

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — APRIL 9, 2025

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">April Q&amp;A Session: Graduation Requirement Records</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">District Monitoring of Test Administration (repeat)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Upcoming Opportunities</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>March 3–May 2 (May 9 Science MCA only):</b> <i>MCA/MTAS/Alt MCA testing window</i></p> <p><b>April 29 (noon):</b> <i>Deadline to order additional MTAS/Alt MCA (all subjects), and Mathematics and Reading MCA paper test materials in PearsonAccess Next</i></p> <p><b>May 6 (noon):</b> <i>Deadline to order additional Science MCA paper test materials in PearsonAccess Next</i></p>

## April Q&A Session: Graduation Requirement Records

MDE will host a virtual Q&A session for District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) on April 22, from 2–3 p.m. that will focus on the Graduation Requirement Records (GRR) system and submission process. New and experienced DACs are welcome to attend. [Pre-register for the April Q&A Session](#). Details for joining will be provided once registration is approved.

The prerequisite for the April Q&A session is to complete the GRR Training posted in the Learning Management System (LMS). An updated *GRR User Guide* and detailed information on the next GRR submission will be shared in a future edition of the *Assessment Update*.

MDE collects questions from DACs prior to the event to help find and prepare relevant resources to share. After completing the GRR Training, [submit questions for the April Q&A Session](#). Q&A Sessions will not be recorded nor will CEUs be provided as these are considered additional supports rather than training events.

Please note: The registration process for all virtual events, including Q&A sessions and trainings, has changed and will require advanced registration. All participants must register for the event using their email addresses associated with their school, district, or educational agency. MDE will manually approve all registrations one business day prior to the event. Once registrations are approved, participants will receive a confirmation email with the link to the event.

Note: Registrations with non-work emails (for example, a Gmail or Yahoo account) will not be approved.

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## ***District Monitoring of Test Administration (repeat)***

MDE requires District and School Assessment Coordinators (or any of their designated, trained staff) to conduct random, unannounced observations of testing rooms to confirm adherence to state and district policies and procedures by Test Administrators, Test Monitors, and other staff. This monitoring is in addition to the active monitoring being done by the Test Administrator/Test Monitor in the testing room and is meant to simulate the site visits conducted by MDE at a district- and school-level. This requirement applies to both ACCESS and MCA administrations. Similar observations can be conducted for other aspects of test administration, like inventorying and organizing secure test materials, distributing test materials on the day of testing, and preparing technology for online testing.

Districts can use the *Minnesota Statewide Assessments Monitoring List* in Appendix C of the [Procedures Manual](#), or develop their own list as long as it includes all of the components provided in Appendix C. It is up to the district to determine how many schools and testing rooms to observe.

Monitoring of individual administrations (MTAS and Alt MCA) is not required, but districts should consider including them in applicable portions of their monitoring.

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## ***Upcoming Opportunities***

### **Alternate Assessment April Chat and Connect (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 April Chat and Connect on April 15, from 4–5 p.m. Please [register for the Alt Assessment Chat and Connect](#). This month we will be accepting feedback on the 2025 MTAS/Alt MCA administration, learning about Spring 2025 MTAS/Alt MCA changes, and taking any additional questions.

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 final Alternate Assessment Chat and Connect date for this year is May 20 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact [Alt.Assessment.MDE@state.mn.us](mailto:Alt.Assessment.MDE@state.mn.us).

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