

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — OCT. 16, 2024

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Results Summary Update • Translated Reporting Resources for Families • District Policies and Procedures for Statewide Assessments Audit • New DAC Orientation Recap • October Q&A Sessions • Final WIDA Alternate ACCESS Results Release (repeat) • New Writing Sample Items for ACCESS • Minnesota Data and Assessment Literacy (MnDAL) Modules 	<p>Oct. 22: Public release of final assessment results available on MDE website (WIDA Alternate ACCESS only)</p> <p>Oct. 22: Results available on WIDA AMS (WIDA Alternate ACCESS only)</p> <p>Oct. 22: Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and other reports arrive in district (WIDA Alternate ACCESS only)</p> <p>Oct. 29: Deadline to request WIDA Alternate ACCESS score appeals, transcription requests, test booklet searches, or data corrections</p>

Test Results Summary Update

As communicated in the Oct. 9 *Assessment Update*, WIDA Alternate ACCESS results were temporarily removed from the Test Results Summary while data corrections related to its release were resolved. WIDA Alternate ACCESS data is now available in Test Results Summary. Contact mde.testing@state.mn.us with any questions.

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Translated Reporting Resources for Families

Translated versions of the documents *Statewide Assessments: What Families Need to Know about Using MCA and MTAS Results*, *MCA ISR Quick Guide*, and *MTAS ISR Quick Guide* are available on the [Translated Documents](#) page of MDE’s website. English versions of these documents are located on the [Assessment Results](#) page of MDE’s website.

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District Policies and Procedures for Statewide Assessments Audit

Districts selected for the *District Policies and Procedures for Statewide Assessment* (formerly known as the Test Security Procedure) audit will receive email notifications later this week. The Test Security and Data Integrity team will send these emails to the District Assessment Coordinators and Superintendents/Directors currently listed in MDE-ORG. As a reminder, all districts are expected to have and maintain internal *District Policies and Procedures for Statewide Assessment* that align with requirements in the [Procedures Manual](#). Further information on these requirements can be found in Chapter 5 and Appendix B of the *Procedures Manual*.

MDE highly recommends that districts use the *District Policies and Procedures for Statewide Assessment* template available on the [Policies and Procedures](#) page on the PearsonAccess Next website. This template was updated for the 2024–25 school year with minor language clarifications, including adding references to the new Alternate MCA. Districts that use the template have been shown to be more likely to align with all the requirements for test security procedure audit.

Even if your district did not receive an email notifying you of this audit, please make sure to review the requirements listed in Appendix B and ensure your internal test security procedures are up to date.

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New DAC Orientation Recap

Thank you to all the DACs who participated in the in-person or virtual training sessions of New DAC Orientation. Handouts and resources from this training are available on the [DAC Training Site](#) (click “New DAC Orientation” in the upper right-hand corner).

Note: Recorded sessions of New DAC Orientation are now available in the [Learning Management System](#) (LMS) for DACs who were unable to attend either the in-person or virtual training.

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October Q&A Sessions

MDE will host two virtual Q&A sessions for new and experienced DACs in October. Both sessions will be hosted on ZoomGov, and registration is required (see registration links in the table below). Details for joining are provided once participants register.

MDE collects questions from DACs prior to the event to help prepare and find relevant resources to share. After reviewing the prerequisites, submit questions for the session using the links provided in the table below. Q&A sessions will not be recorded nor will CEUs be provided as they are considered additional supports rather than training events.

Note: Other staff involved in NAEP administration are welcome to join the NAEP Q&A Session on Oct. 29. Please share the registration and survey links below with interested parties.

Q&A Session	Date/Time and Registration Link	Prerequisites and Question Submission Link
October Q&A Session (1): DAC Roles and Yearly Overview	Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2–3 p.m. Register for October Q&A Session (1)	Prerequisites are the following chapters of the Procedures Manual : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: Overview of Statewide Assessments • Chapter 3: Roles and Responsibilities for Testing • Chapter 5: Responsible and Ethical Practices to Maintain Test Security and Test Score Integrity Submit questions for the October Q&A Session (1)
October Q&A Session (2): National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2–3 p.m. Register for October Q&A Session (2)	Prerequisite is the following from the Procedures Manual : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: NAEP section Submit questions for the October Q&A Session (2)

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Final WIDA Alternate ACCESS Results Release (repeat)

WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment and accountability results will be released to the public on Tuesday, Oct. 22. The public assessment results will be available in two places on the MDE website for families, educators, and community members:

- The [Minnesota Report Card](#) allows users to create graphs and tables to view results for various groups of students across the state and within districts and schools. A [Minnesota Report Card User Guide](#) (select the Using the Report Card menu choice) provides information on interpreting and using the data on the Report Card.
- The [Assessment Files](#) (MDE website > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics) provides summary assessment data for the state, counties, districts, and schools and are available as Excel (xlsx) files. The [Assessment Files User Guide](#) includes information about the format and content of the files; information is also available on the last tab of each file.

Reporting Reminders

As the public results release date approaches, keep the following reminders in mind:

- WIDA Alternate ACCESS will not be included in accountability for 2023–24. The Progress Toward English Language Proficiency accountability indicator requires two years of scores to determine their growth. Last year’s scores are not based on the standards assessed by the new assessment; therefore, last year’s scores cannot be used to assess progress.
- As the Report Card is a public report, student privacy protections are in place, which means student groups with N count less than 10 will show CTSTR (count too small to report).

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New Writing Sample Items for ACCESS

New sample items are available for the ACCESS Online Writing test for grades 4–12. The refreshed items better reflect current Writing task structures and expectations. Find online sample items on the [WIDA AMS login page](#) under Public Test Resources or in the DRC INSIGHT application. You can find other resources to prepare students on the [ACCESS Test Practice and Sample Items](#) page.

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Minnesota Data and Assessment Literacy (MnDAL) Modules

The Minnesota Data and Assessment Literacy (MnDAL) modules are aimed at supporting educators and leaders to use assessment and data to transform teaching and learning. Individuals can work through the content on their own in Canvas or utilize the downloadable reflection questions, facilitation guides, and activities with a group of teachers for professional learning.

The course is differentiated through two paths: one for teachers and one for building/district leaders. Access the modules on the [On-Demand Learning](#) page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website through the MDE Canvas learning management system. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for teachers and clock hour certificates for administrators are awarded through Canvas upon completion of each strand.

The following points highlight ways to engage with the modules:

- MDE is launching a monthly Community of Practice series through COMPASS focused on the content of the modules. We invite school and district leaders to come together to collaborate around ways to use content from the MnDAL modules to enhance data and assessment literacy throughout their system, leading to improved educational opportunities for students and teachers. Meetings will be held virtually once a month beginning on Oct. 11. Zoom Registration: [MN Community of Practice Series](#).
- [Roadmaps](#) outlining various learning pathways are also available to support users in determining how to navigate through the MnDAL modules. Two roadmaps for leaders and three for teachers each offer a sequence of learning around on a common topic or interest area.
- With the release of Benchmark Reports and MCA data this fall, educators and school leaders can review Module 9: [Using State Summative Assessment Data for Instructional Decision Making](#). This module

contains two articles and two activities for teachers to explore how Benchmark Reports, the Minnesota Questions Tool, and MCA data can be used to inform decision-making in ways that are supported by the intended purpose and use of the assessments, within a balanced assessment system.

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ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov > District, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.