

MontCAS

Montana Comprehensive Assessment System

2012-13 Statewide Testing Schedule	
August/September 2012	High schools will receive information about the ACT Plus Writing Administration
December 3, 2012 - January 29, 2013	English Language Proficiency Assessment - WIDA Please see information beginning on page 5 of this newsletter.
January 9 -11, 2013	OPI Assessment and Data Conference, Billings The conference will begin the afternoon of January 9 with a full day on January 10 and morning sessions on January 11.
February 19 - March 26, 2013	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science. The first week of this window is intended for training and the preparation of materials.
March 4 - March 26, 2013	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math; Grades 4, 8, and 10, Science.
April 23 - May 7, 2013	ACT Plus Writing for Public School Students in Grade 11 April 23: Initial Test Day May 7: Makeup Test Day April 23 - May 7: Accommodated Testing Window

Spring 2012 CRT and CRT-Alt Results	
May 25, 2012 (by 5pm)	CRT and CRT-Alternate Reading, Math, and Science Summary Reports and Interactive Data, System Roster Data File, Individual Student Reports, and CRT and CRT-Alternate Report Interpretation Guide posted on <i>MARS</i> .
September 1, 2012	CRT and CRT-Alternate Report Interpretation Guide, Individual Student Reports, and Cumulative Folder Labels shipped to System Test Coordinators. Each system and school should have a plan to ensure that student reports will be sent to parents/guardians within two weeks of receipt.

- Reading and Math results for grades 3-8 and 10 and Science results for grades 4, 8, and 10 will be available on the Montana Analysis and Reporting System (*MARS*) **May 25, 2012**.
- The school and system reports posted on *MARS* are Roster and Item Level Reports and Summary Reports. The System Roster Data File and Individual Student Reports will also be posted.



opi.mt.gov

Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

May 2012



NOTE More information about *MARS* begins on page 3.

- **Printed Individual Student Reports** and cumulative file labels for Reading and Math in grades 3-8 and 10 and Science in grades 4, 8, and 10 will be mailed to System Test Coordinators in September. Each system and school should have a plan to ensure that student reports will be sent to parents/guardians within two weeks of receipt.
 - In the September shipment will be letters to accompany the Individual Student Reports for students who participated in the CRT with a nonstandard accommodation(s).
 - Please read the letter and send it **ONLY with reports that indicate a nonstandard accommodation(s)**. If a report indicates the student took the CRT with a nonstandard accommodation(s), the letter should accompany the report home.
 - **Please do not send the letter with all reports.** Thank you.
 - In some cases, student results were invalidated due to testing irregularities. Each district and school has been notified.
 - The reports for those students with invalidated results will indicate the invalidation(s).
 - It is recommended that the students' parents/guardians be contacted prior to their receiving the reports.
- **Released items** will be posted on *MARS* and on the OPI assessment website by May 31:
 - Click on the Released Items tab to view a list of the files.
http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#gpm1_7
- **Reports for home-schooled students** who took the CRT or CRT-Alternate in your school:
 - The results for these students are not included in any of your system or school reports on *MARS*.
 - In September, you (or the County Superintendent) will receive the printed Individual Student Report and cumulative file label for each home-schooled student who took the test in your school.
 - Please contact the County Superintendent to arrange delivery of these items to the parents/guardians.





MARS Information

MARS, the Montana Analysis and Reporting System, is a secure online site accessible by usernames and passwords assigned to schools and districts.

Results of the 2012 CRT and CRT-Alternate will be posted on **MARS** by 5pm on May 25, 2012.

- **System Test Coordinator’s and Principal’s MARS usernames and passwords will remain the same.**
 - Please remember these are master passwords and are only for the superintendent, building principals, authorized representatives, or system test coordinators. All other educators needing access to **MARS** should be assigned a separate username and password using the Accounts Management tool in **MARS**. A short prerecorded webinar, **MARS Account Management**, provides directions for assigning passwords. Click the hyperlink above, or type the following address into your web browser to go to the MontCAS Presents MARS Page to view all MARS training webinars. (http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/MontCAS_Presents.html#p7GPc1_6)
- If a teacher was assigned to a student in the “Sortby” field in AIM for the 2012 testing, a new 2012 password will automatically be generated and posted in the “Teacher Roster.”
 - 2011 teacher level passwords will be refreshed.
 - The Teacher Roster can be accessed on the principal’s homepage in **MARS**.
- If a teacher was not assigned to a student(s) in AIM, the test coordinator/principal will need to make the assignments and create new usernames and passwords using the Accounts Management tool in **MARS**.
- The **MARS User Manual** and the **MARS** reports will be posted on the secure Measured Progress iServices site on May 25, 2012: <http://iServices.MeasuredProgress.org>
 - Select “Montana” or “Montana ALT” (either works for both CRT and CRT-ALT) from the dropdown menu and click “Enter.”
 - For the *User Manual*, select “Forms and Manuals”
 - Select **MARS User Manual** (pdf)
 - For **MARS**
 - Select **MARS**
 - Enter your Username and Password. These were assigned to systems and schools in June 2008.
- If you need password assistance, please contact Alisia Landis, 406-444-3511 or alandis2@mt.gov

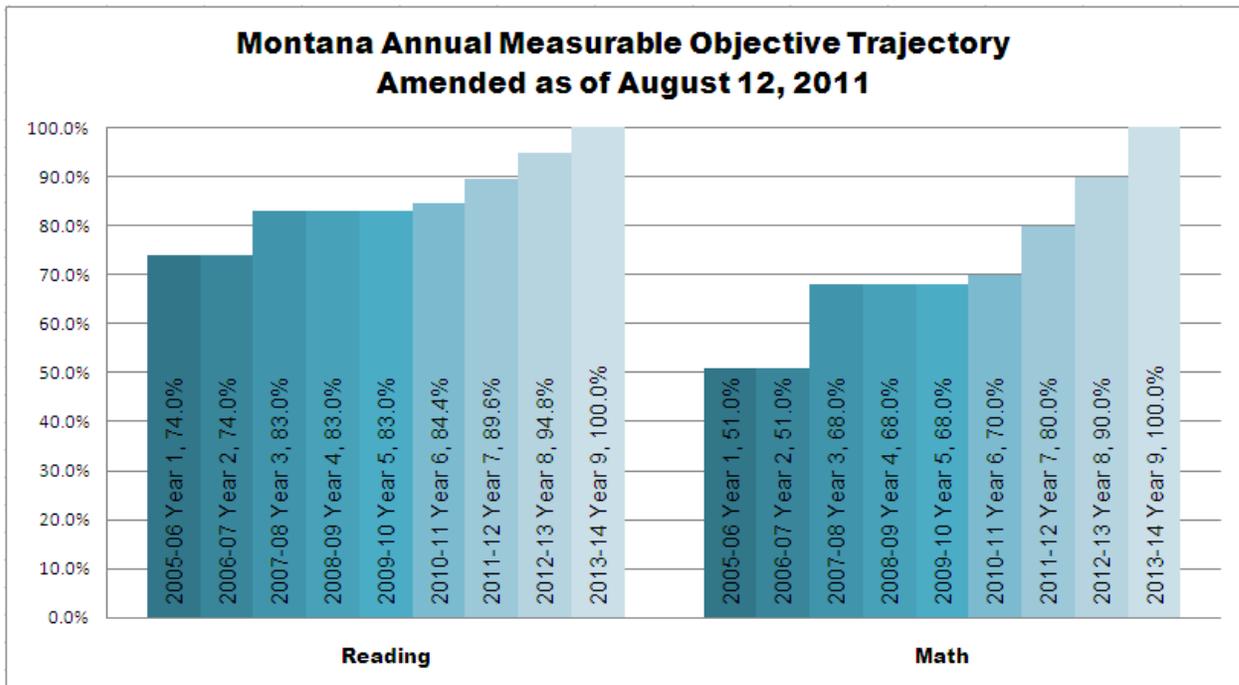


2012 Adequate Yearly Progress Information

Timeline for Determinations



Adequate Yearly Progress Proficiency Annual Measurable Objectives (AYP/AMOs)





English Language Proficiency Test: *Access for ELLS/WIDA*

As you know, 2011-12 was the first administration of the *ACCESS for ELLS* (English Language Learners). Because this is a new test for Montana, in August 2012, Montana educators will participate in determining a new definition of proficient and new exit criteria which will have implications for the status of students in AIM. For this reason, the data/reports/results are being released in two phases.

NOTE It would not be unusual for the results of the *ACCESS for ELLS* to be lower than for the previous ELP.

Phase 1: April 15, 2012: WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Assessment Results Online

- In order to access this data, system test coordinators should contact MetriTech's Customer Service at 800-747-4868 or email wida@metritech.com with your system information to request access to the secure site.
- MetriTech will supply a unique password to the site where you will be able to download your system's data in Microsoft Excel or TAB delimited format.
- It is recommended that you share the school-specific data from the online data file with your schools now so they may make informed decisions on student placement for the fall and that you wait until late August to inform parents/guardians of their student's level when guidance on exit criteria and the printed reports are available.
- To help understand the data, the following WIDA resources are available (please click on the underlined bullet points below to access each document).
 - [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide Summary 2012](#)
 - [CAN Do Descriptors for the Levels of English Language Proficiency](#)
 - [Parent/Guardian Sample Report - 2012](#)
 - [Teacher Sample Report - 2012](#)
 - [ACCESS for ELLs Interpretive Guide 2012](#)

Phase 2: August 2012: Exit Criteria Information will be Released.

After exit criteria and AMAO (Annual Measureable Achievement Objectives) decisions are determined in August, MetriTech will mail one copy each of the following printed reports for the 2011-2012 WIDA *ACCESS for ELLs* assessments to each participating system:

- District (system) Frequency Distribution Report;
- School Frequency Distribution Report for each school;
- Student Roster Report for each school;
- Teacher Report for each student 1-12;
- Kindergarten Teacher Report for each K student; and
- Parent/Guardian Report for each student

Questions about accessing the online data file:

- MetriTech's Customer Service wida@metritech.com or 800-747-4868.

Other questions:

- Therese Tucker, 444-0748 or ttucker@mt.gov.

MontCAS Presents Summer Online Classes



http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/MontCAS_Presents.html

Two classes are back by popular demand and a new one is being offered. Standards-Based IEPs

Thanks to continued interest, the course will be offered for five weeks from June 6 to July 6, 2012. Dr. Gail McGregor of the Rural Institute on Disabilities will introduce the concept of aligning IEPs for students with disabilities with the general education curriculum standards using a series of five online modules. This class, which can be taken for 2 graduate credits or up to 30 Renewal Units, has filled up quickly in the past.

Register by June 11, 2012 at the following link:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/RegForms/Assessment/FAME/index.php>

FAME-CI: Formative Assessment for Montana Educators - Classroom Instruction

Thanks to continued interest, the course will be offered for 6 weeks from June 18 to July 27, 2012. Dr. Stevie Schmitz of Rocky Mountain College will focus on increasing understanding of formative assessment and help participants become skillful users of formative assessment in their classroom. Register by June 25, 2012 at the following link: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/RegForms/Assessment/FAME/index.php>

Teaching and Assessing LEP Students

The anticipated class dates are June 25-July 27, 2012. Lynn Hinch, OPI Bilingual Specialist, Therese Tucker, OPI Interim Assessment Specialist, and Don Bouchard from the WIDA consortium will focus on increasing understanding of teaching Limited English Proficient students in Montana using the new English Language Proficiency assessment results and how best to develop academic language proficiency for all students.

Register by June 25, 2012 at the following link:

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/RegForms/Assessment/FAME/index.php>

Be on the lookout for two other classes that will start in July:

- Math and Montana Common Core Standards
- Writing and the Montana Common Core Standards

For more information:

- Therese Tucker (406-444-0748, ttucker@mt.gov) or Alisia Landis (406-444-3511, alandis2@mt.gov) with the Assessment Division of the Office of Public Instruction
- MontCAS Presents: http://opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/MontCAS/MontCAS_Presents.html



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Transition to the Montana Common Core Standards and Assessments

<http://www.opi.mt.gov/MontanaCommonCoreStandards>

Please visit the redesigned Getting Ready site for resources for the transition. It includes professional development as well as specific information and resources for English Language Arts, Mathematics and Assessment.

Professional Development
English Language Arts and Literacy
Mathematics
Assessment

The assessment tab will provide information and news about the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium.



It includes key dates and opportunities for participating in item development, pilot and field testing as well as information on computer adaptive testing and technology needs and readiness. During the summer, this site will be regularly updated, so it may be a good summer plan to visit it on a weekly basis.

OPI Assessment Staff

Alisia Landis, Administrative Assistant
alandis2@mt.gov, 406-444-3511

Therese Tucker, Interim Assessment Specialist
ttucker@mt.gov, 406-444-0748

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director
jsnow@mt.gov, 406-444-3656 FAX: 406-444-0743