**m1 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# Assessment Update

**AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—JULY 1, 2020**

| QUICK LINKS | IMPORTANT DATES |
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| <ul><li>Feedback Needed: Alternate Assessment Redesign</li><li>WIDA AMS Changes</li><li>Odds and Ends</li><li>Tech Update</li></ul> | *Aug. 20: Individual Student Reports (ISRs) arrive in districts*<br><br>*Aug. 20: ISRs available on vendor websites (WIDA AMS and PearsonAccess Next)* |

# Feedback Needed: Alternate Assessment Redesign

This spring, MDE began exploring options to redesign the MTAS as we develop the next series of alternate assessments aligned to new science standards. MDE is looking at several potential changes, including test design, scoring, number of questions, types of questions, reporting needs, and administration format.

At this important step in the redesign process, MDE is seeking feedback from district staff who are involved in the many aspects of the alternate assessment (MTAS) administration. These staff may include special education teachers familiar with instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities, DACs, administrators, or special education directors.

MDE is seeking feedback in either (or both) of the following ways:

- An Alternate Assessment (MTAS) Redesign Survey, which takes about 10 minutes to complete and is **available through July 10**.
- Contact MDE directly at mde.testing@state.mn.us to set up a time to discuss the redesign, either as an individual or as a small group of district staff.

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# WIDA AMS Changes

On June 26, the WIDA AMS login page and primary navigation features were updated with a new interface for Central Office Services (COS) and enhancements to site selection. For more information:

- See the Tech Update article below for more details about COS.

- Watch a [recording of a WIDA webinar describing the WIDA AMS navigation changes](#) ([log in to the WIDA Secure Portal] > Online Grades 1–12 > ACCESS Webinars [under Key Resources]).

- Contact DRC at [WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com) or 855-787-9615 with additional questions.

## *Odds and Ends*

- **MDE Closed on Friday**: MDE staff will not be working this Friday, July 3, due to the Independence Day holiday.
- **Survey for Families**: MDE's Fall Planning Survey for families deadline has been extended to July 6, 2020, at 5 p.m. [Access MDE's Fall Planning Survey for Minnesota Families (Available in English, Hmong, Somali, and Spanish)](#).

## *Tech Update*

### 2020–21 Technology Releases and Resource Updates

The following resources are now available in [WIDA AMS](#) under My Applications > General Information > Technology Downloads:

- Installers for the COS-SD and INSIGHT Secure Browser applications

- Testing Site Capacity Estimator

Technology documents for the 2020–21 academic year have been posted to the [Technology Coordinators Page of the WIDA Secure Portal](#) [log in required] and in [WIDA AMS](#) under My Applications > General Information > Documents. Note the following key changes:

- The Supported System Requirements for ACCESS and WIDA Screener, July 2020–October 2020 has a revised format and methodology. DRC has not changed the system specification for either the testing devices or the COS Service Devices in the 2020–21 academic year. Districts and schools do not need to purchase new hardware to meet the specifications.

- Technology Coordinators should be sure to allow three additional URLs for this year's online testing. These new URLs are in the System Requirements and Testing Information section of the *Technology User Guide*.

Contact DRC Customer Service at [wida@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:wida@datarecognitioncorp.com) or 855-787-9615 with additional questions.

Minnesota Department of Education

education.mn.gov > Districts, 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.