

Teacher Newsletter

m DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

May 4, 2018

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Important Dates

- May 4 and 5 – MCTM Conference in Duluth
- June 1 – Teacher Newsletter Distributed

[Training and Focus Group Details](#)

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. The full-day workshop will include: a presentation of the Minnesota Report Card or other data source along with the various reports generated with MCA data (Benchmark Reports, ISRs, and MCA Rosters), the Benchmark Report redesign 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. Please reference the detailed [Training and Focus Group Schedule](#) to see where the training and focus groups will be conducted in your region!

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[Important Email Change](#)

Moving forward, Holly Pope (Brunson) has a new email: holly.pope@state.mn.us. Please ensure you make this email change on any saved preferences.

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[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 and Standard-Setting Process, Test

Development, Test Construction, Scoring and Reports, and Test Specifications.
Please see the [regional schedule](#) to find the location and date in your region!

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[Opportunity with NAEP Item Review](#)

NAEP is seeking candidates for the NAEP Geography Item Development Standing Committee. This committee is tasked with reviewing new items for the NAEP Geography assessment. Candidates must have experience with the use of technology in both classroom and assessment contexts. Candidates would be expected to attend 2-3 three-day meetings in Washington, DC, each year along with several web meetings throughout the year (all meetings are held during the week). Travel expenses are reimbursed, and candidates may be eligible to receive a stipend. NAEP has the following committee seats available:

- Two seats for a curriculum or assessment specialist from a large urban district or a state Department of Education
- One seat for a person with geography teaching experience at grades 7-9
- One seat for a person with geography teaching experience at grades 11-12

For more information or to apply, please contact Jenny Cain, NAEP State Coordinator, at Jennifer.cain@state.mn.us by **May 9**.

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[Job Opening: Science Assessment Specialist](#)

The Division of Statewide Testing has an opening in the area of science assessment. This position exists to provide direction, leadership, coordination, and consultation to the Statewide Testing team and service to school districts to facilitate the science

assessment and serve as the state expert and primary resource for K–12 science assessment.

For more information and to apply, refer to the [Science Assessment Specialist; Job Opening ID: 23158](#) (mn.gov/careers > Search for Jobs > Search for Jobs Now > [enter job ID: 23158]), or call 651-259-3637 for assistance with navigating the Minnesota Careers website.

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Parent Refusal Form

There was a key change in the language surrounding the term “not proficient.” Despite the changes to the form, there has been some confusion regarding what will appear on the Individual Student Report (ISR) when a parent refusal is indicated. The student will not receive a score or a message of “not proficient” on their ISR; rather, the ISR will indicate, “[Student Name] did not participate in the test” and include an explanation that the reason the student was not tested was due to a parent refusal (REF-P).

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High School Science MCA/MTAS

High school students should participate in the high school Science MCA when they have received instruction on all Strand 4 and Strand 1 standards related to life science/biology during the school year. If students are not completing their life science/biology coursework this year, they should not take Science MCA. Students who are re-taking their life science/biology coursework must take Science MCA again, regardless of their previous achievement level on the assessment. For students eligible to take the high school Science MTAS, the IEP team determines the most

appropriate year for a high school student to take Science MTAS based on their coursework.

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On-Demand Reports in PearsonAccess Next

Preliminary results documenting a student's score are available in On-Demand Reports within 60 minutes after testing or data entry is completed. On-Demand Reports are available for MCA and MTAS. Student reporting groups can be created and assigned to teachers to provide them access to these reports. For more information, refer to the [Reporting Groups User Guide](#) and the [On-Demand Reports and Export User Guide](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Reporting Resources).

The preliminary results and data in PearsonAccess Next must not be used for official accountability purposes; MDE provides all official accountability data. It is up to the district whether or not to share preliminary results with students and families for instructional purposes. For more information, refer to Chapter 10 of the [Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

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Advisory Panelists Needed

MDE needs qualified teachers and community members to serve on MCA advisory panels. Each advisory panel plays an important role in developing Minnesota assessments. Please forward this opportunity to staff in the district or to community members who may be interested in advisory panel meetings. For more information about Advisory Panels and to submit or update your information to the Advisory Panel Registry, view the [Advisory Panels webpage](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Register for Advisory Panels).

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Testing Terminology: Words of the Month

- **Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS):** Alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards aligned to extensions of the Minnesota Academic Standards, representing a reduction of the breadth and depth of the standards. Only students meeting the eligibility requirements are eligible to take this assessment.
- **Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA):** The Reading, Mathematics, and Science MCA are administered online, with paper accommodated test materials available only for eligible students. Students take the applicable assessments for their grade, and the scores are used for final reports and accountability. The MCAs measure achievement towards meeting the Minnesota Academic Standards.

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Statewide Testing's Mission

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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Inquiries can be sent to the Minnesota Department of Education Webmaster:
mde.webmaster@state.mn.us.

This email was sent to holly.brunson@state.mn.us using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Minnesota Department of Education · 1500 Highway 36 West · Roseville MN 55113-4266 · 1-800-439-1420

