

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday Deadline: Confirming Requests in GRR • Required Delivery of ISRs • Benchmark Reports Available in PearsonAccess Next • Additional Hosting Site Needed for Educator Workshops • SIS and Data Warehouse Preliminary Data Extract • Reading and Math Released MCA Items and Passages • Technical Reports for MCA and MTAS • Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Training Course • PearsonAccess Next and TestNav Updates (repeat) • Upcoming Opportunities • Odds and Ends 	<p>Sept. 14: <i>Deadline to submit reimbursement requests in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR)</i></p> <p>Sept. 17: <i>Benchmarks Reports available in PearsonAccess Next</i></p>

Friday Deadline: Confirming Requests in GRR

The deadline for districts to request reimbursement in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) for 2017–18 is this Friday, Sept. 14. 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.

See the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) User Guide](#) for more information (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Graduation Requirements (GRR)).

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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 no later than fall conferences—for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. Districts determine how ISRs will be distributed following best practices for data privacy.

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Benchmark Reports Available in PearsonAccess Next

The 2018 Benchmark Reports will be available on Sept. 17 in PearsonAccess Next under Reports > Published Reports for DAC and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles. A *Published Reports Quick Guide*, as well as *Benchmark Reports User Guides* and “How To” *Quick Guides* for each subject are available on the [Additional Reporting Resources page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Reporting Resources).

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Additional Hosting Site Needed for Educator Workshops

This fall, MDE plans to present a full-day workshop open to all educators with Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Professor of Educational Measurement and Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development from the University of Minnesota. The workshop will include a discussion on the formative uses of assessments, practice time with classroom assessments, and an update on the redesign of the Benchmark Reports. The day would finish with a focus group for teachers on the Testing 1, 2, 3 website and work time for DACs with Dr. Rodriguez. Lunch will be provided to all participants who attend the full-day workshop.

One more hosting site is needed in the Northeast region of the state to ensure all regions have the opportunity to work with Dr. Michael Rodriguez and to provide feedback on the Testing 1, 2, 3 website. If anyone in the Northeast region or the Duluth area is interested in hosting this workshop or want more information, contact Holly Pope (Brunson) at holly.pope@state.mn.us or 651-582-8563. The target date for securing a location is no later than Sept. 26.

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SIS and Data Warehouse Preliminary Data Extracts

Yesterday, all DACs received an email from Pearson explaining that they will be offering Student Information System (SIS) and data warehouse vendors the opportunity to receive regularly scheduled extracts of preliminary On-Demand test result data for the MCA and MTAS during the 2019 testing window. This will allow vendors to load the preliminary On-Demand data directly into their system, providing more ready access for teachers.

See the memo for more information, and keep in mind that **only vendors who have provided commitment to use the extracts to Pearson by Sept. 28 will be eligible to receive regularly scheduled extracts for the spring**

2019 test administration. If your district would like to use this service, please consider contacting your SIS vendor or data warehouse vendor to express your interest.

A data sharing agreement will be required between the district, the SIS or data warehouse vendor, and MDE. The agreement will be provided to districts by the SIS or data warehouse vendor and must be signed and on file at MDE by Dec. 10. In addition, in order for the data to be included on the extract, DACs will be required to authorize in PearsonAccess Next which SIS or data warehouse vendor should receive their student data on a regularly scheduled extract. If the DAC does not authorize the data to be sent on an SIS or data warehouse vendor extract, it will not be included. DACs will be able to begin authorizing Pearson to provide data to vendors in February, and the first extract will be provided in March.

A separate agreement may be required for final assessment data provided in DSR format. Information about this will be provided directly from MDE. The timelines and details will be provided at a later date.

SIS and data warehouse vendors can contact Pearson for more information at 888-817-8659 or [submit a help desk request](#).

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Reading and Math Released MCA Items and Passages

MDE releases MCA items and passages for educators to have a sampling of how content assessed is aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards and to have a model for how to write classroom test items aligned to the standards at a variety of cognitive and difficult levels. These items and passages are statistically valid and reliable and have been previously used on the MCA. For more information, access the *Released Item and Data Table User Guide*, available on the [Released Items and Passage Sets page](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Released Items and Passage Sets).

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Technical Reports for MCA and MTAS

There are a number of updated reports now available on the [Technical Reports page](#) including the following (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Minnesota Tests > Technical Reports):

- **Scale Score – Percentile Rank Tables for Mathematics and Reading MCA:** Documents that provide the scale score that correspond to the achievement level and percentile rank.
- **Raw to Scale Score Tables for Science MCA and all subjects for MTAS:** Documents that provide correspondence between raw score (number of questions correct) and scale score.

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Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Training Course

The Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Course is available in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training) on the Assessment Literacy tab. These trainings are designed for educators to increase understanding about Minnesota Assessments. The course includes the following trainings:

- *Minnesota Assessments Overview*
- *MCA Achievement Level Descriptors & Standard Setting Process*
- *Test Development*
- *Test Construction*
- *Scoring and Reporting*
- *Test Specifications*

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PearsonAccess Next and TestNav Updates (repeat)

PearsonAccess Next (including the Training Center) and TestNav will all be unavailable for system updates Friday, Sept. 14. During this time, users will also not be able to access the item samplers on PearsonAccess Next.

All systems will be available Monday, Sept. 17. At this time, you will see the following changes in PearsonAccess Next and the Training Center:

- The automatic time out feature will increase from 15 to 30 minutes. There will also be a time out pop-up notification two minutes prior to sign out. If there is no activity in PearsonAccess Next after 30 minutes, the user will be automatically signed out.
- Those with the District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles will no longer be able to change other users' emails from the Users screen of PearsonAccess Next. Users will continue to have the ability to edit their own emails via the Your Account page in the top right. An updated [PearsonAccess Next User Accounts Guide](#) will include this information and will be available on Sept. 17 (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > User Guides).

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Upcoming Opportunities

New DAC Orientation

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 present on the roles and responsibilities of a DAC, the assessments included in the Minnesota Assessments, relevant MDE systems, available resources, and training opportunities. Pearson will present on PearsonAccess Next, TestNav, and reporting resources.

Note: For those who cannot make it to an in-person training, there will be a webinar option for the MDE portion of the webinar. Pearson’s portion will be posted in the Training Management System as a recorded training.

Each session will be from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. with check-in beginning at 8:30 a.m. Morning refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

DATE & REGISTRATION	LOCATION
<p>Monday, Oct. 8 9 a.m.–noon Register for the New DAC orientation webinar.</p>	<p>Webinar (MDE portion only)</p>
<p>Tuesday, Oct. 9 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the Mankato orientation.</p>	<p>Courtyard: Mankato Gallery A 901 Raintree Rd. Mankato, MN 56001</p>
<p>Wednesday, Oct. 10 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the St. Cloud orientation.</p>	<p>Courtyard: St. Cloud 5th Ave. Room 404 West Germain St. St. Cloud, MN 56301</p>
<p>Thursday, Oct. 11 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the Roseville orientation.</p>	<p>Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center A: Rooms 13 & 14 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113</p>

WIDA Webinars

As the new school year begins, WIDA is offering two webinars on the new WIDA website and what is new with WIDA this year. See the full ACCESS and Screener webinar calendar for 2018–19 on the [ACCESS for ELLs Webinar page](#) (WIDA website > Login > select WIDA Secure Portal > Online Grades 1-12 > ACCESS Webinars).

- *Welcome Back: What’s New This Year?* (Sept. 18 from 1–2 p.m.)
- *Welcome Back: New WIDA Website Walkthrough* (Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.–noon)

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Odds and Ends

- **ACCESS Score Appeals:** In rare circumstances, scoring appeals may be available for the ACCESS Speaking and/or Writing score of a particular student. DACs must email mde.testing@state.mn.us with the student's MARSS number and the rationale for requesting a score appeal. The deadline for submitting a scoring appeal is this Friday, Sept. 14. MDE will review the request. 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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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.