AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — OCT. 23, 2024

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WIDA Alternate ACCESS Results Release Update

WIDA Alternate ACCESS assessment and accountability results have been released to the public as of yesterday, Oct. 22. They can be found in the Assessment Files (MDE website > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics). These files provide summary assessment data for the state, counties, districts, and schools and are available as Excel (xlsx) files.

The English Language Proficiency Levels report on the Minnesota Report Card is not yet available. MDE will communicate with District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) when these results are available.

Early Precode Deadline for ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS

For ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS, district student enrollment data for all students in grades K–12 identified as English Learners (EL) is sent to DRC in a single precode file. This file is used to load student data into WIDA AMS for online testing and to create student labels for paper test materials. For 2024–25, the deadline to submit student enrollment updates is Dec. 12. This date may be earlier if you use a Student Information Service (SIS) provider; check with your provider for dates.

Important: For 2024–25, the ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS precode deadline is earlier than the MARSS fall reporting deadline. To ensure the most complete and accurate precode data are submitted for your district, you will need to collaborate with your MARSS coordinator to ensure student enrollment data is updated prior to the Dec. 12 deadline if possible. If additional MARSS updates are not possible, data from your district's Oct. 31 submission will be used for the precode file.

After the precode file has been sent to DRC, any student who is newly enrolled or newly identified as an English learner must be added manually into WIDA AMS once administration task functionality becomes active in the system in January. A manual entry into WIDA AMS should be completed for any student who was not included in the precode file and is reported as EL in a district's student enrollment data, as well as any student who has demographic information bubbled on test booklets.

Upcoming Q&A Sessions

MDE will host upcoming Q&A sessions for new and experienced DACs in October and November. These 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 (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*: • Chapter 2: NAEP section (pp. 38–41) Submit questions for the Oct. Q&A Session (2)
November Q&A Session (1): Alternate MCA	Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2–3 p.m. Register for November Q&A Session (1)	Prerequisite is the following from the *Procedures Manual*: • Chapter 2: Focusing on the Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)/Alternative Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (Alt MCA) (pp. 22–23, 32–34) Submit questions for the Nov. Q&A Session (1)

Q&A Session	Date/Time and Registration Link	Prerequisites and Question Submission Link
November Q&A Session (2):	Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2–3 p.m. Register for November Q&A Session (2)	Prerequisites are the following from the *Procedures Manual*: • Chapter 6 (Overview of Test Administration) • Chapter 7 (Before Test Administration) Submit questions for the Nov. Q&A Session (2)
November Q&A Session (3):	Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2–3 p.m. Register for November Q&A Session (3)	Prerequisites are the following: • Chapter 4 (Universal Supports and Accommodations for Statewide Assessments) from the Procedures Manual • Recorded Pretest Editing training Submit questions for the Nov. Q&A Session (3)

Guidance for Universal Supports and Accommodations for Minnesota Statewide Assessments 2024–25

The *Guidance for Universal Supports and Accommodations for Minnesota Statewide Assessments* (referred to as "*Guidance*" below) can be used by district and school staff who have a role in decision-making and/or test administration with universal supports and accommodations for statewide assessments. This is a companion document to Chapter 4 of the *2024–25 Procedures Manual*. While much of the information is the same between the *Guidance* and Chapter 4, it allows some text to be more specific to each audience (district/school staff and DACs, respectively). MDE believes district staff will find a stand-alone resource outside of the *Procedures Manual* to be more accessible and useful. The updated 2024–25 *Guidance* document is posted on the District Resources page, under the Universal Supports and Accommodations Resources expandable header, along with a stand-alone version of an infographic summarizing the available universal supports and accommodations for the MCAs.

Minnesota Department of Education