AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—AUGUST 26, 2020

QUICK LINKS

2020 Extended ACCESS Testing Window Reminder

The extended spring 2020 testing window for ACCESS is currently open to districts. **Participating districts must order materials by Sept. 1.** This opportunity is an option **only** for English learners (ELs) who would have been eligible to exit a Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) based on previous scores and/or their other completed domain scores this past spring – **not** all ELs who were unable to complete testing last spring. The decision to participate in this extended testing window is determined by the district. Testing must be in-person and cannot be administered remotely.

Further details on student eligibility are included in the *2020 Extended ACCESS Testing Window* and more information on test materials ordering and shipping are available in the *Continuing Administration for 2019-2020 DIRECTIONS*; both documents are on the Minnesota page of the WIDA website.

Q&A Webinar for the Extended ACCESS Testing Window

MDE will host one remaining Q&A webinar for questions districts have as they plan for this extended test administration. Use the following link to join the webinars; no registration is required: Q&A Webinar: Thursday, Sept. 10, 9–10 a.m.

Back to Top

College Entrance Exam Reimbursement Requests

Requests for reimbursement for eligible students who took a college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) by June 30, 2020, should be entered in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system **no later than Sept. 11**.

A *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide* and GRR training (available in the Training Management System on the District Assessment Coordinator tab under MDE Recorded Webinars) are available.

Student Assessment History Report Rollover

The Student Assessment History Report allows districts to look up the testing history for individuals who are enrolled in the district as verified by MARSS. The Student Assessment History Report rolled over to the new school year earlier this month. Districts now only have information for students who are included in MARSS enrollment for the 2020–21 school year. There will be no data in the Student Assessment History Report until districts submit MARSS enrollment data for the new school year.

District Testing Calendar

Districts are required to post a comprehensive testing calendar on the district website before the first day of the school year; this information may also be posted on school-level websites if the district chooses. Districts may choose how to display the information (e.g., in a chart, a calendar format), but it should be presented in a way that is as easy to access as possible. Core requirements for the district testing calendar have not changed and are detailed in the *2019–20 Procedures Manual*, starting on page 137.

The posting of a district testing calendar is a requirement of both the state legislature and ESSA, and it is required to be posted for the 2020–21 school year, even though MDE knows that plans for spring may be very fluid. If a district has not yet established specific dates when students will be testing, MDE recommends using last year's planned dates as a starting place and then updating them as schedules are known or changed.

Odds and Ends

Minnesota Report Card Planned Outage: This Friday morning, Aug. 28, the Minnesota Report Card will be unavailable for maintenance.

Upcoming Opportunities

Test Specifications Development Committee: Alternate MCA

MDE is looking for diverse group of K–12 special education, reading, and science educators to use their expertise to develop test specifications for the Alternate MCA (previously MTAS) in science and reading. The Alternate MCA is the redesigned alternate assessment aligned to alternate achievement standards designed for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The purpose of the committee is to decrease the depth, breadth, and complexity of the science and reading standards on the Alternate MCA by developing assessment boundaries and access points for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The committee will meet virtually throughout the 2020–21 school year.

Share this opportunity with educators in your districts who work with students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. View the Specifications Committee for Alternate MCA: 2020–21 application for more information and to apply. Interested educators must complete the application by Sept. 18.

Back to Top

Tech Update

TestNav App for iOS Version 1.9.1 237

Pearson released TestNav app for iOS version 1.9.1 237 to fix an issue with accessing log and saved response files (SRFs). Pearson strongly recommends that districts use the latest version of TestNav for iOS for testing going forward to retain SRF and log files. These files help you and TestNav support troubleshoot and correct any issues in the event of a testing interruption.

- If you have previously installed TestNav for iOS, check the TestNav home page on the app to confirm the version number. You may need to restart devices for the version to update.

- **If you have auto-updates blocked, you may need to go to the App Store to download the latest version and reinstall.**

Full system requirements for TestNav including supported devices, operating systems, and browsers can be found on the TestNav 8 Online Support Page.

Back to Top