Assessment Update

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- Final Assessment Results Release - Final Individual Student Reports Delivery and Video ISRs - Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR by Sept. 6 - Benchmark Reports Coming Soon - Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS (repeat) - WIDA and DRC Webinars	**Aug. 29:** *Public release of final assessment and accountability results on MDE website* **Aug. 29:** *Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in districts (unless a district declined to receive paper copies for MCA/MTAS)* **Aug. 29:** *ACCESS results available in WIDA AMS* **Aug. 29:** *MCA and MTAS Published Reports available in PearsonAccess Next (Longitudinal Reports, Historical Student Data, and Subscore Reports are also available Aug. 29)* **Sept. 4**: *Benchmark Reports available in PearsonAccess Next* **Sept. 6:** *Last day to request reimbursement for college entrance exams (ACT or SAT)*

Final Assessment Results Release

Assessment and accountability results will be released to the public tomorrow, Aug. 29. To accommodate the release of the 2024 results, the Minnesota Report Card will be unavailable today until approximately 8 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29. If users try to access the Minnesota Report Card during this time, a message will appear regarding the temporary site closure.

After results are released publicly, assessment results information will be available in two places on the MDE website for families, educators, and community members to access.

- The Minnesota Report Card allows users to create graphs and tables to view results for various groups of students across the state as well as within districts and schools. The *Minnesota Report Card User Guide* (located on the Minnesota Report Card in the Using the Report Card menu choice) provides information on interpreting and using the data on the Report Card.

- The Assessment Files (MDE website > Data Center > Data Reports and Analytics) provide summary assessment data for the state, counties, districts, and schools and are available as Excel (.xlsx) files. The *Assessment Files User Guide* (linked in the overview paragraph located at the top of the Assessment Files page) provides information about the content of the files; information is also available on the last tab of the files.

For general information about the public release, contact MDE's Communication division at mde.communications@state.mn.us. For more information about accountability results or calculations, visit MDE's School and District Accountability page, or contact Michael Diedrich at mde.essa@state.mn.us with any questions.

Additional Resources

The following resources are also available to help districts use and understand the public release of results:

- The *Statewide Assessments: Using Public Results*, located under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading, is a one-page resource that provides information for district staff about using these public summary results for statewide assessments.

- Chapter 11 of the *Procedures Manual* provides guidelines for using assessment data.

- The Testing 1, 2, 3 website provides information on assessments along with data resources, including explanations of data appropriate uses, and helpful resources for data literacy.

- The recording of the *New DAC Reporting Training 2* which is available in the Learning Management System (LMS).

- A Posttest Editing Discrepancies report is available in Test WES. This contains a list of any discrepancies that remained for your district after the close of Posttest Editing. If questions arise about a student's results (for example, reason for invalidation), this report may be helpful. To review the report, select Posttest Discrepancies under File Transfer on the Test WES Dashboard. The discrepancies on the report cannot be resolved.

The following resources for families are available:

- *MCA and MTAS ISR Quick Guides*: These quick guides provide a high-level overview of how to read the ISRs and will be posted on MDE's Assessment Results page. Note: Translated versions of these resources are expected to be posted this fall under Translated Documents.

- *Understanding the MCA and MTAS ISR Videos*: These short videos on PearsonAccess Next provide a high-level overview of the information presented on the ISRs.

- The *Statewide Assessments: What Families Need to Know about Using MCA and MTAS Results*, are posted on MDE's Assessment Results page. This resource can be provided to help families understand the purpose and uses of their student's results. The following resources for district and school staff are available:

- *Interpretive Guide for Statewide Assessment Reports*: This comprehensive guide (available on the District Resources page under the expandable Test Score Interpretation Resources header) contains detailed information on how to read the ISRs and use the results.

- Samples of MCA and MTAS ISRs on the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) Resources page on PearsonAccess Next.

Final Individual Student Reports Delivery and Video ISRs

Final Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for both MCA/MTAS and ACCESS are scheduled to arrive in districts tomorrow, Aug. 29. Since ISRs contain private student data, **districts must ensure someone is available to receive the reports and secure them until distribution**. The final reports shipment will be sent to districts; each school will have its own box labeled with the school's name. For nonpublic schools, final reports will be packaged and shipped directly to each school. Note: Due to additional steps required for a new assessment, reporting for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS is delayed until this fall.

Personalized video ISRs for students with MCA and MTAS scores are available. These videos include an overview of the assessments and the student's performance in each subject taken, as well as their performance related to the school, district, and state averages. In addition to English, video ISRs may be available in a home language based on student enrollment data, if specified (Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese). Parents/guardians can access video ISRs by scanning a QR code on the ISR with a smart device or by contacting their student's school for a link to access the video report. Video list files (csv) with links for video ISRs for students with scores are available at the school or district level under Published Reports in PearsonAccess Next. A *Video ISR FAQ* document is also available on PearsonAccess Next.

ACCESS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following reports for ACCESS:

- Individual Student Reports (ISRs)
- Student Roster Reports
- District and School Frequency Reports

The following resources for families are available on WIDA's website:

- Customizable ACCESS for ELLs parent letters are available in the same languages as the ACCESS ISRs. They provide general information about the ACCESS and are available in Word format so that they can be customized at the district with local test administration information and state or district policies as desired. In addition, the *ACCESS for ELLS: Understanding Your Child's Scores* flyer helps explain ACCESS scores and the ISR to families.

The following resources for district and school staff are available on WIDA's website:

- The *ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide for Score Reports* provides an overview of the various types of score reports, explain how scores are calculated, and describes how to use proficiency level and scale scores to support students' language growth.

- Find sample score reports and additional information about ACCESS scores on the WIDA's ACCESS for ELLs Scores and Reports page.

If you have any questions regarding your shipment, contact DRC Customer Service at WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615.

MCA/MTAS Reports Shipment

The boxes will include the following:

- Packing list of contents and cover memo (in box 1 for each school)

- ISRs for MCA and MTAS

    - Reports will be sorted by grade and test administration (MCA or MTAS).

    - To assist with the sorting, each ISR is marked with a color tab according to grade, subject, and assessment. The packing list indicates the sort order and corresponding color tabs.

- Student results labels, if requested in Test WES. (If not requested, PDFs of student labels are also available to download in Published Reports in a format ready for label printing.)

If you have any questions regarding your shipment, submit a Pearson help desk request or call the Pearson help desk at 888-817-8659. If you have any questions about the data reported on the ISR, contact mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Entering Reimbursement Requests in GRR by Sept. 6

Districts that have received assessment results for the college entrance exam they administered (ACT or SAT) should enter requests for reimbursements in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system for eligible students no later than Sept. 6.

If a district has not previously received reimbursement for a grade 11 or 12 student, districts will be reimbursed for students eligible for free/reduced-price meals (FRP) who are entered into GRR. If funding allows, districts may also be reimbursed fully or on a prorated basis for students who are unable to pay for the exam. Districts must determine the criteria for unable to pay and enter those requests in GRR.

More information is in the *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide* and in the recorded GRR training posted to the Learning Management System (LMS).

Reimbursement Reports

After districts enter reimbursement requests in GRR, they must confirm that the students they expect reimbursement for are included in the reimbursement reports; these reports are refreshed each morning. It is important to confirm student information is entered correctly to avoid incorrect reimbursements made to the district. Two reports are available: The Claimed Student Detail Report and the Estimated Student Amount Report. The Claimed Student Detail Report details what records will be reimbursed (or the reason records will not be reimbursed). The Estimated Student Amount Report gives an estimate of the amount to be received.

Benchmark Reports Coming Soon

The 2023–24 MCA Benchmark Reports will be available on Sept. 4 in PearsonAccess Next under Reports > Published Reports for DAC and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles [login required].

Benchmark reports are generated at a school or district level for each grade and subject. They may be helpful as an additional resource for understanding school or district MCA performance on each benchmark assessed from the grade-level standards. The reports also provide summarized information about student performance on each strand or substrand from the standards. Educators should always consider additional information about student learning and instruction when reviewing benchmark reports. Educators may find the report helpful as one piece of information when making decisions that are larger in scope, such as curriculum alignment or scope and sequence planning. Before digging in and making inferences from the benchmark reports, review the following resources:

- The 2023–24 *Benchmark Report Interpretive Guide* and 2023–24 *Benchmark Report "How To" Quick Guides* for Reading, Mathematics and Science are posted on the Additional Reporting Resources page of the PearsonAccess Next website.

- The Minnesota Questions Tool posted on the Released MCA Questions page of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website contains released test questions (items) from past MCAs, as well as links to data about each item. Educators can use these items to better understand how the MCA is aligned to the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards, and how items are written to reflect the rigor and complexity of the standards.

- MDE staff developed and posted Benchmark Achievement Level Descriptors for reading and mathematics on the Success Criteria page of Testing 1, 2, 3 website (under the Achievement Level Descriptors expandable header). The Benchmark ALDs can help clarify the benchmark reports as they describe the knowledge and skills students typically demonstrate across the four achievement levels for each benchmark from the standards.

Note: Take your district's standards implementation plan into consideration when discussing and using benchmark data. For science, the Benchmark Reports will show the specific 2009 benchmarks on the Science MCA-III, which may not align with certain grade-level instruction depending on the transition plan.

For the technical details of the benchmark report calculations, refer to Appendix A: Benchmark Report Calculations Resource of the *Technical Manual for Minnesota's Statewide Assessments* posted on the [Technical Reports](#) page of the MDE website (under the Technical Manual expandable header).

For questions about the benchmark reports, please contact mde.testing@state.mn.us. If DACs or AAs have questions about accessing the benchmark reports, contact Pearson at 888-817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#).

Note*:* There were no benchmark reports produced for 2020 due to COVID-19. In 2019, the MCA Benchmark Report was redesigned using a different calculation method to report school and district performance on benchmarks. School and district staff should not compare benchmark reports before 2019 to benchmark reports from 2019, 2021–24.

Early Student-Level Results for ACCESS (repeat)

Early student-level results for ACCESS will only be available for download in [Test WES](#) until Sept. 1. The final ACCESS results were included in the embargoed District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files released on June 28.

Districts must download and save the early student-level results by Sept. 1 if they want access to the data after the final results release (for example, for a student whose score was invalidated due to not being indicated as EL in MARSS). Remember that early results do not reflect any edits made during Posttest Editing.

WIDA and DRC Webinars

WIDA and DRC will be hosting the following webinars in September:

- *Welcome Back: What's New in 2024?* on Tuesday, Sept. 10 from 1–2 p.m.
- *ACCESS for New Test Administrators* on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 1–2 p.m.
- *ACCESS for New District Test Coordinators* on Tuesday, Sept. 17 from 1–2 p.m.
- *Ordering Materials in WIDA AMS* on Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 1–2 p.m.

More information, including the webinar links, can be found in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#) on the Webinars page. The recordings for WIDA Webinars are posted to the WIDA Secure Portal on the Webinars page within a week of the presentation.

Minnesota Department of Education

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us.