

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – FEBRUARY 2, 2018

| TOPICS  | IMPORTANT DATES   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Student Resources for MCA and MTAS</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Word-to-Word Translations</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month</a></li> </ul> | <p><b>Feb. 2:</b> MESTA Conference</p> <p><b>Feb. 13:</b> Resource Training and Solutions - collaborative presentation on Minnesota data tools</p> <p><b>Feb. 16:</b> Presentation in Perham</p> <p><b>March. 2:</b> Teacher Newsletter distributed</p> |

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

## Student Resources for MCA and MTAS

To assist with the process of selecting appropriate student resources, MDE developed the [Purposes of Student Resources](#), which is available on both the Item Samplers and Student Tutorial pages of PearsonAccess Next.

### Student Tutorial

The student tutorial is a student resource used to familiarize students and educators with the functionality of the online test, tools, and item types. The complete student tutorial and the accompanying *Teacher Guides* are now available on the [Student Tutorial page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Preparing for Testing > Student Tutorial).

### Item Samplers

The item samplers are used to familiarize students with how the content is tested by providing examples of items in the format they will see them on the test. *Item Sampler Teacher Guides* are available on the [Item Sampler page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Preparing for Testing > Item Samplers) for the following:

- Item samplers are available for all grades and subjects for both MCA and MTASP
- Paper accommodated tests (including braille upon request)
- For mathematics and science only:
  - Accommodated and standard text-to-speech
  - Word-to-word translations.

Note: The grade 8 Mathematics MCA item sampler includes a new item this year that will allow students to use the straightedge tool, a new tool that may appear on select items on the grade 8 and grade 11 Mathematics MCA. Refer to the *Mathematics Item Sampler Teacher Guide* or view a related [Item Types MathBits article](#).

## Released Items

In 2017, MDE released some previous Mathematics MCA items for student practice and teacher or parent use; a data table is provided for each item. Not every item type or benchmark is represented. MDE recently released 21 additional items and a *Released Item and Data Table User Guide*, available on the [Released Items](#) on the MDE website (MDE > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Released Items). For more information, refer to the [Released Items MathBits article](#). Though there are no released items for reading or science at this time, MDE is planning to release some reading items later this year.

## MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data

On Feb. 13 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m., a training opportunity for all educators will take place in Sartell. The following topics will be addressed: Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS), Minnesota Report Card, Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLEDS), DEED data tools (e.g., Graduate Employment Outcomes), and the MDE teacher website. Lunch will be on your own. [Register for the Data Tools event](#), or contact Holly Pope (Brunson) at [holly.brunson@state.mn.us](mailto:holly.brunson@state.mn.us) with questions. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m.

## Word-to-Word Translations

Word-to-word translations of academic terms and direction words are linguistic supports students may use on the Mathematics and Science MCA. In 2018, districts may provide students with word-to-word translations using either translated word lists, or for select languages (Hmong, Somali, and Spanish), word-to-word translations will appear in a pop-up window for the online tests. The words lists are available on the [Word-to-Word Translations page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Preparing for Testing > Word-to-Word Translations).

## Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month

- **Item Samplers:** The item samplers are used to familiarize students with how the content is tested by providing examples of items in the format they will see them on the test. They contain fewer items than the MCA, are aligned to the academic standards, and are not suitable for predicting student results.
- **Accommodations/Linguistic Supports:** Changes in assessment administration, such as setting, scheduling, timing, presentation format, or response mode that do not change the construct intended to be measured by the assessment or the meaning of resulting scores. Used for equity, not advantage. Provided to students based on a set of rules and procedures established by MDE.

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*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.*



\*To sign up to receive the Teacher Newsletter electronically, use the QR code or email [mde.testing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us).