

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – AUGUST 16, 2017

QUICK LINKS	IMPORTANT DATES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing Calendar Requirements • Updated Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure • Minnesota Science Simulation Project • Student Assessment History Report Reminder • Odds and Ends • Tech Update 	<p>Sept. 15: <i>Deadline to submit reimbursement requests in GRR</i></p>

Testing Calendar Requirements

Districts must post the testing calendar information shown below on the district website and, if practicable, the school websites. Districts may choose how to provide the information and the format it appears (e.g., in a chart, in calendar format). While links to the information may be provided rather than including all of the information in one place, consideration should be given to making it easily accessible. This is especially important for test administration dates, which must include the specific day(s) when each grade will take each type of test at each school. For example, while the majority of the required information may be posted on the district website, separate documents or links to each school’s website may be used to provide the specific test administration dates.

Districts are required to have posted testing calendars by the first day of the school year; these requirements have not changed from last year. For more information, refer to the [2016–2017 Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures). Districts should:

- Include information about all tests administered, not just statewide testing, but any local districtwide assessments as well.
- Provide the subject matter for each assessment.
- Provide the purpose for each assessment. The source of the requirement for administering the assessment and where information about these sources can be found must also be included.
- Include the amount of time on average a student will spend taking the assessment. For statewide assessments, MDE recommends using the published estimated times to determine the time for each

test. Since times have not yet been published for 2017–2018 statewide assessments, districts should use information from the *2016–2017 Procedures Manual* as needed.

- Include the timeline and format for disseminating results.
- Post the dates when the majority of students will be testing for each grade and subject.
 - The dates that tests will actually be administered must be posted, **not** just the dates of the state-designated testing window.
 - If changes are identified throughout the year, make updates to the calendar as soon as they are determined.

[Back to Top](#)

Updated Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure

The *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* outlines the responsibility to keep test content secure and to ensure the integrity of test results. By signing it annually, staff assure that they understand these responsibilities and commit to fulfilling them as required by their role in test administration. The assurance has been updated for 2017–2018 to include the school year and expand information about staff’s responsibility to cooperate with MDE and school officials in regards to test security, including monitoring visits, desk audits, and investigations.

As in past years, there are two formats available and the District Assessment Coordinator determines which format will be used:

- Paper: If your district tracks completion of the *Assurance of Test Security and Non-Disclosure* using a paper form, the updated form is now available on the [Policies and Procedures page of PearsonAccess Next](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures). This updated form must be used and previous versions should be deleted.
- Online: The online version of this form will still be available in the Training Management System but not as a stand-alone form. Instead, it will be embedded in the new Test Security Training, which will be available this fall and required for all staff. Additional information will be provided in the *Assessment Update* as the training and the embedded online assurance are available.

[Back to Top](#)

Minnesota Science Simulation Pilot

In an effort to improve assessment by exploring an innovative approach to testing, Pearson is looking for schools and districts to help pilot a series of science simulations that collect “activity stream” data from student actions. Observing how students arrive at their answers makes it possible to assess more difficult-to-measure constructs and provides a more authentic learning environment.

For schools and districts that participate in the pilot, Pearson will offer to lead a discussion with your students of how digital-based simulations are created, in order to give practical examples of STEM careers and jobs.

- The study will be conducted throughout the 2017–2018 school year using TestNav and PearsonAccess Next.
- In order for a school or district to participate, there should be a minimum of 50 students in grade 5 and/or 50 students in grade 8.
- The students will test five simulations that will each take 15 to 30 minutes (forces in the solar system, engineering design principles, using satellite imagery, principles of force and motion, and food webs and biomes), provide feedback on the simulations, and take a short traditional assessment for comparison.
- Teachers will schedule, in conjunction with Pearson, the simulations to fit in a logical place in the curriculum, review the results to compare to other formative assessments, and provide the end-of-year science assessment scores for comparison.
- Schools will need to provide devices, such as desktops, laptops, tablets, or Chromebooks, that have the latest technical requirements for using TestNav.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Lauren Meyer at lauren.meyer@pearson.com.

[Back to Top](#)

Student Assessment History Report Reminder

Until your district submits 2017–2018 MARSS enrollment data for the new school year, you will not have data to view in the [Student Assessment History Report](#) (MDE > Data Center > Secure Reports).

[Back to Top](#)

Odds and Ends

- **Job Opportunity in Statewide Testing:** MDE is hiring a Math and Reading Test Development Supervisor. The person in this position will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating the development of the Reading and Mathematics MCA. Visit [Minnesota Careers](http://careers.mn.gov) (careers.mn.gov > Education Department > Education Supervisor) to apply; enter this Job ID in the keyword search: 15316.
- **ESSA Regional Meetings:** As part of the public comment process, Commissioner Cassellius is holding regional meetings across the state to share the plan, answer questions, and take public input. All meetings will be from 6–7:30 p.m. For more information, visit the [ESSA homepage](#) or [register for the regional meetings online](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)).
- **PearsonAccess Next Unavailable – Date Change:** The day for scheduled system updates in PearsonAccess Next has changed. PearsonAccess Next will now be unavailable Thursday, Aug. 24.

[Back to Top](#)

Tech Update

TestNav 8 Online Support Update

The [TestNav 8 Online Support page](#) (PearsonAccess Next > TestNav 8 Online Support (under Quick Links) > Recently Updated) has been updated with new information to reflect changes in TestNav system requirements. Review the updated requirements when planning for MCA or before performing setup steps.

Change in Support

- No longer supported:
 - iOS 9
 - iPad 2 and 3
 - Android 5 and 6
 - Chrome OS 50-56
- Newly supported:
 - macOS Sierra 10.12 when using the TestNav 8 app

RAM Requirements and Recommendations

- Minimum RAM
 - 1 GB - iOS
 - 2 GB - Android, macOS, Windows
- Recommended RAM
 - 2 GB - iOS
 - 4 GB - Android, macOS, Windows

[Back to Top](#)

STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

education.state.mn.us > Districts, Schools and Educators > Statewide Testing

If you have any questions or want to unsubscribe, please send an email to mde.testing@state.mn.us