

AN UPDATE FROM STATEWIDE TESTING – SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

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College Entrance Exam Reimbursement Payments

Districts who entered reimbursement requests in GRR by Sept. 15 for 2016–2017 college entrance exams will receive payment via the regular state payment process this week. These payments are generally deposited into the account the state has on file for the vendor number associated with the payment. The invoice number, or ID, is “GRR-Reimbursement.” You can see the amount to be sent in the Final Student Amount report in GRR under Reimbursement Reports.

Note: The Status Date is the date the student took the assessment. If a district left this blank, it defaulted to the date the request was made. Districts that recently requested reimbursement may have inadvertently made a request for the 2017–2018 school year if they left the Status Date blank. In such cases, there would be no distribution of funds until fall 2018. If you have any questions, email mde.testing@state.mn.us.

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Fall Webinar for DACs

MDE will host a webinar for all DACs on Oct. 26, from 10–11 a.m. This webinar will be an overview of some of the changes for 2017–2018 that will be in place prior to spring DAC test administration training, including changes in required trainings for all staff, posting of resources on PearsonAccess Next and trainings in the Training Management System (TMS), and relevant updates from the state-of-the-state assessments presentation at the A+ Conference. A registration link will be including in a future *Assessment Update*.

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Benchmark Reports Available in PearsonAccess Next

The 2017 Benchmark Reports are now available in PearsonAccess Next under Reports > Published Reports. Use these reports to help identify relative benchmark performance compared to expected performance based on overall scores. For subject-specific information, see the [2017 Benchmark Report User Guides](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Reporting Resources > Additional Reporting Resources). Benchmark reports are not produced when student counts at the school or district level fall below 20.

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2017–2018 College Entrance Exam Administration Details

Based on 2017 legislation, districts are still required to offer a nationally recognized college entrance exam during the school day to students in grades 11 and 12. Students must be offered the opportunity but are not required to participate. Districts can receive reimbursement for students eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal and may require students who are not eligible for reimbursement to pay the cost of taking the exam.

The ACT and SAT are the two nationally recognized college entrance exams available to districts. Districts must enter into a contract directly with the test vendor. Test dates and registration deadlines are determined by the vendor. See the following for more information.

ACT

- View the [ACT State and District Testing page](#).
- Contact April Hansen at april.hansen@act.org with any questions.

College Board

- View information on the [SAT School Day page](#).
- Contact Kristian Gist at kgist@collegeboard.org with any questions.

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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).

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Longitudinal Reporting Focus Group (repeat)

Pearson is seeking participants to take part in Longitudinal Reporting virtual focus groups this fall. Feedback from these short sessions will be used to improve user experience and inform future enhancement decisions. If you are interested, contact the Pearson help desk at (888) 817-8659 or [submit a Pearson help desk request](#).

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

Interpreting ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Score Reports

MDE and WIDA will host regional, in-person trainings for EL educators and coordinators that will examine score reports, identify their connection to the WIDA English Language Development Standards Framework, and describe how to use these reports as a tool to initiate discussion on instruction.

The training in Roseville is full, so registration for this location is now closed. If you are interested in attending, you can still [register for the Mankato or St. Cloud training](#).

DATE	LOCATION
Tuesday, Sept. 26 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Full: Registration now closed for this location	Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center B: Rooms CC-17/18 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113
Wednesday, Sept. 27 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Rasmussen College – Mankato Room 100 130 St. Andrews Dr. Mankato, MN 56001
Thursday, Sept. 28 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m.	Rasmussen College – St. Cloud Rooms 104 & 106 226 Park Ave. S St. Cloud, MN 56301

New DAC Orientation

MDE and Pearson are hosting a New DAC (District Assessment Coordinator) Orientation designed for brand new DACs in their first year. Relatively new DACs are also welcome to attend if they think it would be beneficial.

MDE will present on the various roles of a DAC, Minnesota Assessments, relevant MDE systems, available resources, and training opportunities. Pearson will present on their systems, PearsonAccess Next and TestNav,

and available reports. For those who cannot make it to an in-person training, there will be a webinar option provided at a later date.

Each session will be from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. with check-in beginning at 8:30 a.m. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Note: Last week's *Assessment Update* included the wrong date for the Roseville orientation. The Roseville orientation will take place on Thursday, Oct. 12.

DATE & REGISTRATION	LOCATION
Tuesday, Oct. 10 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the St. Cloud orientation.	Courtyard – St. Cloud 5 th Ave. Room 404 West Germain St. St. Cloud, MN 56301
Wednesday, Oct. 11 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the Mankato orientation.	Courtyard – Mankato Gallery C/D 901 Raintree Rd. Mankato, MN 56001
Thursday, Oct. 12 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Register for the Roseville orientation.	Minnesota Department of Education Conference Center B: Room CC-15 1500 Hwy 36 West Roseville, MN 55113

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Tech Update

Device Toolkit Enhancement for ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Screener

DRC recently enhanced the Device Toolkit, which is the interface used to manage and configure testing devices for WIDA Screener Online and ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessments. The [Device Toolkit Enhancements document](#) provides an overview of the changes and steps for using the new interface to configure your testing environment. In addition, WIDA and DRC have developed a [Device Toolkit Tutorial](#).

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STATEWIDE TESTING: MEASURING EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MINNESOTA

Minnesota Department of Education

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