

AN UPDATE FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT — SEPT. 4, 2024

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline This Friday: Reimbursement Requests • Student Assessment History Report Availability • Benchmark Reports Now Available • MDE Seeking Public Feedback on Science MCA-IV and Alternate MCA Performance Level Descriptors • Opportunities for MTAS/Alt MCA Test Administrators and Special Education Staff 	<p>Sept. 4: <i>Benchmark Reports available in PearsonAccess Next</i></p> <p>Sept. 6: <i>Last day to request reimbursement for college entrance exams (ACT or SAT)</i></p>

Deadline This Friday: Reimbursement Requests

Districts must enter requests for reimbursements for college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) in the [Graduation Requirements Records \(GRR\) system](#) for eligible students **no later than this Friday, Sept. 6**. Reimbursements will be sent by the end of September.

After submitting reimbursement requests, the next step is to confirm expected records using the reimbursement reports, which are refreshed each morning. The *Claimed Student Detail Report* shows the records that will be reimbursed and provides the reason for any record that will not be reimbursed. The *Estimated Student Amount Report* gives an estimate of the total reimbursement amount.

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

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Student Assessment History Report Availability

If your district is not included in the drop-down menu of the Student Assessment History Report, it means that enrollment data has yet to be submitted by your district for the 2024–25 school year. District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) must work with their district MARSS Coordinator to find out when enrollment data will be submitted.

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Benchmark Reports Now Available

The 2023–24 MCA Benchmark Reports are available today, Sept. 4, in [PearsonAccess Next](#) under Reports > Published Reports for DAC and Assessment Administrator (AA) user roles [login required]. Refer to last week's [Assessment Update](#) for more information and resources.

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MDE Seeking Public Feedback on Science MCA-IV and Alternate MCA Performance Level Descriptors

Please share this information with your science educators and special education teachers who work with students with significant cognitive disabilities.

MDE is currently finalizing the Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs), previously named Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs), that describe learning of the grade-level expectations set by benchmarks or extended benchmarks in the Minnesota Academic Standards. The PLDs are used to describe what it means to be proficient on the Science MCA-IV and Science Alternate MCA (Alt MCA) following the first administration in Spring 2025 and Reading Alt MCA following the first administration in Spring 2026. The Reading MCA-IV PLDs will be available in a future public review.

As part of the drafting process, MDE is holding a public review period to collect feedback from district staff and community members on the latest draft of the Science MCA/Alt MCA PLDs as well as the Reading Alt MCA PLDs. This feedback will ensure that multiple perspectives throughout Minnesota are considered in the development of the final version of the documents.

View the draft Science MCA-IV Performance Level Descriptors and the feedback survey on the [Statewide Assessments page](#) of the MDE website.

View the draft Science and Reading Alt MCA Performance Level Descriptors and the feedback survey on the [Alternate Assessments page](#) of the Testing 1, 2, 3 website.

MDE will be taking feedback until Sept. 27. If you have any questions, contact mde.testing@state.mn.us.

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Opportunities for MTAS/Alt MCA Test Administrators and Special Education Staff

Please share the following opportunities with MTAS/Alt MCA Test Administrators and Special Education staff in your district.

Science Alternate MCA Kickoff Meetings

This fall, MDE will be hosting regional in-person and online Science Alternate Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (Alt MCA) Kickoff Meetings focusing on:

- The preparation and administration for Spring 2025 Science Alt MCA operational assessment
- Tools for making decisions about student administration formats (online, paper or hybrid)
- Revised Learner Characteristics Inventory
- Revised Alternate Assessment Eligibility Requirements
- Diving into the test design and extended benchmarks aligned to the Alt MCA
- In-person sessions will include interactive activities to engage with the Alt MCA materials

These kickoff meetings will focus on one-on-one administration activities and are geared for MTAS/Alt MCA Test Administrators. However, District Assessment Coordinators (DACs), Special Education Directors/Coordinators, and any district staff involved in administering alternate assessments are also welcome to attend. MTAS/Alt MCA information meetings will also be offered in January to focus on providing updates for the upcoming Spring 2025 administration.

Sessions	Location
Tuesday, October 1 9 a.m.–Noon or 1–4 p.m.	Pine Room South Central Service Cooperative Conference Center 2075 Lookout Drive, North Mankato, MN 56003
Thursday, October 10 9 a.m.–Noon or 1–4 p.m.	Hobson Memorial Union Crying Wolf Room Bemidji State University 1500 Birchmont Drive NE, Bemidji, MN 56601
Monday, October 21 9 a.m.–Noon or 1–4 p.m.	Lower level Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) 400 Stinson Blvd NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413

Thursday, November 7 2–5 p.m.	Zoom (a recording will be available at a later date)
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[Register for one session.](#)

These are 3-hour meetings; morning and afternoon sessions will be offered at each in-person location and will cover the same topics. There is no cost to attendees for these sessions, and educators will be provided continuing education units.

Note: Registration is required and limited to 40 participants for each in-person session.

Alternate Assessment Chat and Connect Series

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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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.