

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – JANUARY 5, 2018

TOPICS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDE Science Update • Equity Session with Deb Morrison • Instructional Resources for Mathematics and Science • Updated Parent Refusal Form • Educator Licensing and Standards Board Transition • Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month 	<p>Jan. 11: Multiple presentations at the Minnesota School Board Association Conference</p> <p>Jan. 15: Technology Conference in Thief River Falls</p> <p>Jan. 22: MDE Reports and Resources presentation at Willmar Middle School</p> <p>Jan. 22: MDE Data, Reports, Resources presentation at Fairmount Public Schools</p> <p>Feb. 2: Teacher Newsletter distributed</p>

These articles are from MDE’s Assessment Update. Contact your District Assessment Coordinator with questions.

MDE Science Update

The [MDE Science Update](https://www.mnsta.org/cgi/page.cgi/dept_education.html) (https://www.mnsta.org/cgi/page.cgi/dept_education.html) provides information about science related workshops, events, awards and programs for both teachers and students. It is sent approximately monthly via email to members of the Minnesota Science Teachers association and specific contacts at school districts, higher education, and other organizations. There is not a means for individuals to sign-up for the distribution; however, the Update is posted at the link above.

Equity Session with Deb Morrison

Dr. Deb Morrison from the University of Washington, led a workshop for the Science District Leaders network on Nov. 29. The slides for her presentation, [STEM Teaching Tools: Professional Learning Resources for Equitable 3D Instruction](https://tinyurl.com/STT-MN-2017) (<https://tinyurl.com/STT-MN-2017>), are available to the public. The presentation focused on the many teaching resources that have been develop by the University of Washington and includes links to a variety of teaching practices, including formative assessment. www.stemteachingtools.org; @STEMTeachTools (Twitter); facebook.com/STEMTeachingTools (Facebook)

Deb also gave the keynote at the STEM Network/Ignite conference: [Equity Research in Practice: Exploring Options for Closing Opportunity Gaps in STEM Learning](https://tinyurl.com/CI-Fall2018-Equity). (<https://tinyurl.com/CI-Fall2018-Equity>) is also available.

Deb can be contacted: eddeb@uw.edu @educatordeb (Twitter)

Instructional Resource for Mathematics and Science

The [Frameworks for Minnesota Mathematics and Science Standards](http://www.scimathmn.org/stemtc) (www.scimathmn.org/stemtc) is an interactive website that provides resources targeted at each standard and benchmark. Search by standard or concept to find the standard in lay terms, misconceptions, and examples of good instruction, web links, activity guides, assessment tasks, differentiation strategies, and ideas for administrators and parents. Additionally, there are resources on other items, such as literacy integration, questioning, word problems, and cultural connections. The site was developed by Minnesota science and math teachers under the leadership of SciMathMN and MDE.

Updated Parent Refusal Form

In order to clarify the accountability implications, MDE recently made minor adjustments and updates to its [Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing Form](#) (MDE website > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing). Districts must post this updated form on the district website but are not required to send out communications related to the option to refuse testing. If a district does communicate this information, they should consider including information on how the district uses data from statewide assessments and the value it provides in addition to the information provided in the three-page form. A student not participating in the statewide assessments will be counted as not proficient for the purposes of school and district accountability, which has implications for support and recognition opportunities.

Educator Licensing and Standards Board Transition

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB), a new state agency, was formed in 2017 and will start overseeing teacher licensing laws on Jan. 1. For more information, see the PELBS Transition Highlights and Timeline (MDE website > Licensing > Licensing Home).

Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month

- **Accountability:** A provision of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) legislation that requires schools, districts, and states to demonstrate, based on test scores, that students are making academic progress (Adequate Yearly Progress) and progress in the acquisition of English language proficiency (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives).
- **Appropriate Instruction:** Instruction that (1) meets the child's unique needs resulting from the disability and (2) allows the child to participate and make progress in the general education curriculum.

Statewide Testing's mission statement: To design, develop, and implement a system of assessment so Minnesota students, parents, teachers, administrators, legislators, and taxpayers will have access to valid and reliable data to support and improve education in Minnesota.



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