

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

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New Authorization Required for MDE Secure Systems

As announced in last week's *Assessment Update*, 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. Permissions or user roles will not transfer to the new system, and all users need to create a new EDIAM account.

For Assessment Secure Reports, Test WES, and GRR, the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) can now begin authorizing access once an EDIAM account is created. **Beginning this Friday Sept. 20, the only way to access these systems will be through a new, authorized EDIAM account.**

Detailed information was sent to all IOWAs this afternoon. In addition, there is a [webinar tomorrow morning](#) specifically for IOWAs; if you are not the IOWA for your district, please make sure your IOWA knows about this webinar.

See the *EDIAM Go Live Chart* on the [Data Submissions page](#) for more details on the transition and timeline for all MDE secure systems. For any questions, please contact useraccess.mde@state.mn.us.

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Reimbursements for College Entrance Exams

By next week, MDE will issue reimbursements to districts based on their requests (made by Sept. 13) in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system for eligible students who took a qualifying college entrance exam (ACT or SAT). Be sure to let your business office know to expect the coming payment, which will be identified with "ACT/SAT REIM," followed by the date, and a unique number (e.g. 0000039). The payment will also contain the explanation of GRR-REIMBURSEMENT.

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Benchmark Reports and Resources Available

The MCA Benchmark Reports are available 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. The following resources are available for the benchmark reports:

- The *Benchmark Report Interpretive Guide*, *Benchmark Report "How To" Quick Guides*, and *Understanding the MCA Benchmark Report* video guide are available on the [Additional Reporting Resources page](#).
- The *Benchmark Report Calculation Resource* is available on the [Technical Reports page](#) (posted under the Other Students heading at the bottom of the webpage).
- A recording of the Benchmark Report webinar held last week will be posted in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) under the Data and Reporting tab. The webinar is scheduled to be available on Sept. 20.

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 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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Additional Released Items

MDE has released six more Reading MCA passages and sets of items for educators. 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 models for how to write classroom test items aligned to the standards at a variety of cognitive and difficulty 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](#).

Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Training Course

The Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Course is available in the [Training Management System \(TMS\)](#) 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

SIS and Data Warehouse Preliminary Data Extracts

For the spring 2020 test administration, Pearson will offer Student Information System (SIS) and data warehouse vendors the opportunity to receive regularly scheduled extracts of preliminary test result data for the MCA and MTAS during the testing window. This will allow vendors to load the preliminary data directly into their system for districts who enter into a data-sharing agreement with their associated vendor and MDE. As of Wednesday, Sept. 18, at noon, Pearson has received a commitment to use the extracts from the following vendors:

- cmERDC (Viewpoint)
- Illuminate Education (eduCLIMBER, IO Education, SchoolCity)
- JMC
- Sourcewell Technology
- Strategic Partnerships

Pearson has contacted the following SIS and data warehouse vendors and is still waiting on a commitment:

- Edupoint (Synergy)
- Infinite Campus (Campus)
- MBA (PowerSchool)
- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEdge)
- Skyward

- SpEd Forms
- Tyler Technologies (Schoolmaster)
- Mach B

Only vendors who have provided a commitment to use the extracts to Pearson by this Friday, Sept. 20 will be eligible to receive regularly scheduled extracts for the spring 2020 test administration preliminary data. If your district would like to use this service, consider contacting your SIS vendor or data warehouse vendor to express your interest, and encourage them to participate.

The SIS and data warehouse vendors will need to configure their system to receive the data in the file layout provided by Pearson. A preliminary file layout has been provided to the vendors listed above. The final file layout will be available to vendors in October.

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

Data Sharing Agreement

A data sharing agreement will be required between the district and the SIS or data warehouse vendor and filed with MDE. The agreement will be provided to districts by the SIS or data warehouse vendor and a scan of the signed data sharing agreement must be on file with MDE by Jan. 31, 2020.

The data sharing agreement includes the option of receiving preliminary data, final data, or both. A separate data sharing agreement will be needed if a district has different vendors for preliminary and final data.

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Upcoming Opportunities

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. If you or another district staff member is interested in participating, please contact Lauren Walker at lauren.walker@state.mn.us or 651-582-8743 by Sept. 25.

An overview describing Minnesota's participation rates on the alternate assessment for further context is now available on the [Minnesota Tests page](#).

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.](#) Note that the links for all upcoming WIDA webinars have been updated; a revised version of the [upcoming webinars document](#) is available with the revised links [sign-in required to access the document].

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

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. Note that registration closes this Friday, Sept. 20; contact Dawn Cameron at dawn.cameron@state.mn.us to inquire about registering next week.

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

DATE/TIME	TRAINING AND REGISTRATION	LOCATION
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

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 Fourth Ave. S Alexander Bell Room St. Cloud, MN 56301
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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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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