

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — MAY 15, 2024

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
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## ***Posttest Editing Resources***

Posttest Editing in Test WES will be available May 20–June 7. 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 ability to create blank records for MTAS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS to indicate test codes. 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 2023–24”.

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 \(MDE-ORG\)](#).

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## ***Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS***

Early student-level results for the ACCESS will be available beginning May 20 in Test WES. Test WES users can retrieve these early student-level results from the Test WES Dashboard under File Transfer. Depending on the district’s policy, early student-level data can be shared with teachers, students, and parents/guardians for instructional and informational purposes with the understanding that the scores are preliminary. For 2024, WIDA Alternate ACCESS will not be included in early student-level results due to additional standard setting steps needed for a new assessment. Refer to the *WIDA Alternate ACCESS Exit Eligibility Notifications* article below for additional information.

The *ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS Early Student-Level Results* help document, posted on the [Test WES](#) page of the MDE website, provides additional information on the file. Early results are not final results and can change based on edits made during Posttest Editing. Please note that the early results file is a static file and will not update as changes are made in Posttest Editing.

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## ***ACCESS Alternate Composite Calculations***

MDE will compute an alternate composite score for English Learners with Disabilities (ELSWD) who are not able to participate in one or more domains (listening, speaking, reading, or writing) of the ACCESS assessment due to the student’s disability AND who meet all of the following criteria:

- The student must have received a valid score for each completed domain.
- The domain(s) in which the student cannot participate must have a test code of special education deferred (SPD).
- The student must have completed (i.e., received a valid score) on at least two domains.

MDE will contact DACs with students who are eligible to receive an alternate composite calculation after the District or School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files have been released in late June.

Alternate composite calculations can be used to inform decisions about EL reclassification and exit. DACs are asked to share alternate composite calculations with the appropriate EL staff. Information on identification, entrance, and exit for ELSWD can be found on the [English Learner Education](#) page of the MDE website. For questions regarding alternate composite calculations or exiting pathways, contact [mde.el@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.el@state.mn.us)

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## ***WIDA Alternate ACCESS Exit Eligibility Notifications***

This year, WIDA Alternate ACCESS scores will be delayed due to additional standard setting steps required for a new assessment. Additionally, WIDA Alternate ACCESS student results will be reported using Alternate Proficiency Level Descriptors (Alternate PLDs). These new proficiency level scores will range from Proficiency Level (PL) 1 to 5 and will be distinct from other ACCESS assessments, including the former version of the Alternate ACCESS.

MDE will use a linking method to determine whether individual student scale scores on the WIDA Alternate ACCESS make a student eligible for EL reclassification and exit. After the District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files have been released, MDE will directly contact District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) with students who are eligible for reclassification and exit. These final reporting dates are still being confirmed and will be provided as soon as possible.

DACs are requested to share any exit eligibility notifications they receive with the appropriate EL staff. Information on identification, entrance, and exit for English Learners who participate in the WIDA Alternate ACCESS can be found on the [English Learner Education](#) page of the MDE website. For questions regarding exiting pathways, contact [mde.el@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.el@state.mn.us).

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## ***MCA/Alternate MCA Review Committees – Seeking Educators and Community Members***

The MCA and Alternate MCA (currently known as MTAS) Test Development team values collaborating with educators and community members interested in being part of committees that review test materials before they are added to these tests for field testing.

Committee member groups include:

- Science, Math, and ELA classroom teachers with experience teaching the standards in grades 3–8 and high school.
- Special Education Teachers—all licensures, but particularly teachers who work with students with significant cognitive disabilities to review the alternate assessment.
- Multilingual learner educators.
- Community members.

Please consider sharing [this registration link](#) and summary with educators or community members to elevate more voices in this review process.

MCA and Alternate MCA Review Committees meet virtually two to four days per committee throughout the year, mainly in the summer months. Participants will be paid an honorarium for their participation, or the district or charter will be reimbursed for any substitute costs.

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## ***MDE Seeking Public Feedback on Revised Eligibility Requirements***

Please share with your MTAS Test Administrators. MDE is updating the eligibility requirements used to identify students who have significant cognitive disabilities and should take the alternate assessment in place of the MCA. The revised guidelines will go into effect starting in spring 2025, when the newly redesigned alternate assessment, the Alternate MCA, first becomes operational in science.

As part of the revision process, MDE is holding a public review period to collect feedback from district staff and community members on the latest draft of the eligibility requirements. This feedback will ensure that multiple perspectives throughout Minnesota are considered in the development of the final version of the document.

After reviewing the [Eligibility Requirements and Decision-Making Tool](#), please complete [the survey](#) which is open until June 17. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Walker or Stacie Stensrud at [alt.assessment.mde@state.mn.us](mailto:alt.assessment.mde@state.mn.us).

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## ***MCA Student Readiness Tools Feedback***

Students, parents/guardians, staff, and DACs are invited to provide feedback based on their use or review of the Student Readiness Tools (SRTs) through the [SRT Feedback form](#). This form can also be accessed on the [Student Readiness Tools](#) page of the PearsonAccess Next website. The feedback form will be available through May 31.

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## ***Statewide Testing Report Redesign Survey Closes May 19***

The [Statewide Testing Redesign Survey](#) is open for submissions until May 19.

Your voice and the perspectives of your community are important to this effort as new academic standards are adopted in science, reading, and math, along with new assessments. The survey asks about how you receive, interpret, and use statewide assessment results. Your feedback will help MDE ensure the results from the new assessments students take beginning in Spring 2025 are as clear and useful as possible. It should take no longer than 15 minutes and responses will be completely anonymous.

Please share the link with your staff and families. Your expertise is critical to this process and we know your time is valuable. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact [mde.testing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.testing@state.mn.us).

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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 21 from 2–3 p.m. that will focus on Posttest Editing and other after testing tasks. New and experienced DACs are welcome to attend. [Register for May Q&A Session](#). Details for joining are provided once participants register.

The prerequisites for the May Q&A session are the following:

- Chapter 10 (After Test Administration) of the [Procedures Manual](#), focusing on MCA and MTAS
- Posttest Editing Training, which is posted in the DAC catalog in the [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#)

MDE collects questions from DACs prior to the event to help prepare and find relevant resources to share. After completing the prerequisites, please [submit questions for the May Q&A Session](#). Q&A Sessions will not be recorded nor will CEUs be provided as these sessions are an additional support rather than a training event.

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**ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT**

Minnesota Department of Education

[education.mn.gov](http://education.mn.gov) > District, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing

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