



This Month in Assessment

ACCESS for ELLs	ACT with Writing	CRT/CRT Alt	MSAA
NAEP	Science News	Smarter Balanced	Monthly Webinars
Contact Us	Help Desk Numbers	Passwords	Test Portal Links

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. 8	Feb. 19–Mar. 26	Feb. 28–Mar. 26	Mar. 18–May 3	Mar. 20–May 24	Initial: April 2 Make Up: Apr. 24 Emergency: May 7
K	✓						
1	✓						
2	✓						
3	✓				✓	✓	
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	✓				✓	✓	
6	✓				✓	✓	
7	✓				✓	✓	
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	✓						
10	✓		✓	✓			
11	✓				✓		✓
12	✓	✓					

Recorded Webinars

Date	Topic	Link
No webinars scheduled for August	Recorded webinars from the past year are on the OPI Statewide Assessment web page.	Recorded Webinars

Webinar Recordings:

Recordings of live webinars are on the [Assessment Webinars and Training](#) tab of the OPI Statewide Assessments web site.

MontCAS 2018-2019 School Year Changes

What's new this year? Based on 150 responses to the OPI Assessment and Data Conference feedback survey, the OPI assessment staff have been diligently working on providing more user-centered online guidance for administering Montana's six required statewide assessments. These improvements include updates to the online [OPI Statewide Testing Web Site](#) navigation, offering more self-paced professional development on the [Teacher Learning Hub](#), providing best practices for successful administration via the [New Test Coordinator Academy Google Site](#), and increasing the OPI's instructions for test security in the centralized [MontCAS Application](#) for system test coordinators. We anticipate releasing these improvements on a flow basis with final implementation by the end of this fall. We are available to answer questions and provide support with these improvements.

What is rulemaking? The negotiated rulemaking process is required by §20-7-101, Montana Code Annotated (MCA). In short, the rulemaking is the process an agency engages in to update rules under existing laws, or to create new rules the agency believes are needed. The OPI has convened a committee to review the proposed amendments to student assessment rules (or Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.56.101). For more information on this process, visit the [Student Assessment Negotiated Rulemaking Committee](#) page.

If you have questions about these improvements or the negotiated rulemaking committee, contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 844-867-2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

What is the System Testing Coordinator (STC)? This person is assigned by the Authorized Representative and is responsible for communicating roles and responsibilities to all authorized staff. The STC must ensure school staff in their district have completed the OPI-specified training and are familiar with the assessment-specific standardized testing procedures found in the assessment-specific Test Administration Manuals. STCs are also required to use the centralized restricted-use online MontCAS Application to confirm compliance with test security, supplying testing dates in the OPI-provided test windows, requesting accommodation appeals, reporting non-participation statuses, and reporting any testing incidents. In general, STCs have oversight and responsibilities for all administration activities in their district.

ACCESS for ELLs

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Things to do this month

- Access score reports on the [WIDA AMS](#) site.** Select *Test Results* from the *Report Delivery* menu to display the test results page. See below for more information on accessing scores.

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 (ISRs)
 - Student Response Files – District (.csv)

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs (if applicable)

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

On-Demand Student Reports

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

New WIDA Secure Portal

Starting August 15, the new URL to the WIDA Secure Portal will be ***portal.wida.us***. After this date, users can access the WIDA Secure Portal by going directly to *portal.wida.us* or the WIDA public website at *wida.wisc.edu* and clicking on “Log In” at the top of the page. Usernames and passwords will not change after this date and the WIDA Secure Portal will continue to look as it does today.

ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Screener Training Opportunities

There are three free, live Q&A webinars available in August. These webinars give viewers an opportunity to join WIDA and DRC for presentations and ask questions on all things concerning ACCESS for ELLs and WIDA Screener. Participants can join the free webinars listed below up to 30 minutes before the start time by clicking the *Join Here* links.

Thursday, August 9 10-11 a.m.	WIDA Screener-Online JOIN HERE	An overview of WIDA Screener online training, test administration, and scoring.	For: test administrators and district test coordinators administering Screener online.
Tuesday, August 21 1-2 p.m.	Welcome Back: New WIDA Website Walkthrough JOIN HERE	WIDA will roll out a new website as of August 15. Learn what’s new and how to navigate new and improved resources and materials.	For: all K-12 educators and administrators.
Wednesday, August 22 10-11 a.m.	WIDA Screener-Paper JOIN HERE	An overview of WIDA Screener paper training, test administration, and scoring.	For: test administrators and district test coordinators administering Screener on paper.

ACT with Writing

ELA and Mathematics

Things to do this month

- Access score reports in Pearson Access Next (PA Next).** The ACT Profile Report and Student Level Data are available in PA Next on the *Published Reports* tab on the *Reports* drop-down menu. Instructions for accessing those reports can be found in the [Pearson Access User Guide](#). Additional reports were mailed to schools in late July.
- Watch for state aggregate reports.** State aggregate reports will be available on the [GEMS page for the 2018-2019 school year](#). The GEMS reports are expected to be available in late-August.

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.
- [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.	Three to eight 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](#).

CRT and CRT ALT Science

Science

Things to do this month

- Access score reports in the [Montana Analysis and Reporting System \(MARS\)](#).** CRT Science and CRT Alt Science scores are available on the [MARS site](#). See below for more information about MARS. *Note that the MARS application is best viewed using Windows Internet Explorer version 7 or 8. Other browsers are not supported.*
- Watch for printed copies of student reports.** Student reports, cumulative labels, and the interpretive guide to the CRT and CRT Alt should arrive in system offices the first week of September.
- Watch for state aggregate reports.** State aggregate reports will be available on the OPI [GEMS page](#). The science data is expected to be available on GEMS in late August.
- Make 2018-2019 school year preparations for the final administration of the CRT-Science and CRT-Science Alt.** The OPI will continue to administer these statewide science assessments at Grades 4, 8, and 10 during the spring of 2019.

2018 CRT Score Reports Schedule

Report Format	Date Available
Online reports available in MARS	May 29, 2018
OPI release of complete and verified results	Late August
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. It is best viewed using Windows Internet Explorer (IE) as other browsers are not supported. [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. For instructions on using the MARS site, refer to the [MARS User and Training Guide](#).

For password assistance, contact your principal or superintendent. Superintendents or principals needing login assistance should contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 844-867-2569. *Those credentials cannot be shared via e-mail or voice mail.*

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 needs to make the assignments and create new passwords using the accounts management tool in MARS.

CRT and CRT Alt Science Results Resources

- 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 to better serve the academic needs of students and to evaluate and improve curriculum and instruction.

MSAA

Alternate Assessment, ELA and Math

Things to do this month

- Access score reports in the [Online Assessment System](#).** Results reports will be available in late August. Districts have a four-week window to download and print student reports to share with parents.

Resources to help access and interpret score information

- The [MSAA 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.
- The [Online Assessment System](#) is the MSAA online assessment portal. STCs will need to log in and download the results reports file for the district and print out the ISRs for distribution to parents and educators.

NAEP

National and International Assessment Studies

Things to do this month

- Register on the restricted-use MyNAEP site.** School designated test coordinators for NAEP-selected schools must register on the restricted-use [MyNAEP](#) website by September 1, 2018.

Make sure to save-the-date!

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*. This vital state-level data collection is conducted every two years and provides Montana with information on how students perform across time and compared to other states. In June, NAEP-selected schools were sent assessment data and asked to designate a school coordinator to complete all necessary pre-assessment tasks in preparation for the math, reading, and science tests given at Grades 4, 8, and 12. School coordinators will be contacted in August and asked to register for a new 2019 account on the restricted-use [MyNAEP](#) website. Should you have questions about the NAEP 2019 program, contact Ashley McGrath at amcgrath@mt.gov or 406-444-3450.

Montana NAEP Coordinator position vacancy

Do you like working with schools?

Do you want opportunities to travel for work?

Are you interested in continuous professional development and training?

Do you enjoy working with awesome people?

How about a competitive salary and great benefits?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please apply today to be Montana’s [State Coordinator for NAEP!](#)

- **Salary**-\$53,346.00
- **Benefits**-Full-time employees earn 15 vacation days, 12 sick days, paid state holidays, health and dental benefits and life insurance. They also receive access to a defined benefit – contribution retirement.
- **Application deadline** is August 15, 2018.

Science News

Science Assessments

Did you know Montana is a member state of the US Department of Education’s Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG)?

The *Strengthening Claims-based Interpretations and Uses of Local and Large-scale Science Assessment Scores* (SCILLSS) was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education under the Enhanced Assessment Grants (EAG) Program CFDA 84.368A. The SCILLSS web site has resources to support school districts with assessing the 2016 adopted science standards including the [Ensuring Rigor in Local Assessment Systems: A Self-Evaluation Protocol](#). Throughout the upcoming school year, the OPI will release resources and materials from this EAG that are relevant to local education agencies as we transition away from the legacy statewide science assessment to a newly envisioned system of assessments aligned to the three-dimensional science standards. The OPI will continue to use the CRT-Science general assessment and alternate in Grades 4, 8, and 10 in the spring of 2019. The new science general assessments and alternate assessments are slated for spring 2020.

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

Smarter Balanced

ELA and Math

Things to do this month

- Access score reports in the [Online Reporting System \(ORS\)](#).** District and school level reports, as well as ISRs are available on the ORS.
- Watch for printed copies of student reports.** Student reports and cumulative labels, are scheduled to arrive in system offices the first week of September.
- Watch for state aggregate reports.** State aggregate reports will be available on the OPI [GEMS page](#). The GEMS reports are expected to be available in late August.

Smarter Balanced Results Resources

Resources are available to assist System Test Coordinators (STCs), School Coordinators (SCs) and Teachers (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 information on each claim level.

AIR Portal Maintenance and Updates

The following systems on the AIR portal will be down for maintenance in preparation for the 2018-2019 school year.

- The Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE) will be down from about August 10 through August 21.
- The ORS, AIR Ways Reporting, and the Assessment Viewing Application (AVA) will be down from August 28 through September 4.

In addition, in preparation for the new year and to address security issues, users in TIDE will be cleared on August 10. The OPI will provide a list of STCs to Measured Progress for upload to TIDE. The list of STCs will be obtained from past STC records unless Authorized Representatives have provided new contact information for this role. When the system goes live again on August 21, STCs on file with the OPI will receive verification emails from AIR and will need to add users to TIDE for their districts.

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.

- **Access for ELLs 2.0:** Test administrator training, assessment management system, WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT), result reports.
- **ACT Plus Writing:** Test administration, reports, and test results.
- **CRT and CRT Alt:** Test results.
- **MSAA (Multi State Alternate Assessment):** Test administration and training, results, and student reports.
- **MontCAS Online Reporting:** Non-participation and testing irregularity reports and requests for accommodations not routinely approved.
- **Smarter Balanced:** Test administration, administration certification, interim tests, and test results.
- **Smarter Balanced Digital Library:** Formative assessment processes.

**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](#)

ACT with Writing

- Assessment Management: [Pearson Access Next](#)
- ACT State and District Testing [website link](#)
- [OPI ACT page link](#)
- ACT Online Prep: [ACT Online Prep](#)

MSAA

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

Smarter Balanced

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

My NAEP

- www.mynaep.com

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

ACT with Writing

ACT 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](#)

CRT Science and CRT Alt Service Desk

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

Multi State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

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

Smarter Balanced Service Desk

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

NAEP

- Email: naephelp@westat.com
- Phone: 1-800-283-6237

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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