



## This Month in Assessment – May 2018

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	<b>ACCESS for ELLs</b> English Language Proficiency (ELP)	<b>CRT-ALT</b> Alternate Science	<b>CRT</b> Science	<b>MSAA</b> Alternate English Language Arts (ELA) and Math	<b>SBAC</b> ELA and Math	<b>ACT with Writing</b> ELA and Math
<b>2017-2018 Statewide Assessment Calendar*</b>						
<b>Dates:</b>	Dec. 6–Jan. 31	Feb. 20–Mar. 27	Mar. 1–Mar. 27	Mar. 19–May 4	Mar. 21–May 25	Initial: Mar. 20 Make Up: Apr. 24 Emergency: May 8
<b>K</b>	✓					
<b>1</b>	✓					
<b>2</b>	✓					
<b>3</b>	✓			✓	✓	
<b>4</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>5</b>	✓			✓	✓	
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<b>7</b>	✓			✓	✓	
<b>8</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>9</b>	✓					
<b>10</b>	✓	✓	✓			
<b>11</b>	✓			✓		✓
<b>12</b>	✓					

\*[NAEP Schedule of Events](#)

## May Live Webinars

Date	Topic	Link
May 8, 2018 3:30 – 4:30 PM	This Month in Assessment MontCAS Updates	<a href="#">MontCAS Updates</a>

### Webinar Recordings:

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

# SMARTER BALANCED

## ELA and Mathematics

### Things to do this month:

- Ensure your new students and those moving out of your district are updated in AIM.** The OPI has begun twice weekly uploads to the TIDE system. Newly enrolled students cannot be manually entered into the TIDE system and will not show up in TIDE if they have not been updated in AIM. The uploads occur during the nighttime hours on Mondays and Wednesdays, resulting in new students appearing in TIDE on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Complete Smarter Balanced testing by May 25, 2018.**
- Complete the Test Security Agreement as Smarter Balanced testing is completed.** Authorized Representatives, System Test Coordinators, and Test Administrators **must** complete the Smarter Balanced Online 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”.
- Enter any remaining test irregularities in the MontCAS application.** If you have any test irregularities that have not already been reported, please be sure to enter those in the [MontCAS application](#).
- Complete data cleanup tasks.** Enter all non-participation reasons in the Data Cleanup column of the TIDE system.

Districts and schools must have their Smarter Balanced testing completed by May 25, 2018. Check out the checklists in the [Test Administration Manual](#) (TAM). Checklists for System Test Coordinators, School Coordinators, and Test Administrators begin on page 68.

### Smarter Balanced Test Completion Reports

As schools and districts move toward the end of the test window, running test completion reports may be helpful in determining if all students have completed testing. The report is accessed through the [TIDE tile](#) in the AIR portal. In the ‘Administering Tests’ (green) column, choose ‘Test Completion Rates’ from the drop-down menu for ‘Monitoring Test Progress’. Specific instructions for running the report can be found on pages 59-60 of the [TIDE User Guide](#).

### 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 Online Reporting System (ORS).
- Student tests are not scored or reported until both the computer-adaptive test (CAT) and the performance tasks (PT) 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 tests were administered.
- Printed copies of the Individual Student Reports (ISR) will be mailed to schools in early fall.
- Resources are available to assist STCs, SCs and TEs 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.

## Smarter Balanced Test Window Selected for 2019

The test window dates for the administration of spring 2019 Smarter Balanced testing have been selected. The test window will open on **March 20, 2019** and run through **May 24, 2019**.

# ACT with Writing

## ELA and Mathematics

### Things to do this month:

- Return Emergency Test Date test materials on May 9, 2018.** Note that late-arriving answer documents will not be scored.
- Report all non-participants in the [MontCAS application](#).**
- Watch for score reports to arrive.** See below for details.

### ACT with Writing Emergency Date Test Materials Returns

All emergency test date test materials must be ready for UPS pickup to return to ACT on May 9, 2018. The deadline for receipt at ACT is May 18, 2018 for standard testing materials. For detailed instructions for returning materials, see pages 22 through 26 of the [Test Coordinator's Manual](#). **\*Late arriving answer documents will not be scored.**

### 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 also 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 all 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 and 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 tile that includes all 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 public Montana high schools. Grant funds are available to use for specific expenses related to the actual administration of the test.

Award letters were emailed to ACT TCs the first week in April 2018. Applications must be completed in the eGrants system no later than June 1, 2018. Approved applications and any needed amendments must be submitted in the eGrants system no later than June 30, 2018. For questions about the grant, contact Marcy Fortner at 406-444-3511 or [mfortner@mt.gov](mailto:mfortner@mt.gov). For questions about the eGrants system, how it works, or accepting and receiving awarded funds, please contact Karla Beagles at 406-444-0764 or [kbeagles@mt.gov](mailto:kbeagles@mt.gov).

## ACT with Writing Dates Selected for 2019

Dates for the Spring 2019 ACT with Writing administration have been selected. The initial test date will be **Tuesday, April 2, 2019**, the Makeup date will be **Wednesday, April 24, 2019** and the Emergency Date will be **Tuesday, May 7, 2019**.

# MCAA

Alternate Assessment, English Language Arts and Mathematics

## Things to do this month:

- Ensure all tests have been submitted or closed by 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 4, 2018.
- Enter any remaining test irregularities and report all non-participants in the MontCAS application.

## Results Reporting Schedule

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

## Resources

Resource Name and Hyperlink	Description
<a href="#">MSAA Interpretive Guide</a>	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 particular performance level.
<a href="#">Online Assessment System</a>	This is the MSAA online assessment portal. Results 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

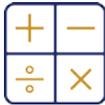
## National and International Assessment Studies

### Did You Know....

April 10<sup>th</sup> was NAEP Day! Montana had almost 300 schools participate in the 2017 math and reading assessments for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also called “The Nation’s Report Card”. NAEP details the continued achievement of Montana fourth- and eighth-graders on tests administered by the U. S. Department of Education from January to March of 2017. It is important to note that NAEP is a sample of schools and a sample of students within selected schools so some observed score differences on the NAEP scale of 0-500 may or may not be significant. Any differences found in scores within a year or across years are referred to with appropriate adjectives whereas “maintained” means no significant change within a year or across years.

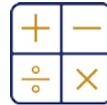
Nationally, student scores maintained in Grades 4 and 8 math and in Grade 4 reading, while Grade 8 reading showed improvement. In Montana, scores maintained in Grades 4 and 8 math and in Grad 4 reading, while Grade 8 reading showed a decline. Approximately 9,500 Montana students participated in NAEP. **NAEP is only designed to produce group scores so there is no school-level or student-level results available.**

**SINCE 2015, HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE 207 MONTANA RESULTS.**



**Grade 4 Mathematics**

- Scores have maintained since 2015.
- The average scale score of Grade 4 students was 241.
- 41% of students were at or above *Proficient*.
- Since 1996 Montana scores have improved from the initial score of 228\*.



**Grade 8 Mathematics**

- Scores have maintained since 2015.
- The average scale score of Grade 8 students was 286.
- 37% of students were at or above *Proficient*.
- Since 1996 Montana scores have maintained from the initial score of 283.



**Grade 4 Reading**

- Scores have maintained since 2015.
- The average scale score of Grade 4 students was 222.
- 38% of students were at or above *Proficient*.
- Students with disabilities had a decline of 11 scale score points.
- Since 1994 Montana scores have maintained from the initial score of 222.



**Grade 8 Reading**

- Scores declined since 2015.
- The average scale score of Grade 8 students was 267.
- 35% of students were at or above *Proficient*.
- The male subgroup declined 4 scale score points.
- The 10th percentile of the achievement distribution declined 6 scale score points.
- The town (5 scale score points) and rural (4 scale score points) school subgroups declined.
- Since 1998 Montana scores have declined from the initial score of 271.

This was the first time that NAEP released state-level scores from a digitally-based assessment. To learn more about this transition from paper to tablets or about NAEP, please visit the [NAEP 101](#) page. Should you have any questions about the results or about NAEP, please contact Ashley McGrath at [amcgrath@mt.gov](mailto:amcgrath@mt.gov) or 406-444-3450.

# CRT & CRT ALT Science

## Science

### Things to do this month:

- Watch for score reports to be posted to MARS at the end of May 2018. See below for information.

### 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 Montana Analysis and Reporting System 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 System Test Coordinators (STC). 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, please 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, please contact Marcy Fortner, 406-444-3511 or [mfortner@mt.gov](mailto:mfortner@mt.gov).

## **CRT Science and CRT Alt Science Test Window Selected for 2019**

Dates for the Spring 2019 CRT Science and CRT Alt Science administration have been selected. The CRT Alt Science window will open on **February 19, 2019** and the CRT Science window will open on **February 28, 2019**. Both windows will close on **March 26, 2019**.

# SCILLSS

Strengthening Claims Based Interpretations and Uses of Local and Large Scale Science Assessments

## **OPI is gearing up for the Statewide Science Transition**

Between now and June 2019, the OPI will administer the CRT Science and CRT Alternate Science assessments at Grades 4, 8, and 10. Results from survey feedback from the OPI Science Partner Task Force will help frame the OPI's request for information, released in April. The OPI will also use the Task Force feedback to help the OPI make immediate decisions regarding future transition activities with the goal of having something new in place for science by the spring of 2020. If you have any questions about the transition or the OPI Science Partner Task Force, please contact Ashley McGrath at [amcgrath@mt.gov](mailto:amcgrath@mt.gov) or 406-444-3450.

# ACCESS FOR ELLs

English Language Proficiency Assessment

## **Things to do this month:**

- **Review ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs score reports.** Districts received their ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs reports, printed and online, in April. Online reports are available on [WIDA AMS](#) using the Report Delivery functionality.

## **Results Reports Webinar Recording**

The recording from the April [ACCESS for ELLs Results Reports webinar](#) is available for viewing. If you are new to WIDA this webinar covers the types of reports and formats of the reports that are available. The webinar also covers using the results reports to evaluate EL programs and make exit decisions.

## **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: DRC Use Only - Sam School: DRC Use Only - Sam Report: (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: \_\_\_\_\_

Find Students Clear

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	

Open Selected Save Selected

To view On Demand Student Reports, select **On Demand Reports** from the **Report Delivery** menu.  
Please contact DRC Customer Support with any questions at [WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com](mailto:WIDA@DataRecognitionCorp.com) or 1-855-787-9615.

## ACCESS for ELLs Test Window Selected for 2019

The test window dates for next year's ACCESS for ELLs have been selected. The test window will open on **December 5, 2018** and end **January 30, 2019**.

## 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 (TA) training, Assessment Management System, WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT), results 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](http://www.wida.us)
- Assessment Management System: [www.wida-ams.us](http://www.wida-ams.us)
- [OPI ELP page link](#)

### Smarter Balanced

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

### Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

- Assessment Management System: [www.msaaassessment.org](http://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 Number: 866-876-7735
- WIDA Help Desk Email: [help@wida.us](mailto:help@wida.us)
- WIDA AMS Help Desk Phone: 855-787-9615
- WIDA AMS Help Desk Email: [WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto:WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com)

### Smarter Balanced and Science CRT and Alt Service Desk

- Phone: 888-792-2741
- Email: [montanahelpdesk@measuredprogress.org](mailto:montanahelpdesk@measuredprogress.org)

## Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

- Phone: 866-834-8879
- Email: [MSAAServiceCenter@MeasuredProgress.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

[Email](#)

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