AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—NOVEMBER 25, 2020

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
• Required Tasks in WIDA AMS • Update to Pearson DAC/Technology Trainings • Upcoming DAC Q&A Webinars • 2019–20 World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Summary Report and Achievement and Integration (A&I) Summary Report • Odds and Ends • Upcoming Opportunities • Tech Update	*Nov. 23–Dec. 11: In WIDA AMS, districts indicate the number of online testers taking ACCESS in grades 1– 12, and order paper test materials* *Nov. 30: Pretest Editing opens in Test WES* *Dec. 16: Deadline to submit MARSS updates for ELs to be sent in precode for loading students into WIDA AMS and printing student labels*

Required Tasks in WIDA AMS

DACs are now able to complete the following tasks in WIDA AMS for each of their schools. **It is very important that districts complete this information by Dec. 11.** As communicated last week, districts will be administering the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS in person; therefore, MDE strongly recommends completing this information during this initial window, rather than waiting to order test materials during additional orders. All grades 1–5 writing test materials are based on these indications, and entering the information now ensures you receive all the materials needed.

The grades 1–12 ACCESS is administered online; Kindergarten ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS are paper-based administrations.

- Indicate the number of online testers for each grade band.

- Indicate the number of kindergarten testers. Note: During additional orders, consider ordering an extra kit or two, knowing that the kindergarten materials are shared, and having a few extras may help with health and safety logistics. However, be mindful in the number of additional kits you are ordering.

- Indicate the quantities of large print, braille, or paper test booklets needed.

- Indicate the quantities of Alternate ACCESS test booklets needed.

For more information, please refer to the *WIDA AMS User Guide* [Log in is required > under Key Resources] or the *Ordering Materials* tutorial [Log in is required].

Update to Pearson DAC/Technology Trainings

Pearson is updating the following DAC and Technology Coordinator trainings:

- New & Experienced District Technology Coordinator (DTC) Trainings

  o Postponed (previously Dec. 9 & 10); these trainings will be rescheduled for later this winter when more information can be provided about remote testing infrastructure setup.

  o Pearson will record the New Technology Coordinator training and post to the Training Management System (TMS).

- Pearson New DAC Q&A

  o Moving to Dec. 16, 2–3 p.m. (previously Dec. 10)

  o This training will only focus on DAC questions related to user management in PearsonAccess Next and Training Management System. No additional information will be provided related to the DAC Test Administration trainings.

- PearsonAccess Next: New DACs (1–2 years)

  o Moving to Feb. 9, 1–3 p.m. (previously Feb. 16)

- TestNav and Item Samplers: For New DACs and Educators

  o Moving to Feb. 11, 10–11 a.m. (previously Feb. 18)

- Pearson DAC Test Administration Training

  o Moving to Feb. 18, 9–11:30 a.m. (previously Dec. 15-17)

Additional details and training links will be communicated through the *Assessment Update*. The updated *Upcoming Pearson Trainings* document will be available by Friday, Dec. 4, and the updated *Upcoming Technology Trainings* documents (under the Additional Technology Resources dropdown option) will be updated later this winter.

Upcoming DAC Q&A Webinars

There are two New DAC Q&A webinars in December. Links for submitting questions have been added below.

- Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 2–3 p.m. Register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar.

  o This Q&A webinar will focus on Pretest Editing.

- o [Submit your questions for the Dec. 1 New DAC Q&A](#).
- o Prerequisites:
  - Chapter 4 (General Supports, Linguistic Supports, and Accommodations for Minnesota Assessments) from the *Procedures Manual*
  - Pretest Editing recorded training, which is posted in the [Training Management System (TMS)](#) on the District Assessment Coordinator tab, under the MDE Recorded Webinars category
- Tuesday, Dec. 15, from 2–3 p.m. [Register for the New DAC Q&A Webinar](#).
  - o [Submit your questions for the Dec. 15 New DAC Q&A](#).
  - o Prerequisites are the following chapters from the *Procedures Manual*:
    - Chapter 6 (Overview of Test Administration)
    - Chapter 7 (Before Test Administration)
    - Chapter 8 (Test Administration)

2019–20 World's Best Workforce (WBWF) Summary Report and Achievement and Integration (A&I) Summary Report

Districts can now submit their annual WBWF summary report for the 2019–20 school year. The WBWF summary report is in combination with the A&I progress report (Note: districts that do not participate in the A&I program only need to complete the WBWF section of the form). Summary reports are submitted using an online survey form, which is similar to the reporting method used last year. This online summary report can be found on the [WBWF webpage](#) and is due by Dec. 15. If you have questions while completing the WBWF portion of the summary, email [MDE.WorldsBestWorkForce@state.mn.us](#) for support. If you have any questions regarding the A&I portion of this report, email [MDE.Integration@state.mn.us](#).

Odds and Ends

In observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday, MDE will be closed tomorrow and Friday, Nov. 26–27.

Upcoming Opportunities

Webinar: Science MCA-IV and Constructed-Response Question Types

The Science MCA-IV, which is based on the 2019 Minnesota Academic Standards in Science, will first be administered in spring 2024. To prepare for this new assessment, MDE is investigating whether constructed response (open-ended) question types are appropriate for assessing students on these standards. This webinar will explain why we are exploring constructed response questions. We will also give an overview of the timeline for including them on the MCA-IV, as well as the steps needed to determine the appropriateness of these questions on the new assessments.

There were two scheduled webinar presentations. The first presentation was held last week, and the second will be on Dec. 1 from 4–4:30 p.m. Register for Dec. 1 Science MCA-IV webinar.

Please share this webinar link with district staff who may be interested in science standards' assessment and this spring's field testing during the operational administration.

Upcoming WIDA Webinars

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Test for New Test Administrators

WIDA will host the *Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Test for New Test Administrators* webinar on Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 1–2 p.m. Join the *Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Test for New Test Administrators* webinar on Dec. 1. This webinar is designed for Alternate ACCESS Test Administrators and will provide an overview of the following:

- Scheduling
- Basics of administration
- Review of training resources

Managing Test Sessions

WIDA will host the *Managing Test Sessions* webinar on Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 1–2 p.m. Join the *Managing Test Sessions* webinar on Dec. 8. This webinar is designed for DACs and will include information on the following:

- Creating test sessions
- Printing test tickets
- Managing test sessions

WIDA Webinar Schedule

The *2020-21 ACCESS and Screener Webinar Calendar* document is a list of all of WIDA's planned webinars (with registration links) and is available on the ACCESS Webinars page. WIDA also posts recordings of their webinars on the ACCESS Webinars page for those who are unable to attend the live events.

Tech Update

New Allowlist URLs for ACCESS for ELLs Online and WIDA Screener Online

DRC performed an infrastructure update to the internal services that distribute test content from DRC servers. This change does not impact content currently hosted on COS Service Devices or their configurations, but it does require two additional URLs to be added to the allowlist. These additional URLs can be found in the updated *Technology User Guide*, located under My Applications > General Information > Documents in WIDA AMS. Please contact DRC Customer Service at wida@datarecognitioncorp.com or 855-787-9615 with any questions.

DRC communicated these changes to DACs and District Technology Coordinators by email on Monday, Nov. 23, and the implementation of these updates was conducted Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Update to Pearson Technology Trainings

As mentioned in the article above, Pearson is updating the New and Experienced District Technology Coordinator (DTC) Trainings as follows:

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Additional details and training links will be communicated through the *Assessment Update*. Updated training documents will be posted to the *Upcoming Technology Trainings* documents (under the Additional Technology Resources dropdown option).