AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – MARCH 2, 2018

TOPICS	IMPORTANT DATES
- Guidelines for Scribe, Script, and Signed Interpretation - Graduation Rate Release Update - Reporting Groups in PearsonAccess Next - Online Calculator Update - Pearson Reporting Focus Group & Usability Study - Testing Terminology	*March 20: Data training with Tri-City district leadership team* *April 6: Teacher Newsletter distributed* *April 27: MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data Presentation at Lakes Country Service Cooperative*

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

Guidelines for Scribe, Script, and Signed Interpretation

If you are going to be administering a test with accommodations/linguistic supports, please note that there is a newly created document, *Guidelines for Administration of Accommodations and Linguistic Supports* (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures), available under District and School Resources. As noted in the *Procedures Manual*, these are guidelines for the administration of the MCA with the scribe, script, and signed interpretation accommodations/linguistic supports.

Graduation Rate Release Update

As part of the transition to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Minnesota is using a new graduation rate calculation. This new calculation uses seven racial and ethnic groups instead of the previous five, and includes several smaller changes as well. An FAQ summarizing these changes is available on the Implementing ESSA page (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) > Implementing ESSA).

Reporting Groups in PearsonAccess Next

District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and Assessment Administrators (AAs) can now create reporting groups in PearsonAccess Next. Teachers (users with the Test Monitor/Data Entry or MTAS Score Entry roles) must be assigned to the reporting group(s) by the DAC or AA. For more information, refer to the *Reporting Groups User Guide* (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Reporting Resources).

Online Calculator Update

Pearson would like to communicate to educators that Texas Instruments (TI) has made accessibility improvement updates to the TI calculators that increase key readability and usability. The update also slightly modified the rendered size of the calculators, which allowed for increased screen space, most notably for the graphing calculator. Pearson has worked with TI to restore the size of all the calculators used in the online Mathematics and Science MCA tests to the sizes they appeared in the spring 2017 administration.

The item samplers are now updated with the resized calculators and reflect the size that will be available to students in the online Mathematics and Science MCA tests for the spring 2018 administration. All new accessibility improvements are still available on the resized calculators.

Additionally, as it was in the spring 2017 MCA administration, the TI calculators currently do not operate with external keyboards on iPads. Students testing on iPads should be instructed to operate the calculator using the touchscreen.

Pearson Reporting Focus Group and Usability Study

Pearson is currently working on a redesign of the PearsonAccess administrative portal, including the online reporting system. Pearson is looking for Minnesota educators who regularly use and interact with assessment data to provide feedback on the reporting components. Knowledge of Pearson's current reporting system in PearsonAccess Next is not required; we are simply looking for participants who regularly use and interact with student assessment data. Please share these opportunities with colleagues who use assessment data.

There are two opportunities to get involved:

- **Virtual Usability Study**: Participate in an hour virtual one-on-one usability session to review the prototype and discuss how you use student assessment data in your district, school(s), and/or classroom(s). Contact the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659 or submit a Pearson help desk request.
- **In-Person Focus Group**: Join an in-person Focus Group on Wednesday, March 14 from 1–4 p.m. at the Minnesota Department of Education in Roseville. Register for the in-person focus group. Space is limited; the deadline to sign up is March 2.

Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month

- **Item:** Test question. Examples of formats are multiple choice and technology enhanced.
- **PearsonAccess Next:** Minnesota uses PearsonAccess Next for administration of MCA and MTAS. The secure part of PearsonAccess Next allows users to create and manage users, set up and monitor online test sessions and access test results. All district and school staff are able to access resources for preparing students for testing, including the Student Tutorial and Item Samplers, guides and manual as well as training resources from PearsonAccess Next.

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, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.