

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – NOVEMBER 3, 2017

TOPICS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Professional Development and Focus Group • MDE Teacher Panels • Data Table Added to Released Math Items • New Student Resources Document • 2017–18 WIDA Resources and Materials • Technology Enhanced MCA Math Items • Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month 	<p>Nov. 7–30: Multiple Trainings and Focus Groups at Education Service Cooperatives</p> <p>Nov. 10: Presentation and Teacher Website Focus Group at MnCOSE in St. Cloud</p> <p>Dec. 1: Teacher Newsletter distributed</p>

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

Teacher Professional Development and Focus Group

MDE is partnering with Educational Service Cooperatives across the state to provide free professional development for teachers. The morning will include a presentation about MDE data, reports, and resources while the afternoon will comprise of a focus group for the new teacher website. Lunch will be provided for all participants. Registration is required, and space is limited. For more information, access the cooperative’s website using the links below or send an email to Holly Brunson at holly.brunson@state.mn.us.

Training City	Date	Link to Website
Minneapolis	Tuesday, Nov. 7	Metro Education Service Unit (metroecsu.org)
Thief River Falls	Tuesday, Nov. 28	Northwest Service Cooperative (nw-service.k12.mn.us)
Fergus Falls	Wednesday, Nov. 29	Lakes Country Service Cooperative (lcsc.org)
Staples	Thursday, Nov. 30	National Joint Powers Alliance (njpacoop.org)

MDE Teacher Panels

MDE needs teachers for our Advisory Panels to help make content decisions for the MCA. Invitations for panels are sent out a few months prior to the panel dates, and teachers are given CEUs, food, and travel reimbursement. Submit your name to the [Advisory Panel Registry](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing > Register for Advisory Panels).

Data Table Added to Released Math Items

[Released math items and data tables](#) are now provided for teacher, parent, or students to use. All items on the MDE Released Item webpage have been used operationally on the MCA-III. Read more in [MCTM's MathBits](#).

New Student Resources Document

MDE has developed the [Purposes of Student Resources](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Preparing for Testing > Student Tutorial) to clarify the purposes of the student tutorial and item samplers. It provides the following information:

- A description of how each resource is designed to be used
- Information on available Teacher Guides
- Frequently Asked Questions

2017–18 WIDA Resources and Materials Now Available

Updated resources and materials for ACCESS are now available on the [Preparation & Training page](#). Also, new Online Sample Items and enhanced user guides are also available on the [Preparing Students page](#). These new sample test items and tasks can be used to help prepare students before they take ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. Both of these resources can be found by visiting [WIDA's website](#) (wida.us > Assessment > ACCESS for ELLs 2.0).

Technology Enhanced MCA Math Items

For more specific information on the limitations and requirements of fill in the blank MCA items, refer to the *MathBits* article, [Helpful Hints – Fill in the Blank Items on the MCA](http://www.mctmmathbits.org/?p=1358) (http://www.mctmmathbits.org/?p=1358).

Testing Terminology: Assessment Words of the Month

- **WIDA:** Minnesota is part of the WIDA Consortium. As a member of the WIDA consortium, Minnesota districts administer the ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS assessment to all English learners in grades K-12.
- **Technology-Enhanced Items:** Items used in some online assessments. Students may select one or more points on a graphic, drag and drop a graphic from one location to another, or manipulate a graph.

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.