



This Month in Assessment—June 2018

June Webinars

MSAA

Smarter Balanced

ACT with Writing

NAEP

CRT/CRT Alt

ACCESS for ELLs

SCILLSS

Test Portal Links

Passwords

Help Desk #s

Contact Us!

2018-2019 Statewide Assessment Calendar*	ACCESS for ELLs English Language Proficiency (ELP)	NAEP Math, Reading and Science	CRT-ALT Alternate Science	CRT Science	MSAA Alternate English Language Arts (ELA) and Math	SBAC ELA and Math	ACT with Writing ELA and Math
Dates:	Dec. 5–Jan. 30	Jan. 28–Mar. 3	Feb. 19–Mar. 26	Feb. 28–Mar. 26	To Be Decided	Mar. 20–May 24	Initial: April 2 Make Up: Apr. 24 Emergency: May 7
K	✓						
1	✓						
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9	✓						
10	✓		✓	✓			
11	✓				✓		✓
12	✓	✓					

June Live Webinars

Date	Topic	Link
June 5, 2018 3:30–4:30 p.m.	This Month in Assessment Special Edition: Results Reports	MontCAS Updates

Webinar Recordings:

Recordings of live webinars can be found on the OPI website at this link: [Assessment Webinars and Training](#).

SMARTER BALANCED

ELA and Math

Things to do this month:

- Complete the Test Security Agreement.** The test security agreement form can be found on [iServices](#) by selecting Montana from the drop-down menu and then choosing “Test Security Agreement”. The link will be live through Monday, June 4, 2018.
- Enter any remaining test irregularities in the MontCAS application.** If you have any test irregularities that have not already been reported, enter those in the [MontCAS application](#) by June 12, 2018.
- Complete data cleanup tasks.** Enter all non-participation reasons in the data cleanup column of the TIDE system.

Results Reporting Schedule

Batch	Student is Administered the Test	Reporting Available in Online Reporting System (ORS)
Batch 1	March 22 - April 6	April 30
Batch 2	April 9 - May 4	May 21
Batch 3	May 7 - May 25	June 11

Smarter Balanced Results Reports Detail

- Reports for students, as well as for schools, will be included in the ORS.
- Student tests are not scored or reported until both the computer-adaptive test and the performance tasks of the ELA and/or math assessments have been completed. It is possible to get a student report for only one content depending on when the content test was administered.
- Printed copies of the Individual Student Reports (ISR) will be mailed to schools in early fall.
- Resources are available to assist System Test Coordinators (STCs), School Coordinators and Teachers with reading and understanding Smarter Balanced score reporting.
 - [Online Reporting System \(ORS\) User Guide](#): This guide provides an overview of the ORS. After reviewing this manual, you should be familiar with navigating the system and viewing score reports.
 - [ORS Training Module](#): This recorded webinar provides information on the Online Reporting System and its functions.
 - [Smarter Balanced Interpretive Guide](#): This guide provides additional information on how to read the Smarter Balanced ISR and further information on each claim level.

AIR Portal Available for Summer 2018

Except for the Test Delivery System, the AIR systems will remain open for the summer months. Schools and districts wishing to access TIDE, the ORS, Airways, and the Assessment Viewing Application will be able to do so through the summer and most of August. Online systems will be down for about 10 days in late August to early September for updates and revisions for the 2018-2019 school year.

ACT with Writing

ELA and Mathematics

ACT with Writing Results Resources

The following resources are available on the [ACT State Testing Site](#).

- [ACT User Handbook for Educators](#) – This handbook is designed to help educators at high schools and colleges, and professionals at the district and state level, as they administer ACT testing, advise students, and use ACT data to make informed decisions.
- [Understanding Your Scores](#) – This ACT site has a wealth of information about results, including score interpretation, making sense of ACT scores, standards and benchmarks, and national ranking information.
- [Using Your ACT Results](#) – Written with students in mind, educators may find useful information in this guide to help students understand their scores.

ACT with Writing School and District Results Reporting Schedule

School Report	Description (these reports are delivered to schools)	Delivery Date
High School Report	Printed report containing scores and other data Schools receive one report per examinee in batches.	3-8 weeks following ACT receipt of examinee test responses
Non-college Reportable Score Notification Letter	Printed letter containing scores achieved using non-college reportable accommodations and/or supports.	No later than July 26, 2018
Profile Report – High School	An aggregate report that provides trends and averages of the high school based on the state/district-tested examinee population.	No later than July 26, 2018
Student Level Data File – High School	A data file that includes scores for all examinees.	No later than July 26, 2018
District Report	Description (these reports are delivered to districts)	Delivery Date
Profile Report – District	An aggregate report that provides the averages of the district based on the state/district-tested examinee population.	No later than July 26, 2018
Profile Report – High School (copy for district)	An aggregate report that provides trends and averages of the high school based on the state/district-tested examinee population.	No later than July 26, 2018
Student Level Data File – District	A data file that includes scores for all examinees.	No later than July 26, 2018

For more detailed results reports information, see the [2018 School and District Report Schedule](#) on the [ACT State Testing Site](#).

ACT with Writing Grant

The GEAR UP Grant provides the ACT with Writing for all public-school Grade 11 students and includes funds to assist with costs related to the administration of the test for Montana public high schools. Grant funds are available for specific expenses related to the actual administration of the test.

Award letters were emailed to ACT Test Coordinators the first week in April 2018. Applications and amendments must be submitted in the eGrants system no later than June 30, 2018. The deadline for cash requests and expenditure reports is June 30, 2018. For questions about the grant, contact Marcy Fortner at 406-444-3511 or mfortner@mt.gov. For questions about the eGrants system, how it works, or accepting and receiving awarded funds, contact Karla Beagles at 406-444-0764 or kbeagles@mt.gov.

Upcoming Changes to Extended-Time Test Administration

New policies for the ACT with Writing test will affect the Spring 2019 administration of the statewide test for Montana Grade 11 students. Examinees with diagnosed disabilities or English learning needs who qualify for extended-time accommodations on the ACT test will have a time limit on each section of the test with a hard stop after each section. Act is making this change to address issues raised in feedback from students and test administrators, to improve fairness for all examinees, and make ACT’s administration procedures more consistent with industry standards. For more information see the [Frequently Asked Questions document](#).

MSAA

Alternate Assessment, ELA and Math

Results Reporting Schedule

Report Format	Date Available
Result reports available - districts download and print student reports to share with parents.	Tentative August 24, 2018

Resources

Resource Name and Hyperlink	Description
MSAA Interpretive Guide	The interpretive guide provides information on each results report and suggestions for interpretation. This guide includes information that identifies the demonstrated skills of a student performing at a performance level.
Online Assessment System	This is the MSAA online assessment portal. Result reports will be available to download for a 4-week window tentatively starting on August 24, 2018. STCs will need to log in and download the results file for the district and print out the ISR for distribution to parents and educators.

NAEP

National and International Assessment Studies

It is that time again for the biennial Nation’s Report Card

The 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) assessments, also known as *The Nation’s Report Card* will take place *January 28 to March 8, 2019*. Districts and schools will be notified in May of their selection for the assessment so they can place the test window on their local calendars and incorporate NAEP into the planned school program. NAEP is the largest nationally representative measure of student achievement across the country and is a congressionally authorized project of the National Center for Education Statistics within the U.S. Department of Education. This vital state-level data collection is conducted every two years and provides Montana with information on how our students

perform across time and compared to other states/jurisdictions.

Roughly a third of Montana’s schools are selected to participate in this assessment. An average of 2,500 students in about 100 public schools are assessed per grade for each subject. The overarching characteristic that determines the chance of being selected for NAEP in a state year in Montana depends mostly on the school’s enrollment size (i.e., the larger the school the more likely it is to be sampled). In 2019, NAEP will administer three operational assessments including mathematics, reading, and science at Grades 4, 8, and 12. Most students will take the assessment on tablets with keyboards and only students selected for special studies may be selected to take the paper-and-pencil versions of the assessment.

Grade 4 and 8 Tablet Session: Up to two sequential sessions of about 25 students each (except in large multi-team schools). Each session will last approximately 120 minutes, including transition time and instructions, and require a dedicated space for most, if not all, of the school day.

Grade 4 and 8 Paper Session: Typically consists of one session of about 12-13 students that last approximately 90 minutes, including transition time and instructions, and must be conducted in a separate space from the tablet session.

A small number of Montana schools may be selected to participate in a few other special studies. As in previous years, NAEP assessment teams will provide significant support to schools, bring all necessary materials and equipment, including tablets, and administer the assessment. Starting in June, each school will receive its assessment data. For questions about the NAEP 2019 program, contact Ashley McGrath at amcgrath@mt.gov or 406-444 -3450.

CRT & CRT ALT Science

Science

2018 CRT Score Reports Schedule

Report Format	Date Available
Online reports available in MARS	May 29, 2018
OPI release of complete and verified results	Mid July
Paper reports to districts	Early Fall

Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS)

The MARS is a secure online site where digital results for the CRT Science and CRT Alt Science can be accessed and analyzed. [MARS](#) is accessible by usernames and passwords assigned to schools and districts. Passwords are master passwords and are only for superintendents, building principals, authorized representatives, or STCs. 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 instructions for assigning passwords.

If a teacher was assigned to a student in the “sort by” field in AIM for the 2018 testing, a new 2018 password will automatically be generated and posted in the “teacher roster”. 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 STC/principal will need to make the assignments and create new passwords using the accounts management tool in MARS.

For detailed instructions on using MARS, see the [MARS User Manual](#). The MARS [Report Interpretation Guide](#) provides support to local educators in understanding and using test data.

If you need password assistance, contact Marcy Fortner, 406-444-3511 or mfortner@mt.gov.

SCILLSS

OPI is gearing up for the Statewide Science Transition

The OPI Science Partner Task Force convened for its quarterly meeting on transition on May 7. During this meeting, the OPI provided updates on the three state activities for *Parallel Planning for Science* including working group updates on (1) Communication and Timeline, (2) Comprehensive Rule Review and Revision, and (3) Competitive Bid Process. The first update shared with the task force some of the results from the February Stakeholder Survey that included topics like viewpoints about the timeline (or rollout), identification of implementation challenges and critical next steps, preferences for reporting/online design/integration, perspectives on accountability, grades administered, and how Montana educators should be included in the design and development processes of a new assessment. After this share out, the OPI provided an update on the request for information on the *Balanced Statewide Next Generation Science Assessment System*.

The next working group update was on the negotiated rulemaking (NR) *Save-the-Date* announcement. The *Save-the-Date* is for any interested person wishing to serve on the upcoming NR Committee. The OPI posted notice for [Montana Administrative Register](#) (MAR or Register) on NR for [10.56.101 Student Assessment](#) rules on May 25. Nominations and/or applications for the NR Committee must be received no later than June 30.

The progress update was on the expectations for testing in the spring of 2019 and the communication need for school districts. The OPI will continue to use the CRT-Science general assessment and alternate in Grades 4, 8 and 10 until spring 2020.

If you have any questions about the transition or the OPI Science Partner Task Force, contact Ashley McGrath at amcgrath@mt.gov or 406-444-3450.

ACCESS FOR ELLs

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Accessing Score Reports

To access score results from [WIDA AMS](#), select *Test Results* from the *Report Delivery* menu to display the test results page. You can use the administration, district, school and report drop-down menus to filter the display.

Test Results

Test Results allows the user to search for various reports showing test results. The user can view or download the report data.

Administration
XX-ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

District School Report
DRC Use Only - Sam DRC Use Only - Sam (All)

Show Reports Download Reports

Available Reports:

Grades K–12 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

- District Frequency Distribution Reports
- School Frequency Distribution Reports
- School Roster Reports
 - Individual Student Reports
 - Student Response Files – District (.csv)

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (if applicable)

- District Frequency Distribution Reports
- School Frequency Distribution Reports
- School Roster Reports
- Individual Student Reports
- Student Response Files – District (.csv)

On-Demand Student Reports

Individual Student Reports are available in many languages from *Report Delivery>On-Demand Reports*.

On-Demand Reports

On-Demand Reports allows the user to search for Student Reports. The user can open or save the pdf reports.

[Instructions](#)

* Indicates required fields

Administration XX-ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 *	District DRC Use Only - Sample D *	School DRC Use Only - Sample S *
Report Translated Reports *	Language English *	Grade (All)
Last Name sample	First Name	
State Student ID	Session	

Students						
Select	Last Name	First Name	State StudentID	Date Of Birth	Grade	Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample	Jason	800		09	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sampler	Jason	801		09	

To view On Demand Student Reports, select *On Demand Reports* from the *Report Delivery* menu.

Contact DRC Customer Support with any questions at WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com or 1-855-787-9615.

Passwords

Many of the MontCAS programs require separate passwords to access test management sites, training materials, and test results. The following is a list of programs that require separate passwords.

- **Smarter Balanced** test administration, administration certification, interim tests, and test results.
- **Smarter Balanced Digital Library** of formative assessment processes.
- **CRT and CRT Alt** test results.
- **ACT Plus Writing** test administration, reports, and test results.
- **MSAA** (Multi State Alternate Assessment) test administration and training, results, and student reports.
- **Access for ELLs 2.0** Test Administrator training, Assessment Management System, WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT), result reports.
- **MontCAS Online Reporting** non-participation and testing irregularity reports and nonstandard accommodations requests.

**Need help with passwords?
Click here to contact us.**

Online Assessment System Links

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and W-APT Screener, English Language Proficiency Screener

- Training and online resources: www.wida.us
- Assessment Management System: www.wida-ams.us
- [OPI ELP page link](#)

Smarter Balanced

- Assessment system link: <http://mt.portal.airast.org/>
- [OPI Smarter Balanced page link](#)

MSAA

- Assessment Management System: www.msaaassessment.org
- [OPI MSAA page link](#)

ACT with Writing

- Assessment Management link: [Pearson Access Next](#)
- [OPI ACT page link](#)
- ACT Online Prep link: [ACT Online Prep](#)

MontCAS Assessment Help Desk Contact Information

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and W-APT English Language Proficiency Screener

- WIDA help desk phone: 866-876-7735
- WIDA help desk email: help@wida.us
- WIDA AMS help desk phone: 855-787-9615
- WIDA AMS help desk email: WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com

Smarter Balanced and Science CRT and Alt Service Desk

- Phone: 888-792-2741
- Email: montanahelpdesk@measuredprogress.org

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

- Phone: 866-834-8879
- Email: MSAAServiceCenter@MeasuredProgress.org

ACT with Writing

General Inquiries

- Phone: 800-553-6244, Ext. 2800
- Email: [Contact Form](#)

Accommodations Questions

- Phone: 800-553-6244, Ext. 1788
- Email: ACTStateAccoms@act.org

ACT Online Prep Questions

- Phone: 319-337-1429
- Email: [Contact Form](#)

**Not sure who
to contact?
Click here**

Assessment Contacts

Assessment Division

Toll-free phone:
844-867-2569

[OPI Assessment Help Desk](#)

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