AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS—SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

QUICK LINKS
• MDE Employment Opportunity: Communications Specialist in Statewide Student Assessment
• Reimbursements for College Entrance Exams
• 2020–21 College Entrance Exam Requirement
• Updated ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS DSR and SSR
• WIDA Updates
• Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Training Course
• SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors: Scheduled Extracts (repeat)
• Upcoming Opportunities
• Tech Update

MDE Employment Opportunity: Communications Specialist in Statewide Student Assessment

The *Statewide Student Assessment and Data Analytics* division is currently seeking a communications specialist to work on the Program Management team. This position will be the main contact for District Assessment Coordinators (DACs), as Sequoia will soon be reducing his hours at MDE and shifting more time and attention to parenting and grad school. If you are interested in a new and challenging opportunity, see the complete position description and application instructions on the State of Minnesota Careers website. The Job ID is 41601, and the posting is open until Oct. 8. Visit the State of Minnesota Careers website (http://mn.gov/mmb/careers/) for more information and to apply.

Back to Top

Reimbursements for College Entrance Exams

Last week, MDE issued reimbursements to districts based on the requests made (by the Sept. 11 deadline) in the Graduation Requirements Records (GRR) system for eligible students who took a qualifying college entrance

exam (ACT or SAT). The payment was identified with "ACT/SAT REIM," followed by the date, and a unique number (e.g. 0000039). The payment also contained the explanation of GRR-REIMBURSEMENT.

2020–21 College Entrance Exam Requirement

As in past years, districts are required to offer a nationally recognized college entrance exam (ACT or SAT) to grade 11 and 12 students during a 2020–2021 school day. Districts must enter into a contract directly with the test vendor. Core requirements for offering a college entrance exam have not changed and are detailed in the *2019–20 Procedures Manual*; see page 31. See below for more information about ACT and College Board.

ACT

- View administration information, Free/Reduced Lunch Program (FRLP) pricing structure, and key testing dates and deadlines on the ACT District Testing page.

- Districts will need to provide ACT the percentage of students that are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals to determine if the district will get a reduced price from ACT.

- Contact April Hansen at april.hansen@act.org with any questions and to get your unique link to register. Note: This year, you can click through the terms and conditions and update your organization file and registration information all in one step.

College Board

- View administration information on the SAT School Day page.

- Additional information about the deadlines for registration are on the 2020–21 SAT Timeline to Test Day page.

- Contact Andy Houpt at ahoupt@collegeboard.org with any questions.

Updated ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS DSR and SSR

The District and School Student Results (DSR and SSR) files in Assessment Secure Reports were updated at the end of last week with results from ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS scorable paper materials (e.g., Kindergarten ACCESS or Writing response booklets) that were returned late and received by DRC after June 1.

WIDA Updates

WIDA eSummit

WIDA will host an eSummit for educators from Oct. 12–30. All Minnesota educators have access to this free virtual learning opportunity as long as they have a WIDA Secure Portal account. The content is designed to be relevant to all educators including content teachers. Since a WIDA Secure Portal account is required, DACs should work with their educators to provide or confirm accounts for those interested in this event. See WIDA's eSummit webpage for more information.

If a DAC does not have access to the WIDA Secure Portal, contact mde.testing@state.mn.us to approve the creation of a DAC account. If DACs have questions with how to set up other accounts, contact WIDA at help@wida.us or 866-276-7735.

WIDA on Social Media

WIDA has a new Facebook group: Supporting Success for Multilingual Learners with Disabilities. This group creates a space for people who care about multilingual students with disabilities to share ideas and resources, ask questions, and network. Consider sharing this opportunity with staff in your district who may be interested.

Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Training Course

The Minnesota Assessment Life Cycle Course is available in the Training Management System (TMS) on the Assessment Literacy tab. These trainings are designed for educators to increase understanding about Minnesota Assessments. The course includes the following trainings:

- *Minnesota Assessments Overview*

- *MCA Achievement Level Descriptors & Standard Setting Process*

- *Test Development*

- *Test Construction*

- *Scoring and Reporting*

- *Test Specifications*

Note: This training course will also be posted on the Testing 1, 2, 3 website later this fall.

SIS and Data Warehouse Vendors: Scheduled Extracts (repeat)

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.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 23, at noon, Pearson has received a commitment to use the extracts from the following vendors:

- Sourcewell (formerly TIES)

- cmERDC (Viewpoint)

- Peridot Solutions (LearnersEDGE)

- Strategic Partnerships (Hoonuit)

If you would like to participate in this opportunity and your SIS or data warehouse vendor is not on the list, consider contacting your vendor to request participation. Vendors need to make a commitment **no later than this Friday, Sept. 25**; they can contact Pearson for more information at 888-817-8659 or submit a help desk request. See the Sept. 2 *Assessment Update* for additional information.

Note: Illuminate Education, who participated last year, informed Pearson they will not participate this year.

Back to Top

Upcoming Opportunities

WIDA Webinar

The *ACCESS for ELLs for New District Test Coordinators* webinar is tomorrow, Thursday, Sept. 24, from 1–2 p.m. This webinar is designed for DACs and will provide information on creating WIDA user accounts, monitoring test administrator training, and using WIDA AMS. Join the *ACCESS for ELLs for New District Test Coordinators* webinar on Sept. 24.

Day with DACs

On Sept. 29, MDE's Statewide Student Assessment and Data Analytics Division will host a virtual conference for DACs. This event will feature a "State of the Statewide Assessment" presentation by division director, Jennifer Dugan. Following this presentation, Jennifer will host a roundtable discussion with three prominent Minnesota assessment data experts. See the Sept. 9 *Assessment Update* for more information about the panel of experts.

The afternoon will include two breakout session opportunities; these breakout sessions focus on district needs and input, with MDE staff prompting engagement and taking notes but not directing the conversation.

The schedule for the conference is as follows:

- **9–10:00 a.m.** "State of the Statewide Assessments," Jennifer Dugan

- **10–11:30 a.m.** Panel conversation and Q&A

- **11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** Virtual conversation corners and lunch

- **12:45–1:45 p.m. Session 1**: Breakout conversations (students, parents/guardians, or teachers/administrators)

- **2–3:00 p.m. Session 2:** Breakout conversations (students, parents/guardians, or teachers/administrators)

Register for Day with DACs. Registration is required, and when registering, participants will select the two breakout session conversations in which they want to participate.

Participants can connect to the audio of the event using their computer/device, or they can call into the event using a phone. Note: Those that use a phone may consider downloading the Cisco WebEx smartphone app. Using the smartphone app will provide an easier connection to the event and will allow for more functionality than using the dial-in phone number. WebEx provides further details on how to use the mobile app on its website.

Teaching and Learning Led by Evidence Webinar Series

This series of webinars is for any teacher or school leader who wants to center instruction on evidence of student learning. Kendra Olsen, MDE's Outreach Specialist in Statewide Student Assessment and Data Analytics, will facilitate each session to engage teachers and school leaders in making sense of assessment and data, so that it can be used to build trust and collaboration and develop fluency in decision making to help close gaps in instruction and learning.

Registration is required for each WebEx session, using the links in the table below. Participants will earn one continuing education unit (CEU) for each session. All sessions will be recorded and posted for future reference. Please contact Kendra at kendra.olsen@state.mn.us with any questions.

Note: The first two sessions have already taken place. Staff can join any session, and if someone did not attend the first two sessions, they are still encouraged to attend any session of interest.

SESSION #	DATE AND TIME	TOPIC AND DETAILS	LEARNING OBJECTIVES
3	Thursday, Sept. 24, 4–5 p.m.	Leading Instructional Decisions with Evidence Register for Session 3	Participants will be able to: Use or modify an ORID (Objective, Reflective, Interpretive, Decisional) framework to facilitate staff discussions about student learning led by evidence Understand how data use cycles can influence systems in schools, which impact student achievement
4	Thursday, Oct. 22, 4–5 p.m.	Assessment *for* Learning – How do we know what our students really know? Register for Session 4	Participants will be able to: Integrate simple, frequent "checks for understanding" into existing instructional plans that elicit an accurate picture of the depth of what students know Improve rigor and alignment of formative assessment to the standards Define success criteria for students
5	Thursday, Nov. 12, 4–5 p.m.	Assessment *of* Learning – Summative Assessments for your Classroom Register for Session 5	Participants will be able to: Improve alignment of classroom assessments to standards Increase the rigor of questions to eliminate student misconceptions Ensure assessments measure the extent students have mastered the standards for an instructional unit

Tech Update

WIDA Webinars

See the following WIDA webinars designed for Technology Coordinators:

- The *Software Updates & Technology Readiness Checklist* is Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 1–2 p.m. This webinar will provide information about Central Office Services (COS) layout, system requirements, the Technology Readiness Checklist, and DRC INSIGHT. Join the *Software Updates & Technology Readiness Checklist* webinar on Oct. 6.

- The *Technology Installations* webinar is on Thursday, Oct. 8, from 1–2:30 p.m. and will provide information about installing the various requirements on different types of devices (e.g., Chromebooks and iPads), as well as more information about updated system requirements. Join the Technology Installations webinar on Oct. 8.

The *2020-21 ACCESS and Screener Webinar Calendar* document is also available on the ACCESS Webinars page; it provides a schedule and description for all of WIDA's planned webinars.

Back to Top

STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND DATA ANALYTICS

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.