AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
- College Entrance Exam Reimbursement Requests - DAC Resource: MDE Webinars and Trainings - WIDA Webinar: Welcome Back - Key Communication with Districts - Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors - Science MCA-IV Test Specifications Are Available - Upcoming Opportunities	*Sept. 11:* Last day for districts to enter reimbursement requests for college entrance exams

College Entrance Exam 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 Sept. 11**. After requesting reimbursement, the district should confirm expected records using the reimbursement reports, which are refreshed each morning.

- The *Claimed Student Detail Report* shows what records 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.

For additional information, use the *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).

Note: As was previously communicated, the money allocated for school year 2019–20 reimbursement for college entrance exams will carry forward and will be available for school year 2020–21 reimbursement. This means that requests can be entered before the September 2021 deadline for any fall or spring administrations offered by districts in 2020–21, in addition to any requests for reimbursement for students who test on a national test date after June 30 this summer. Refer to the *Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) User Guide*, as needed, for reminders about student eligibility for reimbursement.

DAC Resource: MDE Webinars and Trainings

The *MDE District Assessment Coordinator Webinars and Trainings* document has been posted on the District Resources page. This document provides dates and times for upcoming MDE trainings for DACs. Additional details and information will be added as they are determined.

WIDA Webinar: Welcome Back

WIDA will have a Welcome Back webinar on Sept. 15 from 1–2 p.m. to introduce new items in WIDA AMS, in the WIDA training process, and on the WIDA website. This webinar is for DACs, Technology Coordinators, and Test Administrators. Join WIDA's Welcome Back: What's New This Year webinar on Sept. 15 at 1 p.m.

Key Communication with Districts

With the start of the new school year, please verify that the contact information in the MDE-ORG system is correct. If your district has a new District Assessment Coordinator (DAC), please ensure MDE-ORG is updated as soon as possible so they can receive relevant information, including opportunities specifically designed for New DACs.

All contact information in MDE-ORG is updated and maintained by the district's Site Verification Coordinator (SVC), who is listed in MDE-ORG. The SVC maintains the district's contact information within the District and School Site Verification system. Work with the SVC for any necessary changes or updates.

Assessment Update Distribution

MDE sends the weekly *Assessment Update* to all DACs and District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) on what is indicated in MDE-ORG. If there is more than one DAC, they all will be included on the *Assessment Update* distribution list. Additional DACs may be designated as an Alternate DAC in MDE-ORG. Any additional staff interested in receiving the *Assessment Update* should send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us to be added to the distribution list. Previous updates are posted to the *Assessment Update* page on PearsonAccess Next.

Note: MDE includes key technology updates and articles in the *Assessment Update*, so it is important that DTC contact information is accurate. Technology coordinators should pay particular attention to information in the *Tech Update* section.

PearsonAccess Next Accounts

It is important to update DAC and Alternate DAC information as soon as possible in MDE-ORG because Pearson uses information from MDE-ORG to create DAC user accounts in PearsonAccess Next. Pearson staff create and edit accounts in PearsonAccess Next within 1–2 business days of receiving MDE-ORG updates.

WIDA and WIDA AMS Accounts

In order to complete the required trainings for the ACCESS, Alternate ACCESS, and the WIDA Online Screener, DACs need to have a user account in the WIDA Secure Portal. Also, in order to complete administrative tasks for online testing or the online screener, DACs must have a user account in WIDA AMS. New DACs that need WIDA Secure Portal and WIDA AMS accounts should send their request to mde.testing@state.mn.us. As long as they are indicated as the DAC in MDE-ORG, MDE will approve the request and send it to the service providers to create both accounts.

Note: A new DAC should confirm they have already been indicated as the DAC in MDE-ORG before sending their request to mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Regularly Scheduled Extracts to SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors

For the spring 2021 test administrations, Student Information System (SIS) and data warehouse vendors will have the opportunity to receive regularly scheduled extracts of preliminary on-demand test result data for the MCA and MTAS during the testing window and/or final data extracts for MCA/MTAS and ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS following the release of the DSR/SSR files. These extracts will allow vendors to load the data directly into their systems for access by school districts who enter into a data sharing agreement with their associated vendor(s) and MDE. Vendors have the option of receiving preliminary data, final data, or both on behalf of their member districts. In order to participate, vendors need to make a commitment no later than Sept. 25, 2020.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 2, at noon, Pearson has received a commitment to use the extracts from the following vendor:

- Sourcewell (formerly TIES)

Pearson has currently contacted the following SIS vendors and data warehouse vendors to participate in the program.

- EduPoint (Synergy)
- Infinite Campus (Campus)
- JMC, Inc. (JMC)
- MBA (PowerSchool)

- Skyward, Inc. (Web School)

- Tyler Technologies (Schoolmaster)

- cmERDC (Viewpoint)

- Region 1

- Mach B

- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEDGE)

- Illuminate Education

- Strategic Partnerships (Hoonuit)

- Panorama Education

For school year 2020–21, only vendors who have provided commitment to Pearson by Sept. 25, 2020, will be eligible to receive regularly scheduled extracts from Pearson and/or the final data from MDE for the spring 2021 test administrations.

In order for the data to be included on the extracts, DACs will be required to authorize in PearsonAccess Next which vendor(s) should receive their student data. If the DAC does not authorize the vendor(s), their data will not be included. DACs will be able to begin authorizing vendors in February 2021; the first extract will be provided in March 2021.

The SIS and data warehouse vendors will need to configure their system to receive the data in the file layout provided by Pearson. A preliminary file layout has been provided to the vendors listed above. The final file layout will be available to vendors in October.

If your district would like to use this service, consider contacting your SIS vendor or data warehouse vendor to express your interest and encourage them to participate. If your SIS vendor or data warehouse is not listed above, you can request that they contact Pearson for more information at 888-817-8659 or submit a help desk request.

Science MCA-IV Test Specifications Are Available

The Science MCA-IV, based on the 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards, will first be administered in 2023–24. The Science MCA-IV test specifications are now available on the Test Specifications page. Test specifications describe how the revised 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards will be assessed on the Science MCA-IV.

Upcoming Opportunities

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 extended ACCESS test administration. Use the following link to join the webinars: Q&A Webinar: Thursday, Sept. 10, 9–10 a.m. No registration is required.

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