Assessment Update

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – AUGUST 15, 2018

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- New WIDA Website - Accountability Information - Secure Test Materials - Updating Contacts in MDE-ORG - Student Assessment History Report Rollover - Released MCA Items and Passages - Minnesota Assessment Training Course - Ed-Fi for Data Collection - Upcoming Opportunities - Odds and Ends - Tech Update	*Aug. 8–17:* Accountability appeals window *Aug. 27:* Embargoed accountability data file available in Secure Reports *Aug. 30:* Public release of assessment and accountability results in the Data Center *Aug. 30:* Assessment results available in PearsonAccess Next and WIDA AMS *Aug. 30:* Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in districts

New WIDA Website

As of today, WIDA has a new website and URL (wida.wisc.edu), which contains general information about the WIDA suite of assessments, the WIDA Standards, and professional learning. There is a login to access the WIDA Secure Portal, which will remain largely the same. For more information, view the new WIDA website overview video or plan to attend WIDA's webinar in September. See details and a registration link below.

Link: New WIDA Website Walkthrough

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 19

Time: 11 a.m.–noon

The contact information for the WIDA Client Services Center has not changed; contact WIDA at help@wida.us or 866-276-7735 with any questions.

Accountability Information

As announced in the Aug. 8 *Assessment Update*, districts now have access to embargoed accountability information. See below for more information regarding common questions that districts have had or contact Michael Diedrich at michael.diedrich@state.mn.us or 651-582-8332 with accountability questions.

School Identification Status

Start with the *North Star Report*—under the Accountability Secure Reports heading of Secure Reports—for information about identification status (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports). After clicking "Run Report," see the space to the right of the dropdown menu for text about whether your district/school has been identified for support. If there is no message, your district/school has not been identified for support.

If a school has been identified for targeted support based on the performance of a student group, more information can be found in a document uploaded to the File Exchange (under File Transfer) in Test WES (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Data Submissions > Test WES). Use the *North Star Report* for all other information about identification. If you rely solely on Test WES, you may not have complete accountability information.

Note: When the *North Star Report* is set to its default configuration [Reporting Year = Identification Year 2018 (three-year average); Overall Average of Groups = No; Race/Ethnicity = All Students; Category = All Students] what actually displays is the three-year average for the overall average of groups. When picking a single reporting year [2016, 2017, or 2018 rather than "Identification Year 2018 (three-year average")] and keeping Race/Ethnicity and Category set to All Students, what displays is for the "All Students" group.

Calculating Accountability Indicators and Identification Process

Visit the Identification Processes and Accountability Indicators sections of the School and District Accountability page for brief summaries of each indicator and the processes for district and school identification (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > School Achievement > School and District Accountability). Use the *North Star Business Rules – Support* document (which can be downloaded from either page linked above) for more detailed information, such as which students are included in each accountability indicator and provide example calculations.

Appeals Window

The accountability appeals window closes on Aug. 17 at 4 p.m. Requests for an appeal can be made through this online survey tool for accountability appeals. The two grounds for appeal are as follows:

- An error has been found in the accountability calculations.

- Unusual circumstances (e.g., a natural disaster) impacted the data for a school or district such that the data are unreliable.

Secure Test Materials

MDE has been working with our service providers (Pearson and DRC) since the end of the testing windows to account for all secure testing materials. In order to ensure all secure materials are accounted for, service providers have been working with districts who did not return all materials by the deadline.

MDE will soon send a certified letter to the DACs and Superintendents/Directors of the districts who still have secure test materials that are unaccounted for. If secure test materials remain unaccounted for, MDE will create a Test Security Notification (TSN) and follow up with the district accordingly.

Updating Contacts in MDE-ORG

With the start of the new school year, please ensure that the contact information is correct and up to date in the MDE-ORG system (MDE website > Data Center > Schools and Organizations (MDE-ORG)). If your district has a new DAC, please ensure this information is updated in MDE-ORG as soon as possible so that MDE can communicate with them about the upcoming New DAC Orientation.

All contact information in MDE-ORG is updated and maintained by the district's Site Verification Coordinator (SVC), who is listed in MDE-ORG. If the SVC has any questions about the process, they should contact MaryPat Olsen at mde.school-verify@state.mn.us.

Student Assessment History Report Rollover

The Student Assessment History Report allows districts to look up the testing history for individuals who are enrolled in the district as verified by MARSS (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports). The Student Assessment History Report has now rolled over to the 2018–19 school year. As of today, Aug. 15, districts can submit MARSS information for students currently enrolled. Districts will not have any data in the Student Assessment History Report until MARSS has been submitted for the 2018–19 school year.

Released MCA Items and Passages

MDE releases MCA items and passages for educators to have a sampling of how the Minnesota Academic Standards are assessed on the MCA and to have a model for how to write classroom test items aligned to the standards. 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).

Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Training Course

The Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Course has been updated and reposted to the [Training Management System (TMS)](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training). These trainings are designed for educators to increase understanding about Minnesota Assessments; teacher CEUs are available. The course includes the following trainings:

- *Minnesota Assessments Overview*

- *MCA Achievement Level Descriptor (ALD) & Standard Setting Process*

- *Test Development*

- *Test Construction*

- *Scoring and Reporting*

- *Test Specifications*

Ed-Fi for Data Collection

In an effort to streamline and connect data collection systems, MDE is moving to Ed-Fi, a data standard (or a set of rules) that allow previously disconnected educational data systems to connect. Ed-Fi streamlines the process of adding new data collections to the system in order to meet state and federal reporting requirements, which allows for rapid future growth.

Over the course of the next five years, all MARSS WES data elements will be reported through Ed-Fi, and 2022–23 will be the last year of MARSS WES. If you are interested, you can sign up for Ed-Fi as early as this school year (2018–19) by contacting MDE at mde.cas@state.mn.us. MDE will then contact your Student Identification System (SIS) Vendor; SIS Vendors are aware of the upcoming transition. As a part of this process, you will need to include a new racial/ethnic demographic collection form in your 2019–20 enrollment packet. The finalized form (along with a corresponding FAQ and parent letter) will be available in September on the [Counting All](#)

[Students webpage for Students and Families](#) (MDE website > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Counting All Students).

For more information, visit the [Counting All Students webpage for Districts](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Business and Finance > Counting All Students).

Upcoming Opportunities

Reporting Training from Pearson

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, Pearson will offer a webinar to provide DACs and other interested staff an in-depth review of Published Reports, Longitudinal Reports, and Historical Student Data in PearsonAccess Next. The training will be recorded and posted in the Training Management System (TMS) a few days after the session. The webinar is limited to the first 150 participants. No registration is required.

Use the following call-in phone number, conference code, and password to join the webinar:

- [Join the reporting webinar on Aug. 22](#).

- Time: 10–11 a.m.

- Call-in phone number: 877-554-0877

- Conference code: 571 468 0293

- Password: Pearson

Odds and Ends

- **District Testing Calendar**: As in the past, districts must post their testing calendar on the district website; this information may also be posted on the school-level website(s), if the district chooses. For more details, see the *District Testing Calendar* article from the Aug. 8 *Assessment Update* or page 129 of the [*2017–18 Procedures Manual*](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

- **Z-Score Information**: Individual student Z-Score information is currently under embargo and available in the [*Academic Roster*](#), under the Accountability Secure Reports heading of Secure Reports (MDE website > Data Center > Secure Reports). Aggregated Z-Score information will be available at the time of the public release on Aug. 30.

Tech Update

TestNav Apps Available for the 2018–19 School Year (repeat)

TestNav apps are now available for the 2018–19 school year. Version 1.7.3 of the TestNav apps can be downloaded from the TestNav 8 Online Support Page (PearsonAccess Next > TestNav 8 Online Support (under Quick Links)) or from the following locations. Prior to testing, ensure that all devices being used for spring 2019 MCA testing have been updated to the latest version.

OS	Download Available
Chrome OS	Chrome Web Store
iOS	iTunes App Store
Windows or Mac desktop	download.testnav.com
Android	Google Play Store

Desktop apps and iOS apps will need to be downloaded each year. Android, Chrome, and Windows Store apps (Windows 10 only) will automatically update unless the auto-update feature is disabled.

As previously announced, Pearson will no longer be supporting the following browsers and operating systems beginning in the spring of 2019.

Browser No Longer Supported: Firefox ESR 52

Operating Systems No Longer Supported:

- Android 5 and 6
- Chrome OS versions 57–66
- iOS versions 10.2 and 10.2.1
- macOS versions 10.9 and 10.10

If you have any questions, please contact the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or submit a Pearson help desk request.

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.