

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — JULY 31, 2024

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Results Remain Embargoed • Accountability Secure Release and Appeals • Updated ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports • WIDA Alternate ACCESS Exit Eligibility Notifications 	<p>Aug. 26: Embargoed statewide summary results available in Secure Reports</p> <p>Aug. 29: Public release of final assessment and accountability results on MDE website</p> <p>Aug. 29: Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in districts (unless a district declined to receive paper copies for MCA/MTAS)</p> <p>Aug. 29: ACCESS results available in WIDA AMS</p> <p>Aug. 29: MCA and MTAS Published Reports available in PearsonAccess Next (Longitudinal Reports, Historical Student Data, and Subscore Reports are also available Aug. 29)</p>

Assessment Results Remain Embargoed

As districts prepare for back-to-school events, it is important to remember that all assessment results are under embargo until Aug. 29.

During the embargo, districts can use the final assessment results to prepare for questions from the media and local stakeholders. They may share the results with district teachers and staff for planning or instructional purposes, and they may also share individual scores with students and families. However, they may not share any results in public settings. Refer to Chapter 11 of the [Procedures Manual](#), which provides guidelines for using the assessment data and abiding by the embargo.

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Accountability Secure Release and Appeals

Secure rosters with academic achievement, academic progress, progress toward English language proficiency, and consistent attendance data will be available on **Monday, Aug. 5**, as will the interactive North Star secure report.

The window to appeal accountability data is Aug. 5–9. The acceptable grounds for appeal are calculation error and extenuating circumstances disrupting the usability of data. Appeals can be sent to mde.essa@state.mn.us.

Two webinars to review the accountability calculations and demonstrate the process of accessing the secure reports will be held that week. Additional webinar opportunities will be offered closer to the Aug. 29 public release date. The currently scheduled webinars are:

- [Monday, Aug. 5 from 3:30–4:30 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, Aug. 7 from 9–10 a.m.](#)

Click the link for a webinar at the designated time to join. Please contact Michael Diedrich (michael.diedrich@state.mn.us, 651-582-8332) with any questions.

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Updated ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports

The [2024 ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports](#) has been posted to the Resources/Recursos page on the WIDA website. Educators can find this document, along with other resources related to score reporting, on the [ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports](#) page on the WIDA website. Note: the WIDA Alternate ACCESS *Interpretive Guide for Score Reports* will be available later this fall. Visit the [WIDA Alternate ACCESS Updates](#) page on the WIDA website for more information.

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WIDA Alternate ACCESS Exit Eligibility Notifications

Due to additional steps required for a new assessment, reporting for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS is delayed until this fall. In order to support reclassification and exit decisions, MDE has used a linking method and the definition of proficiency developed for the prior Alternate ACCESS to determine whether individual student scale scores on the WIDA Alternate ACCESS make a student eligible for exit. Districts with students who participated in the WIDA Alternate ACCESS can now find a file containing each student's eligibility for exit posted in MDE's [Test WES](#) system via File Exchange (located in the left menu under File Transfer). All DACs have access to Test WES to download and save this file for the district's records.

DACs are requested to share WIDA Alternate ACCESS exit eligibility notifications with the appropriate EL staff. The exit eligibility files only indicate whether a student is eligible for exit: the files do not contain scales scores or proficiency levels for your students. That data will be available to districts when the DSR/SSR (District and School

Student Results) is released for WIDA Alternate ACCESS in late September. Additional information on WIDA Alternate ACCESS reporting dates can be found in the *Important Dates for Results Release* located on the [Policies and Procedures](#) page of PearsonAccess Next. Guidance 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.

Note: Final WIDA Alternate ACCESS results will be reported using Alternate Proficiency Level Descriptors (Alternate PLDs). These new scores will range from proficiency level 1 to 5 and will be distinct from other ACCESS assessments, including the prior version of the Alternate ACCESS. As a result, a student's eligibility to exit using 2024 WIDA Alternate ACCESS scores can only be determined using the WIDA Alternate ACCESS exit eligibility notifications provided in Test WES. MDE will begin a process to review the definition of proficiency and exit criteria for the updated WIDA Alternate ACCESS in the 2024–25 school year. Additional information on the Alternate PLDs can be found on the [WIDA Alternate ACCESS Updates](#) webpage.

Please contact mde.testing@state.mn.us with questions about accessing the file in Test WES. For questions about English learner proficiency and exiting pathways, please contact mde.el@state.mn.us.

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Minnesota Department of Education

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