



Statewide Testing Update

Closure of Testing Windows

Based on the March 25 announcement and Executive Order by Governor Walz, any available open statewide assessments (MCA and MTAS) will close on Friday, March 27, 2020, at 5 p.m. This means that there will be no more MCA and MTAS tests administered for the remainder of the 2019–20 school year. It also means that majority of the work related to administration of statewide assessments must also be completed by this Friday at 5 p.m. including the following prioritized tasks:

1. **Data entry.** Any student responses from MCA paper tests must be entered online in TestNav, and any MTAS scores must be entered in PearsonAccess Next.
2. **High school science only.** Since a blank assessment record cannot be added in Posttest Editing for high school science, add any student who would have taken the High School Science MCA (based on their enrollment in a life science or biology course) to a test session in PearsonAccess Next. No other action is needed other than setting up a test session (if not already created) and adding those students to it. The session does not need to be prepared or started, and tests do not need to be marked complete.
 - Similarly, for any students who would have the High School Science MTAS, submit a blank MTAS assessment in PearsonAccess Next in order to create an assessment record for Posttest Editing.
 - Creating these assessment records allows flexibility for Posttest Editing and for next year's precode files.
 - If you have reason to believe this task cannot be completed by Friday, March 27, 2020, at 5 p.m. contact mde.testing@state.mn.us to discuss your specific situation and explore options.
 - Note: This only applies to high school science; no additional work in PearsonAccess Next needs to be completed for any other grade or subject.

Note: It is not necessary to enter refusal (REF-P or REF-S) or medical excuse (ME) test codes in PearsonAccess Next. MDE does not yet know how test codes will be used or applied based on the waiver.

Return of Test Materials

As has been communicated, this Friday, March 27, is the deadline for returning **ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS test materials**. It is important to return paper materials by the deadline so that they can be scanned, scored, and included for reporting.

For **MCA and MTAS test materials**, secure test materials do not need to be returned by Friday, March 27. Additional information regarding return timelines for these secure materials will be provided in a future guidelines document.

Minnesota College Entrance Exam Requirement

Based on the March 25 announcement and Executive Order by Governor Walz, districts unable to fully implement the requirement to offer a school-day administration of a college entrance exam are exempt from this requirement for school year 2019–20. MDE will provide additional guidance to schools and school districts no later than the beginning of school year 2020–21.

Communication

Based on MDE's agency-wide communication plan due to COVID-19, the *Assessment Update and Testing 1,2,3 Newsletter* must be discontinued until further notice. This also includes any targeted emails to all DACs.

Since the Statewide Testing division will not be communicating with all DACs directly, it is important that DACs regularly check the [COVID-19 Update page](#) and the *School Closure Guidance for Minnesota Public School Districts and Charter Schools* document on this page (which is updated frequently). This document is how we will provide the most current information related to statewide testing at this time.