Teacher Newsletter

m1 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

November 2, 2018

Important Dates

- November 6 – Training and Focus Group at Metro Educational Cooperative Service Unit (ECSU)

- November 8 – Training and Focus Group at Arrowhead Regional Computing Consortium (ARCC)

- November 13 – Training and Focus Group at Southeast Service Cooperative

- December 7 – Next Teacher Newsletter will be distributed

MDE Educator Workshop and Focus Group

MDE will continue their full-day educator workshop (designed for teachers and DACs) around the state with Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Professor of Educational Measurement and Campbell Leadership Chair in Education and Human Development from the University of Minnesota.

The workshop includes a discussion on the formative uses of assessments, practice time with classroom assessments, and an update on the redesign of the Benchmark Reports. The day will conclude with a focus group for teachers on the Testing 1, 2, 3 website and work time for DACs with Dr. Rodriguez.

Lunch will be provided to all participants who attend the full-day workshop.

- Roseville (Arden Hills) – Register for Tuesday, November 6, at Metro ECSU

- Hermantown – Register for Thursday, November 8, at ARCC

- Rochester – Register for Tuesday, November 13, at Southeast Service Cooperative

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Depth of Knowledge I–IV Examples

From MDE math assessment group: Please read the Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Examples of DOK I, II, III, and IV examples that all use the same context and benchmark highlight the progression through the DOK levels (http://www.mctmmathbits.org/?p=2330).

Educator Resources on PearsonAccess Next

Pearson Perspective

Perspective for Educators and Perspective for Families provide thousands of learning resources aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards (PearsonAccess Next > Perspective for Educators/Families (under Quick Links)). Teachers can create assignments, build tests, and differentiate resources using Learning Locators. Teachers may use the pass phrase "mn_edu" to sign up. Send questions to Pearson Perspective Support.

WriteToLearn

WriteToLearn, an online literacy tool available for free to Minnesota students in grades 8 and 10, focuses on writing skills and expanded vocabulary (PearsonAccess Next > WriteToLearn (under Quick Links)). Students receive personalized feedback to encourage, instruct, and reward their progress. DACs can email MNWriteToLearn@Pearson.com to receive their login credentials and get started.

MCA Released Math Items and Reading Passages

MDE releases MCA items and passages for educators to have a sampling of how content assessed is aligned to the Minnesota Academic Standards and to have a model for how to write classroom test items aligned to the standards at a variety of cognitive and difficulty levels. These items and passages are statistically valid and reliable and have been previously used on the MCA. For more information, access the Released Item and Data Table User Guide, available on the Released Items and

[Passage Sets page](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Released Items and Passage Sets).

Training Management System (TMS) Resources

The [Training Management System (TMS)](#) is used by school staff to access required training for test administration. For more information about how the TMS is used in your district, contact your DAC.

Use the following [TMS resources](#) for additional system information (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Training).

- *TMS FAQs* contains general information about using the TMS.
- **New Resource –** *TMS: Tips and Tricks for School Staff* is a new, one-page document to use in order to avoid the most common mistakes and misunderstandings.

Advisory Panelists Needed

MDE needs qualified teachers and community members to serve on MCA advisory panels. Each advisory panel member plays an important role in developing quality tests for Minnesota's students. Please forward this information 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). While teachers comprise the bulk of the advisory panel participants, bias review panels need a wide variety of community members.

Testing Terminology: Words of the Month

- **Strands** – The major divisions within each content area of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards. The strand is the first level of detail describing the depth and breadth of the content area. Each strand has one or more benchmarks that continue to describe that content area in more detail.

- **Testing 1, 2, 3** – Website designed to help teachers understand data by providing helpful ways to understand, interpret, and ultimately use test data in the classrooms to inform instructional decisions (testing123.eduation.mn.gov).

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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