

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING—SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for Requesting Reimbursements in GRR is Sept. 13 • New DAC Orientation: Save the Date • Technical Reports for MCA and MTAS • ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Score Interpretation Resources • Key Communications with Districts • SIS and Data Warehouse Preliminary Data Extracts • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update 	<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>

Deadline for Requesting Reimbursements in GRR is Sept. 13

Districts must enter requests for reimbursements for college entrance exams 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 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.

[Back to Top](#)

New DAC Orientation: Save the Date

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 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. Registration links will be available in a future *Assessment Update*. The dates and locations are as follows:

- Oct. 8 in Mankato
- Oct. 9 in St. Cloud
- Oct. 10 in the Metro

For those who cannot make it to an in-person training, there will be a webinar option for the MDE portion of the training on Monday, Oct. 7, from 9:30 a.m.–noon. Pearson’s portion will be posted in the Training Management System as a recorded training.

[Back to Top](#)

Technical Reports for MCA and MTAS

There are a number of updated reports now available on the [Technical Reports page](#) including the following:

- **Scale Score – Percentile Rank Tables for Mathematics and Reading MCAs:** Documents that provide the scale scores 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.
- **Benchmark Report Calculations Resource:** A document (posted under the Other Studies heading at the bottom of the webpage) that provides details about the calculation methods for the new benchmark reports, which will be available in PearsonAccess Next on Sept. 16.

[Back to Top](#)

ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS Score Interpretation Resources

The 2019 score report resources are now updated and posted on the WIDA website, including the following:

- The [Interpretive Guide for ACCESS](#) explains the types of scores reported by ACCESS.
- The [Interpretive Guide for Alternate ACCESS](#) explains the types of scores reported by Alternate ACCESS.
- [Individual Student Score Notes](#) are designed to support educators as they prepare to discuss ACCESS score reports with students and families.
- [Score Report PowerPoint slides for ACCESS](#) are designed for educators to use in presentations with parents and families.

- A variety of [lesson plans](#) are available for teachers to use when talking with their students about ACCESS testing and results.
- An [infographic for using ACCESS score reports](#) is designed to provide information for educators on how to analyze ACCESS scores, communicate results, collaborate with colleagues, and take action.

[Back to Top](#)

Key Communication with Districts

With the start of the new school year, ensure 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 they can receive relevant information, including opportunities specifically designed for New DACs.

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 necessary changes or updates.

Assessment Update Distribution

MDE 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, they all 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. Previous updates are posted to the [Assessment Update page](#) on PearsonAccess Next.

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

PearsonAccess Next Accounts

It is important to update DAC and alternative DAC accounts right away in MDE-ORG because 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 MDE-ORG updates.

WIDA and WIDA AMS Accounts

In order to complete the required trainings for the ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, 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 must have a user account in WIDA AMS. New DACs that need WIDA Secure Portal and WIDA AMS accounts should send their request to mde.testing@state.mn.us. 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.

[Back to Top](#)

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. Last week, DACs received an email from Pearson explaining this opportunity.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 4, at noon, Pearson has received a commitment to use the extracts from the following vendor:

- Sourcewell Technology

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

- Edupoint (Synergy)
- Infinite Campus (Campus)
- JMC
- MBA (PowerSchool)
- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEdge)
- Skyward
- SpEd Forms
- Tyler Technologies (Schoolmaster)
- cmERDC (Viewpoint)
- Mach B
- Illuminate Education (eduCLIMBER, IO Education, SchoolCity)
- Region1

Only vendors who have provided a commitment to use the extracts to Pearson by 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.

In order for the data to be included on the extract, DACs will be required to authorize in PearsonAccess Next which vendor should receive their student data on a regularly scheduled extract. If the DAC does not authorize the data to be sent in 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; the first extract will be provided in March.** Districts can add or remove authorization in PearsonAccess Next at any point during the test administration.

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.

[Back to Top](#)

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. The benchmark reports will be available in PearsonAccess Next on Sept. 16.

The webinar will 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. Check-in 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

[Back to Top](#)

Tech Update

TestNav: 2019–20 and 2020–21 System Requirement Changes

Pearson plans to drop support for operating system (OS) and browser versions below by the indicated time frame.

2019–20 School Year

OS versions:

- iOS 11.4.1 and below
- macOS 10.11 and below
- Chrome OS 73 and below
- Linux Fedora (Note: Pearson plans to continue support only for Linux Ubuntu.)

Browser versions (used for item samplers and the student tutorial):

- Chrome 73 and below
- Firefox 62 and below
- Safari 11.x and below

2020–21 School Year

- Windows 7 and 8.1

Note: Pearson may further update this list for 2020–21 as that school year approaches.

Review the [TestNav System Requirements](#) for more information about what is supported for the 2019–20 school year.

[Back to Top](#)

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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