

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — MAY 14, 2025

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posttest Editing Resources • Alternate MCA Early Stopping Rule Verification • Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS • ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Alternate Composite Calculations • Science MCA and Alt MCA Results Release • DAC Feedback Survey • MDE Employment Opportunity: Assessment Literacy Specialist • Upcoming Opportunities 	<p>May 19–June 6: <i>Posttest Editing in Test WES</i></p> <p>May 19–Sept. 1: <i>Retrieve early ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS results in Test WES</i></p> <p>May 21 (noon): <i>Deadline for Late Student Response Entry Requests</i></p> <p>June 5: <i>Deadline to update MARSS data for Posttest Editing</i></p>

Posttest Editing Resources

Posttest Editing in Test WES will be available May 19–June 6. Posttest Editing is an important window that gives districts the opportunity to update assessment records, correct demographic errors (wrong MARSS/SSID number or birth date, for example), and enter test codes as needed, with help from the MARSS Coordinator or other staff familiar with the students.

There are a few updates in Posttest Editing this year, including the implementation of [the early stopping rule](#) for the Science Alt MCA. For more information, refer to the *Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide*, which is posted on the [Test WES](#) page of the MDE website, and the Posttest Editing Training, which is posted in the DAC catalog in the [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#). To search for all updates when viewing the user guide electronically, do a search using the term, “New for 2024–25”.

Note: DACs who do not have the “District-User Read-Write” user role for Test WES must reach out to their EDIAM Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) to update their user role. Contact information for the IOwA in each district or charter are available on the [Minnesota Department of Education-Organization Reference Glossary \(MDE-ORG\)](#).

Alternate MCA Early Stopping Rule Verification

Districts must verify the new Valid Score – Early Stopping Rule (VS-ES) code appears on Science Alternate MCA assessment records for students who are expected to have VS-ES indicated. If a student does not have VS-ES indicated but the district believes this is due to a district data entry error, the district must reach out to MDE for guidance. This may result in the district submitting a late student response entry request to Pearson by noon on May 21 for the student’s updated assessment record to be available in Posttest Editing and included in final reporting.

To search for all records with a report code of VS-ES, select Search Student on the left menu on the Test WES Dashboard and filter by Report-Code. The RC (Report Code) column can then be sorted.

Note: Districts can change the VS-ES code to NC or INV, if VS-ES was incorrectly applied. However, once the VS-ES code is replaced, it cannot be re-added.

Refer to page 36 of the *Test WES Posttest Editing User Guide* posted on the [Test WES](#) page of MDE’s website for more information.

Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS

Early student-level results for the ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS will be available in [Test WES](#) beginning May 19. Test WES users can access these results from the Test WES Dashboard under File Transfer.

Depending on district policy, early student-level results may be shared with teachers, students, and parents/guardians for instructional and informational purposes, with the understanding that the scores are not final.

Additional details are available in the *ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Early Student-Level Results* help document on the [Test WES](#) page of the MDE website. The 2023–24 edition of that document is currently available and will be updated for 2024–25 soon.

Note: The early student-level results file is static and will not reflect any changes made during Posttest Editing.

ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Alternate Composite Calculations

MDE provides alternate composite calculations for eligible students who are unable to participate in one or more domains (Listening, Reading, Speaking, or Writing) of the ACCESS or WIDA Alternate ACCESS due to a disability. To be eligible, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Completed at least two domain tests.
- Received a valid score for each completed domain.
- Has a Special Education Deferred (SPD) test code indicated for each domain the student could not complete.

MDE will directly contact District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) with eligible students after the District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files have been released in July. Alternate composite calculations are intended to support decisions about reclassification and exit from EL services. DACs should share alternate composite calculations they receive with the appropriate EL staff.

Information on identification, entrance, and exit for English learners with disabilities can be found on the [English Learner Education](#) webpage. Questions should be directed to mde.el@state.mn.us.

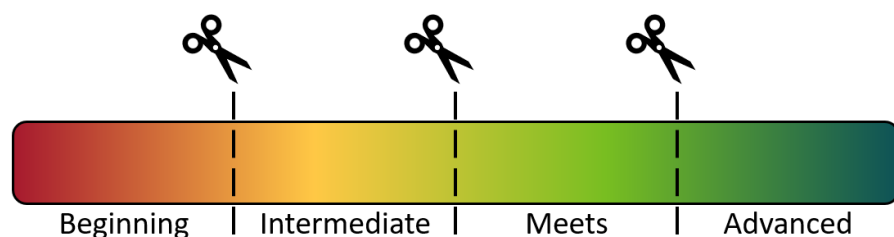
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Science MCA and Alt MCA Results Release

Student results from the new Science MCA and Science Alternate MCA (Alt MCA) will be released in the fall, and preliminary results in PearsonAccess Next are not available for the Spring 2024 test administration. This year was the first administration of these new assessments, which are aligned to the updated 2019 Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards in Science.

All new assessments need to go through a process called “standard setting” before scores can be released. This process will take place in summer 2025. During standard setting, Minnesota educators will work together to make recommendations of what students need to know and be able to do at each performance level. There are four performance levels for the new series of assessments: **Beginning**, **Intermediate**, **Meets**, and **Advanced**. The standard setting committees will make recommendations of the cut scores, which determine which level each score corresponds to. Watch the [Overview of the Standard Setting Process for MCA and Alternate MCA](#) video for more information.

Figure 1: Cut Scores Separating the MCA and Alt MCA Performance Levels



Once standard setting is complete, student results are prepared for reporting to districts and the public. The typical process for reporting results is that final student-level and summary assessment results are first available to districts in Assessment Secure Reports (beginning with DSR/SSR files and then Test Results Summary reports). This allows districts time to review their data for use in curriculum and instructional decision-making for the following year. These results are “embargoed” which means that districts and schools can begin reviewing and using results for their planning purposes but cannot be shared or discussed publicly. When MDE lifts the embargo, final assessment results are made available publicly on the [Minnesota Report Card](#) and the [Data Reports and Analytics](#) page of the MDE website, and Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are provided to districts for distribution to families.

The timeline for science results release is provided in the following table. Note: While MDE strives to ensure these dates remain unaltered, they are subject to change based on extenuating circumstances.

Event	Dates
Embargoed final student results available in District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files in Assessment Secure Reports (Science MCA and Alt MCA only)	Sept. 12
Embargoed final school, district, and state summary results available in Test Results Summary in Assessment Secure Reports (Science MCA and Alt MCA only)	Sept. 19
Public release of final assessment results on MDE website (Science MCA and Alt MCA only)	Oct. 1
ISRs (Science MCA and Alt MCA only) and student labels (all subjects) arrive in district (unless district requests not to receive ISR paper copies)	Oct. 1

For more details about the results release for all statewide assessments, refer to the “Important Dates for Results Release” on the [Policies and Procedures](#) page of PearsonAccess Next.

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DAC Feedback Survey

MDE is collecting feedback from District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) on the [DAC Feedback Survey](#). This survey is focused on MDE trainings, email communication, new test features, resources, and more. Survey

responses will help MDE make improvements to our program and resources in future years. Please set aside 15 minutes to provide your feedback. The survey will close on May 30.

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MDE Employment Opportunity: Assessment Literacy Specialist

The Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment division is currently seeking an Assessment Literacy Specialist to work on the Communications and Program Management (CPM) team. This position is responsible for providing leadership and guidance in developing resources and implementing professional development around the interpretation of statewide assessment results and appropriate uses with a balanced assessment system for educators, district and school leaders. If you or someone you know may be interested in a new and challenging opportunity, consult the position description and application instructions on the [State of Minnesota Careers](#) website. The Job ID is 86145, and the posting is open until June 2. Visit the State of Minnesota Careers website for more information and to apply.

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Upcoming Opportunities

May Q&A Session: Posttest Editing (repeat)

MDE will host a virtual Q&A session for DACs on May 20, from 2–3 p.m. that will focus on Posttest Editing in Test WES. New and experienced DACs are welcome to attend. [Pre-register for the May Q&A Session](#). Details for joining will be provided once registration is approved.

The prerequisite for the May Q&A session is to review Chapter 10 in the [Procedures Manual](#) (“After Test Administration”), focusing on MCA and MTAS/Alt MCA, and to watch the Posttest Editing Training in the [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#).

MDE collects questions from DACs prior to the event to help find and prepare relevant resources to share. After completing the prerequisites, [submit questions for the May Q&A Session](#). Note: Q&A Sessions are considered additional supports rather than training events, and CEUs are not provided. MDE does not record Q&A sessions or distribute presentation materials.

All participants must register for the event using their email addresses associated with their school, district, or educational agency. MDE will manually approve all registrations one business day prior to the event. Once registrations are approved, participants will receive a confirmation email with the link to the event.

Note: Registrations with non-work emails (for example, a Gmail or Yahoo account) will not be approved.

Alternate Assessment May Chat and Connect (repeat)

The Academic Standards, Instruction, and Assessment Division will host a series of virtual Chat and Connect sessions for MTAS/Alt MCA Test Administrators and special education staff. This will be an informal time for you to ask any questions around alternate assessment, share your feedback, and connect with other special education staff from across the state.

Join us via Zoom for the final Chat and Connect of the school year on May 20, from 4–5 p.m. Please [register for the Alt Assessment Chat and Connect](#). This month we will learn about WIDA Alternate ACCESS Exit Criteria from Dean Reasoner, MDE EL Assessment Specialist, give feedback on the 2025 MTAS/Alt MCA administration, see an example of the new Science Alt MCA Individual Student Reports, and take any additional questions.

The series will begin again on Oct. 21 at 4 p.m. and continue monthly, meeting the third Tuesday of each month during the school year. Look for the registration link for the 2025–26 Alt Chat & Connect Series in the August *Educator Edition* and *Assessment Update*. You only need to register once to join any of the monthly Chat and Connects that work for you. For more information, contact Alt.Assessment.MDE@state.mn.us.

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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

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