Department of Education — Teacher Newsletter

TOPICS	IMPORTANT DATES
- Training and Focus Group – Stay Tuned! - Test Development Life Cycle Training Modules - Preparing Students for Testing - Science Standards Review Committee - MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data - On-Demand Reports and Export for MCA and MTAS - Testing Terminology	*April 27:* MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data Presentation at Lakes Country Service Cooperative *May 4: Teacher Newsletter distributed*

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

Training and Focus Group – Stay Tuned!

Similar to last fall, Holly Pope will be traveling around the state conducting a ***FREE*** full-day training and focus group for the new teacher website (Testing 1, 2, 3). In addition, Pearson will be hosting a focus group on the redesign of the Benchmark Reports. Planning has just begun, and more details will be in the May *Teacher Newsletter*. We expect the workshop to take place in the first three weeks of June. The full-day workshop will include: presentation of the MN Report Card and the various reports generated with MCA data (Benchmark Reports, ISRs, and MCA Rosters), the Benchmark Report focus group, lunch, and the teacher website (Testing 1, 2, 3) focus group. Although the website will not be fully completed, our demo site will be ready for feedback.

Test Development Life Cycle Training Modules

MDE and Pearson have partnered to produce a series of on-demand modules that describe how statewide tests are developed and explain key resources available to educators. The six modules can be found on the Assessment Literacy tab of Pearson's Training Management System (TMS) (mn.tms.pearson.com). Anyone can self-register with their email address for access to these modules in the TMS. The following topics are addressed in the modules: Minnesota Assessments Overview, MCA Achievement Level Descriptors & Standard Setting Process, Test Development, Test Construction, Scoring and Reports, and Test Specifications.

Preparing Students for Testing

MDE has developed the *Purposes of Student Resources*, which is available on both the Student Tutorial and Item Samplers pages (minnesota.pearsonaccessnext.com > Preparing for Testing).

Science Standards Review Committee

The application for the Minnesota Science Standards Review Committee is posted on the MDE Science page (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Academic Standards (K-12) > Science). The committee members will represent educators and community stakeholders with various backgrounds including geographic, gender, and racial diversity. This committee will work to review current standards and recommend changes. Please recruit colleagues, scientists, and community members that would be interested in contributing their knowledge. Each committee member needs to commit to meet for roughly one full-day a month from August 2018–April 2019. Technical writing teams, made up mostly of teachers, will collaborate more frequently through an electronic format. The review process and considerations are described in a series of articles on the MnSTA Science Standards page (mnsta.org > Resources > Contact > Links by Discipline > Science Standards). Contact John.C.Olson@state.mn.us with questions.

MN Data Tools: Leveraging Data

On April 27, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., a training opportunity for educators will take place in Fergus Falls. 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. There is $15 registration fee as lunch will be provided. Register for the Data Tools event, or contact Holly Pope (Brunson) at holly.brunson@state.mn.us with questions. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m.

On-Demand Reports and Export for MCA and MTAS

Preliminary test results for MCA and MTAS are available in On-Demand Reports within 60 minutes of online or data entry submission. On-Demand Reports for MTAS are new for the 2018 test administration. As On-Demand Reports are preliminary, they are only available until final student results are posted in late summer. Teachers must be assigned to a reporting group by the District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) or Assessment Administrator (AA) in order to access On-Demand Reports.

Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month

- **Test Development:** Process of constructing a test. Includes writing the items or test questions and selecting and organizing them into test forms.
- **TestNav:** Pearson delivers online tests to students using TestNav, which is generally accessed through an installable TestNav application.

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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