-person or online training about using the benchmark reports, please contact Kendra Olsen at Kendra.olsen@state.mn.us or 651-582-8542. If DACs or Assessment Administrators (AAs) have questions about accessing the benchmark reports, contact Pearson at 888-817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#).

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MDE Accounts Conversion: New Authorization Required

The current MDE secure systems will be converted to a new Education Identification Access & Management (EDIAM) security system in a series of releases this fall. This will affect all users who need access to any MDE systems (e.g., Test WES, Secure Reports, and GRR). The Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) of each district will need to provide new authorization to all applicable staff members for MDE's systems. Permissions or user roles will not transfer to the new system, and everyone will need to create a new EDIAM account. More information about this process will be provided to superintendents and charter school directors this Friday, Sept. 13.

For many systems, the IOwA will be able to authorize access for EDIAM accounts starting on Monday, Sept. 16. See the *EDIAM Go Live Chart* on the [Data Submissions page](#) for more details on what systems are affected and the specific timeline.

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Alternate Assessment Workgroup: Participants Needed

MDE is looking for DACs, Special Education directors, and Special Education teachers to join a new Alternate Assessment Workgroup. The workgroup will meet multiple times during the 2019–20 school year to examine district and family perspectives on the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS), analyze statewide and district alternate assessment participation data, and determine how MDE can support districts in the process of selecting the most appropriate assessment for each student.

Workgroup participants should be comfortable analyzing statewide and district assessment participation data and have experience with MTAS administration. An overview describing Minnesota's participation rates on the alternate assessment for further context is available upon request.

If you or another district staff member is interested in participating or would like a copy of the full overview document, please contact Lauren Walker at lauren.walker@state.mn.us or 651-582-8743 by Sept. 25.

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ACCESS Resources

Since the ACCESS score reports have now arrived in your districts, please ensure that EL educators are aware of the following resources as they communicate score report information to their students, families, and other educators.

- Translated Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are available in 47 languages in [WIDA AMS](#) ([Sign in] > All Applications > Report Delivery > On-Demand Reports).
- There are various resources (available in several languages) designed for parents on the [Resource Types page](#) including the following:
 - *ACCESS for ELLs Parent Guide for Score Reports*: A two-page document that summarizes key information about the ISRs
 - *ACCESS for ELLs Parent Handout*: A one-page flyer that answers basic questions about the ACCESS
 - *ACCESS for ELLs Parent Letter*: A cover letter that is designed to accompany the score reports
- See the *ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Score Interpretation Resources* article from the [Assessment Update from Sept. 4](#) for additional resources.

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WIDA Resource Library: Improvements and Additions

Based on user feedback, WIDA has made several improvements and additions to the WIDA Resource Library including the following:

- **Spanish language resources removed**: Resource titles displayed in Spanish will no longer be included in the main Resource Library, but can still be found on the [Recursos page](#). Note that parent letters, guides, and handouts translated into Spanish will still be located in the main Resource Library.
- **Resource Topics page**: Similar to the Resource Types page, the [Resource Topics page](#) lays out each topic, the types of resources for each topic, and a link to the filtered list by that topic.
- **Resource Types and Topics buttons**: Colorful button links to these two pages now appear above the filtering options on the left side of the [Resource Library page](#).

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ACCESS Scoring Appeal Requests

In rare circumstances, districts may need to request a score appeal of either the writing (paper or online) or speaking (online only) domain of the grades 1–12 ACCESS for ELLs when there is a concern that a student's test may have been scored incorrectly. Kindergarten ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS are not applicable to the Scoring Appeal Request procedure because those tests contain multiple choice items only. The deadline for submitting a

scoring appeal request to MDE is Wednesday, Sept. 18. MDE will review the request and gather all information needed by DRC. If approved by MDE, there may be a \$200 fee. Score appeals cannot be requested for Reading or Listening scores, for any domain in which a test code was indicated, or for score code changes (e.g., NC).

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Upcoming Opportunities

New Benchmark Report Webinar for DACs

MDE will offer 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 available resources.

- [Register for the Benchmark Reports Webinar for DACs.](#)
- Phone Number: 206-596-0378
- Access Code: 809 821 843

A recording of this webinar will be posted in the Training Management System (TMS). The webinar is scheduled to be available on Sept. 20.

WIDA Webinar—Welcome Back: What’s New This Year?

WIDA will have a *Welcome Back* webinar on Sept. 18 from 1–2 p.m. to introduce new features in WIDA AMS, the WIDA training process, and the WIDA website. This webinar is for DACs, Technology Coordinators, and Test Administrators. [Join WIDA’s Welcome Back: What’s New This Year webinar on Sept. 18 at 1 p.m.](#) For more information about what will be addressed in the webinar, refer to WIDA’s flyer [ACCESS for ELLs: What’s New in 2019–2020](#) (sign-in is required).

Interpreting ACCESS Score Reports for Instruction Training

Professional Development staff from the WIDA Consortium will conduct in-person trainings at three locations around the state to focus on interpreting ACCESS score reports for instruction. The training is designed for EL educators and coordinators.

The ACCESS score reports provide specific information on students' academic English language proficiency. During this training, participants will explore how the WIDA Standards and Assessment System is connected to the ACCESS score reports. Participants will examine the different types and uses of score reports. They will also make connections between student proficiency scores and WIDA Performance Definitions in determining instructional practices.

This training is provided at no cost; lunch is not provided. Registration is limited to three people from a district or charter school. Each session will be from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. On-site registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

DATE/TIME	TRAINING AND REGISTRATION	LOCATION
Tuesday, Sept. 24 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Register for the Interpreting ACCESS Score Reports for Instruction in North Mankato.	South Central Service Cooperative (SCSC) Conference Center 2075 Lookout Dr. North Mankato, MN 56003
Wednesday, Sept. 25 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Register for the Interpreting ACCESS Score Reports for Instruction at MDE.	Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center B: Room 16 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113
Thursday, Sept. 26 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Register for the Interpreting ACCESS Score Reports for Instruction in Sartell.	College of St. Scholastica Innovation Room 137 23 rd St. South Sartell, MN 56377

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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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