



# Montana

## Office of Public Instruction

### New STC Track | Part 3: MontCAS Test Security Course

2020 Data & Assessment “ASSIST” Conference

Delta Hotels, Helena . January 13, 2020

Shantel Niederstadt | NAEP State Coordinator | OPI Assessment Unit  
[sniederstadt@mt.gov](mailto:sniederstadt@mt.gov) | (406) 444.3450

# Session Objective

---

- To facilitate a training session so Test Administrators can be trained in test security for a standardized administration of the MontCAS statewide summative assessments.



# Critical Partners in Assessment



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F7EdQ1YiivScSAABuZQSyvcY-3Oyl2cx/view?usp=sharing>

This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-ND

# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know



## Six Things Stakeholders Should Know About Participation and Testing in Montana

The purpose of this document is to ensure that readers are aware of the significant value to stakeholders (e.g., students, parents/guardians, teachers, school leaders, and others) of the information derived from participating in state-level tests.

### I. Why Assess?

The state assessments provide a valuable picture of what skills and knowledge are needed at particular grade levels for a child to remain on course to be college and career ready at the time of graduation. Teachers use these assessments as one of several important tools to help identify and meet the needs of children in the classroom. It is a real disadvantage for parents and students to be unaware of their access to this important information. Assessment is a hot topic of conversation, with many diverse opinions on how, when, amount of time, what tests, and for what purpose we assess students. Here are important points all stakeholders should know about testing:

- State and federal laws require schools to assess student learning every year in specific grade levels and subjects.
- End-of-year state summative assessments serve as an evaluation tool to track progress toward education goals based on grade and content area standards.
- Assessment data enable us to put Montana students first through four key initiatives: [Montana Hope](#), [Montana Teach](#), [Montana Learn](#), and [Montana Ready](#).

### II. Why Should Taxpayers Care?

Assessments are important, as they are a key indicator of whether state and federal monies for educational programs are being used effectively. Annual state assessments are the same for all Montana students, and they provide information about how students are progressing over time. This information assists the state with targeting supports and resources to the students and schools that need them most. The six required state summative assessments provide valuable information on how students are performing academically by grade and content area to help identify areas of success from which others can learn.

- Montana taxpayers provide a free public education to approximately 150,000 Montana students each year, and these assessments ensure all students are equitably receiving resources across the state.
- The assessment data are used to evaluate programs by providing annual snapshots of student progress toward learning Montana's Content Standards at the state-, district-, school-, and classroom-levels.
- State assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities and assessments, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, the annual state tests can provide a complete picture of a child's abilities and path toward academic success based on Montana's Content Standards.

MontCAS Six Things Stakeholders Should Know About Participation  
Prepared by the Office of Public Instruction, Elsie Amtzen, State Superintendent, December 2019 | Page 1



# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know

- Why Access?
  - State and federal laws requirements
  - Track progress toward educational
  - Assessment data enable us to put Montana students first through four key initiatives: [Montana Hope](#), [Montana Teach](#), [Montana Learn](#), and [Montana Ready](#).



# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know

- Why Should Taxpayers Care?
  - Ensure all students are equitably receiving resources.
  - Provide an annual snapshot of student progress toward learning Montana’s Content Standards.
  - Only one measure of student learning to be combined with district and classroom activities and assessments.

# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know

- **What is State Testing?**

- **Smarter Balanced (SBAC)** is the general math and reading/language arts in Grades 3-8.
- **ACT with Writing** is the general math and reading/language arts in Grade 11.
- **Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)** is the alternate math and reading/language arts in Grades 3-8 and 11 with cognitive disabilities.
- **Montana Science Assessment (MSA)** is the general science in grades 5, 8, and 11.
- **Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA)** is the alternate science in Grades 5, 8, and 11 with cognitive disabilities.
- **ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Screener** is the English Language Proficiency for English Learners (EL) in Grades K-12.

# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know

- **What is State Testing?**

- Students in grades 4-12 are required to have a minimum of 1,080 hours of instruction.
- In the instance of state required testing, the average grade 5 students is estimated to spend 6-8 hours taking the Smarter Balance assessment and to spend 1.5 ours taking the Montana Science Assessment (See Figure Below).
- In other words, the average child will spend 7-10 hours total, or less than one percent of instructional time, on the statewide assessment.

State Tested Grades													
Assessment (Subject Area)	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Smarter Balanced (Mathematics)						3-4 hrs							
Smarter Balanced (English Language Arts)						3-4 hrs							
Montana Science Assessment (Science)						1.5 hrs							



# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know

- Why Is Participation Important?
  - High participation rates are essential for meaning and accurate school score reports.
  - Strong participation rates ensure accurate and reliable test scores for informing programs and local decision-making efforts.

# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know

- What Participation is Required?
  - No “opt out” law
  - 95% percent or more for all students or for any student subgroup consisting of 10 or more students.
  - 1% percent or less of all students taking the alternate assessment
  - Non-participation beyond the control of the school must be reported using the [MontCAS Application](#).

$$\text{Participation Rate} = \frac{\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ Tested Students During the Testing Windows and} \\ \# \text{ Students Enrolled on the Test Window Count Dates} \end{array}}{\begin{array}{l} \# \text{ Students Enrolled on Test Window Count Dates and} \\ \# \text{ Tested Students During the Testing Windows and} \\ \# \text{ Students Absent on Test Window Count Dates} \end{array}}$$

# Six Things Stakeholders Should Know

- What Funding and Programs Rely on State Testing?
  - Title Assurances
  - Accreditation
  - Special Education
  - ESSA Accountability
  - Federal Reporting

If participation rates are not met, then schools may have sanctions applied to one or more of the above programs.

# MontCAS Test Security Portal



## MontCAS Test Security

 

### NAVIGATION

#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- [PREVENTION PART 1: MONTCAS OVERVIEW](#)
- [PREVENTION PART 2: DATA INTEGRITY](#)
- [PREVENTION PART 3: DATA QUALITY AND USE](#)
- [PREVENTION PART 4: DATA INTEGRITY](#)
- [PREVENTION PART 5: BUILD A TEAM](#)
- [PART 6: DETECTION ACTIVITIES](#)
- [PART 7: INSPECTION ACTIVITIES](#)
- [PART 8: RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES](#)
- [PART 9: MONTCAS REPORTING](#)
- [PART 10: RESOURCES](#)
- [GLOSSARY OF TERMS](#)
- [REFERENCES](#)
- [SITEMAP](#)

## Under Construction

This MontCAS Test Security Portal training site is currently under construction. Please revisit the site periodically as we will release sections on a flow basis in anticipation for the January Assessment Conference.

COUNTDOWN TO

<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>
Weeks	Days	Hours	Minutes	Seconds

The conference will be held in Helena, MT at the Delta Hotel on Monday and Tuesday, January 13 and 14, 2020.

[Sign in](#) | [Recent Site Activity](#) | [Report Abuse](#) | [Print Page](#) | Powered By [Google Sites](#)

MontCAS Test Security Google Site:

<https://sites.google.com/a/opiconnect.org/montcas-test-security/>

# Focus on Prevention





# Part 1: MontCAS Overview

---

- [What is the MontCAS Program?](#) (6:11 minutes)
- [Types of Assessment within a Balanced Assessment System](#) (7:22 minutes)



# Part 2: Data Integrity

---

- [What is the State and Federal Requirement?](#)  
(6:09 minutes)
- [The Five Ws of MontCAS Test Security](#) (8:40 minutes)
- [Defining MontCAS Test Security](#) (9:53 minutes)
- [Principles of Data Collection](#) (8:30 minutes)
- [Federal and State Requirements on Participation](#)  
(10:28 minutes)



# Part 3: Data Quality and Use

- [Statewide Participation](#) (11:40 minutes)
- [What Does Accessibility Mean?](#) (8:34 minutes)
- [Meaningful Accessibility and Accommodations](#)  
(9:17 minutes)
- Student Eligibility and Participation: Differing Needs  
(Yet to Come)
- A Case of Test Fraud: The Atlanta Test Scandal  
(Yet to Come)

# Yet to Come

---

- Part 4 – Data Integrity (Prevention)
- Part 5 – Build a Team (Prevention)
- Part 6 – Detection Activities
- Part 7 – Inspection Activities
- Part 8 – Resolution Activities
- Part 9 – MontCAS Reporting
- Part 10 - Resources

# Resources

---

- [Six Things Stakeholders Should Know About Participation and Testing in Montana](#)
- [MontCAS Test Security Portal](#)
- [MontCAS Test Security Manual](#)
- [MontCAS Test Security Collection Schedule 2019-2020](#)
- [STC Roles & Responsibilities](#)
- [MontCAS Application](#)

# We are here to ASSIST!

## Putting Montana Students First

The Assessment Division aims to ensure the annual required statewide assessments are aligned to Montana's college-and career-ready academic standards, are equitable for all students, and provide meaningful results which can be used by various stakeholders to serve learning. We are committed to providing technical assistance to support test administration and in creating professional learning opportunities to increase assessment literacy across the state of Montana. **The MontCAS mission:**

- ◆ **Guide** administrators through the local role(s) and responsibility(ies) to administer required statewide assessments in compliance with federal and state law.
- ◆ **Support** teachers and administrators in developing tools and utilizing assessment data to improve instruction.
- ◆ **Mentor** test administrators on ensuring assessments are locally administered with fidelity and are accessible to all students.
- ◆ **Provide** high-quality technical assistance to support test administration and increase assessment literacy.
- ◆ **Offer** professional learning opportunities to empower educators to better utilize our balanced assessment systems.
- ◆ **Foster** partnerships in a collaborative environment with vested stakeholders.
- ◆ **Pursue** excellence in practice for evidence-based instruction and data-driven decisions.



*Actionable  
Systematic  
Supports to  
Inform  
Students and  
Teachers*



Educator Interests and  
Opportunities in  
Assessment



Use the QR Code (left) or link (below)  
<https://forms.gle/HFvZaYRHRT2YE16m8>  
to launch the form in your device.  
Questions? Contact the  
[OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov)



**MontCAS** Montana Comprehensive  
Assessment System  
Montana Office of Public Instruction

# Questions?

**OPI Assessment Help Desk**

**Phone:** 1.844.867.2569

**E-mail:** [OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov)