

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — OCT. 2, 2024

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embargoed WIDA Alternate ACCESS Summary Results • Deadline for MCA and MTAS Late Score Entry or Rescore Requests • 2024-25 College Entrance Exam Requirement • MDE Newsletters • Data and Assessment Literacy Community of Practice Series • District Testing Calendar Reminder (repeat) • Opportunity for District SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors (repeat) • Upcoming Opportunities 	<p>Oct. 8: Embargoed final school, district, and state summary results available in Test Results Summary in Secure Reports (WIDA Alternate ACCESS only)</p> <p>Oct. 9: Deadline to request a late score entry or request a rescore for MCA and MTAS</p> <p>Oct. 22: Public release of final assessment results on MDE website (WIDA Alternate ACCESS only)</p> <p>Oct. 22: Results available on WIDA AMS (WIDA Alternate ACCESS only)</p> <p>Oct. 22: Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and other reports arrive in district (WIDA Alternate ACCESS only)</p>

Embargoed WIDA Alternate ACCESS Summary Results

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, embargoed WIDA Alternate ACCESS results will be available in Test Results Summary on the [Secure Reports](#) page of the MDE website. WIDA Alternate ACCESS results continue to be under embargo until Oct. 22. During the embargo, districts may share the results with district teachers and staff for planning or instructional purposes but may not share the results publicly.

The following resources are available to support districts:

- The *2023–24 Test Results Summary User Guide* is posted on the [Assessment Secure Reports Data Submissions](#) page and provides data and format information about the summary files available at the school and district level.
- The *Statewide Assessments: Using Test Results Summary* one-page resource is posted on the [District Resources](#) page (under the Test Score Interpretation Resources expandable heading) and includes information about the summary files.

As a reminder, information on WIDA Alternate ACCESS Exit Eligibility was shared in the July 31 [Assessment Update](#), and information on embargoed WIDA Alternate ACCESS results was shared in the Sept. 18 [Assessment Update](#). DACs are requested to share exit eligibility and test results for the WIDA Alternate ACCESS with the appropriate EL staff. Please contact mde.testing@state.mn.us with questions about accessing these resources. For questions about English learner proficiency and exiting pathways, please contact mde.el@state.mn.us.

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Deadline for MCA and MTAS Late Score Entry or Rescore Requests

The deadline for late score entry or rescore requests for spring 2024 MCA and MTAS testing is Oct. 9.

The *Request for Late Student Response Entry Form* can be found on page 313 of the [Procedures Manual](#). These requests can be made if a district did not enter a student's MTAS scores or responses from an MCA paper test book in PearsonAccess Next during the testing window. Contact Pearson at 888-817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request online](#) with further questions. Note: For late score entry requests received at this time, students will not receive an Individual Student Report (ISR), but districts can request that Pearson provide an On-Demand Report for the student.

A rescore may be requested when a parent/guardian or school district staff disagrees with the final score a student received (typically for an MCA paper administration). Note: Items for online administrations are reviewed multiple times before and during testing for scoring accuracy and unanticipated responses. Because of MDE's rigorous item review process, a rescore is highly unlikely to result in a score change for an individual student. If a discrepancy is found for an online item during a scoring review, scores will be updated for all affected students. DACs must email mde.testing@state.mn.us with the student's MARSS/SSID number and the rationale for requesting a rescore, and MDE will review the request. If approved, the cost for rescoring a test is \$125 per test. A rescore does not include test or score code changes (INV, NC, REF-S, etc.).

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2024–25 College Entrance Exam Requirement

As in past years, districts are required to offer a nationally recognized college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) to grades 11 and 12 students during a 2024–25 school day. Districts must enter into a contract directly with the test vendor. While a district may offer other assessment options to students at their discretion (for example, ASVAB or ACCUPLACER), a college entrance exam must still be offered. The requirements for offering a college entrance exam have not changed and are detailed in Chapter 2 of the [Procedures Manual](#). More information about ACT and College Board is included below.

ACT

Districts can view administration information, Free/Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP) pricing structure, and key testing dates and deadlines on the [ACT District Testing](#) page of the ACT website.

In order to determine if the district will get a reduced price from ACT, districts will need to provide ACT the percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals.

Contact ACT at actdistricttesting@act.org or 1-800-553-6244 ext. 2800, option 4, with any questions.

College Board/SAT

Learn more about an SAT administration on the [SAT School Day](#) page. Utilize the College Board's cost-estimating tool to calculate potential costs for your district on the [District and School Pricing Details](#) page. Information about timelines, training, registration, and accommodations can be found on the [In-School Testing Educator Experience](#) page.

Contact Minnesota's College Board representative, Tamika Thomas, at tthomas@collegeboard.org or 571-318-4502 with any questions.

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MDE Newsletters

The Minnesota Department of Education's Division of Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment has a mission to promote and support educational equity by producing a system of tools and resources that build capacity to ensure a well-rounded education. A key component in building that system of tools and resources is examining and improving our communication and outreach. We want to remind everyone of the newsletters developed on regular basis.

Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter: This is a semiannual newsletter, sent to all Curriculum Directors and District Assessment Coordinators in the Minnesota Department of Education Organization Reference Glossary (MDE-ORG) in an effort to articulate Minnesota's road map toward standards implementation. Our division intends for this newsletter to help strengthen schools and districts in their implementation of the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards and the WIDA English Language Development Standards. Its articles will cover all content areas and will strive to support local, balanced, and comprehensive assessment systems. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to other leaders in your district, charter, or school who might be interested in it. [Subscribe to the Academic Standards, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter.](#)

Educator Edition: This is a monthly newsletter. The target audience of the *Educator Edition* is educators and curriculum directors. All Curriculum Directors in MDE-ORG automatically receive the monthly *Educator Edition*. Information in *Educator Edition* provides timely information to educators regarding standards-based instruction resources, including professional development opportunities. [Subscribe to the Educator Edition newsletter.](#)

Assessment Update: All District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and District Technology Coordinators in MDE-ORG automatically receive the weekly *Assessment Update*, which focuses on key reminders and updates related to DAC responsibilities and the statewide assessment process from administration through reporting. The

Assessment Update is distributed every Wednesday afternoon. If other staff would like to receive the *Assessment Update*, they should send their name, email address, and district name to mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Previous versions of all three newsletters are available on the [PearsonAccess Next](#) website under MDE Updates by selecting the applicable newsletter.

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Data and Assessment Literacy Community of Practice Series

The Minnesota Department of Education is launching a monthly Community of Practice series through COMPASS focused on the content of the Minnesota Data and Assessment Literacy (MnDAL) [online learning modules](#). This series first took place during the 2023–24 school year, and participants found the resources and the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues across the state to be an impactful experience. We invite school and district leaders to come together to collaborate around ways to use content from the MnDAL modules to enhance data and assessment literacy throughout their system, leading to improved educational opportunities for students and teachers.

Meetings will be held virtually once a month beginning on Oct. 11.

Zoom Registration: [MN Community of Practice Series](#)

For more information about the MnDAL course and other professional learning about data and assessment literacy, please visit the [Professional Learning Opportunities page on Testing 1, 2, 3](#).

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District Testing Calendar Reminder (repeat)

Districts are required to post a comprehensive testing calendar on the district website; this information may also be posted on school-level websites if the district chooses. The calendar must be published at least one week prior to any eligible assessments being administered, but no later than Oct. 1. Districts may choose how to display the information (for example, in a chart or a calendar format), but it should be presented in a way that is as easy to access as possible. Core requirements for the information that must be included on the district testing calendar have not changed and are detailed in Chapter 6 of the [Procedures Manual](#).

If a district has not yet established specific dates when students will be testing, MDE recommends using previous years' timeframes as a starting place and then updating them as testing schedules are known or changed. Districts should keep their testing calendar up to date throughout the school year.

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Opportunity for District SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors (repeat)

For the spring 2025 test administrations, Student Information System (SIS) and data warehouse vendors will have the opportunity to receive regularly scheduled extracts of preliminary on-demand data for the Reading and Mathematics MCA and Reading and Mathematics MTAS during the testing window and/or final data extracts for all subjects of MCA and MTAS/Alt MCA and ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS following the release of the DSR/SSR files. These extracts allow vendors to load the data directly into their system for access by schools and districts. To participate in this service, districts and charters must enter into a data sharing agreement with their associated vendor and MDE. Vendors will be given the option of receiving preliminary data, final data, or both on behalf of their member districts. Vendors need to commit **no later than Friday, Oct. 18.**

The SIS and data warehouse vendors must configure their system to receive the preliminary data in the file layout provided by Pearson. A file layout for the final results will also be provided to participating vendors by MDE.

If your district is interested in utilizing this service, consider contacting your SIS or data warehouse vendor to encourage them to participate. You can request that they contact Pearson for more information at 888-817-8659 or [submit a help desk request online](#).

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Upcoming Opportunities

Register for New DAC Orientation (repeat)

In October, MDE and Pearson will present the New DAC Orientation, which will provide an overview of the various roles and responsibilities of a District Assessment Coordinator (DAC), the statewide assessments administered in Minnesota, relevant MDE and WIDA systems, available resources, and upcoming training opportunities. Pearson will provide information on their systems and available resources. While this training is specifically designed for new DACs, experienced DACs are also welcome to attend.

MDE is offering this training in three formats: an all-day, in-person training event in Northeast Minneapolis, a two-part series of live virtual trainings on back-to-back days, and pre-recorded trainings that will be posted in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that there are space limitations for the Oct. 10 in-person training, so early registration is suggested.

To prepare for the orientation, new DACs are encouraged to review the *New District Assessment Coordinators: Getting Access* document. This can be found under the District Assessment Coordinator Resources expandable header on the [District Resources](#) page on the MDE Statewide Testing website.

Registration links are in the following table. Please note: MDE aims to deliver our presentations in a way that will be accessible for our participants. If you anticipate needing accommodations, please contact mde.testing@state.mn.us. MDE requests a two-week advance notice to provide accommodations and a 48-hour

notice to cancel them. If the request comes within two weeks of the event, MDE will still make an effort to provide the accommodation.

Format	Date and Time	Registration Link
Virtual (must attend both sessions)	Session 1: Tuesday, Oct. 8 9–11 a.m. Session 2: Wednesday, Oct. 9 9–11 a.m.	Register for Virtual Trainings
In-Person	Thursday, Oct. 10 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Delta Hotels by Marriott Minneapolis Northeast 1330 Industrial Boulevard Northeast Minneapolis, MN 55413	Register for In-Person Training

Alternate Assessment Chat and Connect Series (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 first session of the year on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 4–5 p.m. Please [register for the Alt Assessment Chat and Connect](#). This month we will be discussing the MTAS eligibility guidelines for choosing assessments for students and planning for assessment during IEP meetings and showing the newly released Science Alternate MCA Online Demo.

We will be meeting the third Tuesday of each month during the school year. You only need to register once to join any of the monthly Chat and Connects that work for you. The Alternate Assessment Chat and Connect dates for this year are: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, and May 20 at 4 p.m. 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

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