![Minnesota Department of Education logo] **Assessment Update**

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
	May 19–Sept. 1: *Retrieve early ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS results in Test WES* **June 27:** *Access embargoed final student results in District and School Student Results (DSR/SSR) files in Secure Reports (excluding Science MCA and Alt MCA)*

Assessment Update Transition to GovDelivery July 9

Beginning on July 9, the *Assessment Update* will be sent through GovDelivery instead of coming directly from mde.testing@state.mn.us. MDE will continue to send the *Assessment Update* to all District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) listed in MDE-ORG, and others who have opted-in to receiving this newsletter. Please work with your Site Verification Coordinators (SVC) to ensure all contact information on MDE-ORG is up to date. Staff who would like to opt-in can directly subscribe to receive this newsletter.

GovDelivery allows all recipients to manage their subscriptions. It is very important that DACs and DTCs receive the information provided in the *Assessment Update* and are strongly encouraged not to unsubscribe. If you unsubscribe unintentionally, use the *Assessment Update* subscription link to resubscribe and manage your preferences.

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Embargoed DSR/SSR Files in Secure Reports

Final student-level assessment results for ACCESS, WIDA Alternate ACCESS and Reading and Mathematics MCA and MTAS are scheduled to be available in the District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files on June 27.

The DSR/SSR files contain the student-level data from each assessment, including demographic information, achievement level information, and various test scores and data as applicable.

These results will be embargoed until the public release of assessment results in August. During the embargo, districts may use final assessment results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders. It is up to the district to determine whether to share embargoed assessment data with students, families, and staff for instructional purposes. Preliminary or embargoed results may not, however, be discussed in public forums, reflected in public meeting minutes (such as school board meetings), or shared with the general public or media until the final assessment results have been released publicly.

Note: Final Science MCA and Alternate MCA student-level results will not be included at this time due to additional standard setting steps needed for new assessments. These DSR/SSR files will be available Sept. 12. For more details about science results release, refer to the *Important Dates for Results Release* on the Policies and Procedures page of PearsonAccess Next.

DSR/SSR Updates for 2025

- DSR/SSR files will be released in two separate timeframes, as noted above. Additional details for Science MCA and Alt MCA will be added to the user guide later this summer.

- The "All Accountability Tests" option under Test in Secure Reports has been renamed to "All Standards-Based (MCA/MTAS/ALTMCA)" for clarity.

- For Reading and Mathematics MCA-III, strand scores 1–9 and their conditional standards errors of measurement (CSEM) values will not be available in the DSR/SSR starting in 2025. This data will still be available for previous years.

- Starting in 2025, proficiency on WIDA Alternate ACCESS records will be indicated under the Score2Characteristic column.

Additional Resources

The following resources will be available by the DSR/SSR release date to support districts with using and understanding the results:

- Chapter 11 of the *Procedures Manual* provides guidelines for using the assessment data and abiding by the embargo.

- The *2024–25 District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) User Guide* is posted on the Assessment Secure Reports page. It provides information on the content and file format of the DSR and SSR files, as well as how to access them in Secure Reports. Sample assessment results data will be posted in a separate Excel file on the Assessment Secure Reports page.

- The *Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses of MCA Results* and the *Appropriate and Inappropriate Uses of WIDA ACCESS Results* are posted on the [District Resources](#) page under the Test Score Interpretation Resources bar. They provide guidance for using statewide test results.

- The [*Guidebook: Exploring ACCESS for ELLs Data*](#) provides information about the ACCESS test results, including appropriate uses and interpretation of the data.

Science MCA and Alternate MCA Standard Setting

As communicated in the May 14 *Assessment Update*, the Science MCA and Science Alternate MCA (Alt MCA) must go through the standard setting process before student results can be released.

Standard setting will take place in July 2025, and Minnesota educators will work together to make recommendations for the cut scores of the four performance levels: Beginning, Intermediate, Meets, and Advanced. Watch the [Overview of the Standard Setting Process for MCA and Alternate MCA](#) video for more information about this process.

Once standard setting is complete, student results are prepared for reporting to districts and the public. For more details about the results release timelines for all statewide assessments, refer to the *Important Dates for Results Release* on the [Policies and Procedures](#) page of PearsonAccess Next.

Assessment Administrative System Transition on Hold

Earlier this year, MDE communicated to District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) the possibility of transitioning to a new administrative system that would replace the secure PearsonAccess Next site. This transition has been put on hold. More information will be communicated as it becomes available.

Odds and Ends

MDE Closed for Independence Day

In observance of Independence Day, MDE offices will be closed on Friday, July 4. Responses to emails and phone calls will be delayed to Monday, July 7. There will be no *Assessment Update* on July 2.

Tech Update

DRC Annual Technology Updates for 2025–26 Now Available

On June 18, DRC emailed District Assessment Coordinators with important information about upcoming technology updates for the 2025–26 school year. The updates to the DRC INSIGHT Online Learning System will be released the evening of June 26 and will include changes to WIDA AMS navigation, student accommodations, audio streaming options for WIDA ACCESS Paper, and software version updates for DRC INSIGHT and COS Service Devices.

Technology coordinators should review the full update and plan for any required installations, including the new Progressive Web App for Chromebooks, which must be installed by July 31.

Supporting materials, including the Technology User Guide, are available in WIDA AMS under My Applications > General Information > Documents. For questions, contact DRC Customer Service at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 1-855-787-9615.

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