



This Month in Assessment

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	ACCESS for ELLs	NAEP	CRT-ALT	CRT	MSAA	SBAC	ACT with Writing
<b>2018-2019 Statewide Assessment Calendar</b>	English Language Proficiency (ELP)	Math, Reading and Science	Alternate Science	Science	Alternate English Language Arts (ELA) and Math	ELA and Math	ELA and Math
<b>Dates</b>	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
<b>Grades Tested</b>	K-12	4, 8 & 12 if selected	4, 8 & 10	4, 8 & 10	3-8 & 11	3-8	11

OPI Assessment Division News

OPI Data and Assessment Conference Materials

The 2019 OPI Data and Assessment Conference “Get READY for 2020” was held in Bozeman, Montana in January. This year’s conference hosted a wide range of sessions including current practices such as building local comprehensive balanced assessment systems to support teaching and learning as well as highlighting what’s new for 2020. The presentations and materials from the conference sessions can be found on the [MT Assessment Conference page](#) of the OPI website. If you attended the conference and heard about a resource that you don’t see on the assessment conference page, contact us at 844-867-2569 or [OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov) and we’ll see if we can locate it for you.

MontCAS 2018-2019 School Year Changes

Roles and Responsibilities

System Test Coordinators are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the roles and responsibilities described within the [2018-2019 MontCAS Test Security Manual](#). It is required that school districts have a policy in place for maintaining signed test security agreements for the following roles for a period of at least three school years. The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) can request signed TSAs at any time throughout the school year.

- [Authorized Representative/Principal Roles and Responsibilities.](#)
- [Test Administrators Roles & Responsibilities.](#)

System Test Coordinators are required to complete the online electronic test security agreement found on the [MontCAS Application](#) under the “Test Security” tab. In this electronic form the System Test Coordinator is verifying all authorized staff are trained in and have completed the standardized testing procedure trainings for each assessment they will administer.

The “OPI-specified training” should be interpreted as ensuring all Building Coordinators have been provided with notice *January 2019 Newsletter: Prepared by the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen Superintendent*

and instructions on how to access the 2018-2019 statewide policies for test administration, accessibility, and security as described in the roles and responsibility letters (e.g., Test Administrator Manual (assessment-specific), MontCAS Test Security Manual, MontCAS Accessibility and Accommodation Guidelines (assessment-specific), MontCAS Accommodations Manual and Guidance Memo, Test Coordinators Manual {if applicable (assessment-specific)}).

In the electronic test security agreement, System Test Coordinators are confirming their action to notify and provide access to school Building Coordinators regarding all test materials for test administration, accessibility, and security to support local training activities. This activity does not merely mean verifying compliance of local school and test administrator training with training logs. Policies for training may vary across school districts and the tracking and training verification activities should be conducted in a manner consistent with the local school district policies or at the preference of the System Test Coordinator. **Note:** The OPI can request to view records of training logs at any time throughout the school year. The MontCAS expectations for System Test Coordinators is outlined in the [System Test Coordinator Roles & Responsibilities](#).

To ensure no one person is solely responsible for all facets of statewide testing or overwhelmed by the responsibilities, we encourage school systems to **BUILD AN ASSESSMENT TEAM** early in the school year to divide out work, ensure everyone knows their role, knows when to do it, and knows where they can get help.

### MontCAS Overview

The System Test Coordinator is required to use the centralized, restricted-use online [MontCAS Application](#) to confirm compliance with test security, supply testing dates, request accommodation appeals, report nonparticipation statuses, and report testing incidents. **The following required 2018-2019 school year activities are described below with indication of the OPI requirement or option in parentheses:**

- **MontCAS Data Privacy Policy:** Ensure authorized school system access to MontCAS online portals. To access the [MontCAS Application](#), you must have the 'STC Role'. If you do not see the "Test Security Tab", please contact us to have this role provided at 1-844-867-2569 or [OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov](mailto:OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov). (OPI Required)
- **MontCAS Application Affirmation of Testing Security.** (OPI Required – Before Testing)
- **MontCAS Application Supply Assessment Dates.** (OPI Pilot Year - please let us know if the system is not working well for you.)
- **MontCAS Application Requests for Accommodation Process.** STCs can make requests for assessment accommodations beyond those routinely allowed. (OPI Required - as needed)
- **MontCAS Application Report Non-Participation.** (OPI Required)
- **MontCAS Application Report Testing Incident.** STCs must report any test security incident immediately to the OPI or based on the reporting periods specified by the severity of the incident. (OPI Required)

To support System Test Coordinators with MontCAS Application reporting, please use this step-by-step [MontCAS User Guide](#).

Smarter Balanced appeals requests will continue to be allowed down to the Building Coordinator using the Appeals Request Form; however, this section has been removed from TIDE. If the appeal results in a testing incident, this must be submitted by the System Test Coordinator through the [MontCAS Application](#). Please follow the guidance published in the MontCAS Test Security Manual and the MontCAS User Guide.

### OPI Site Visits and School Observations

In 2018-2019, it is the OPI's responsibility to observe test administration activities in schools to ensure that the statewide assessments are conducted in standardized and consistent manner throughout Montana. For 2019 testing activities, the state will contact a few selected schools to pilot the state protocols and checklists for upcoming years. One week prior to the site visit, the System Test Coordinator will receive notice from the OPI of school selection. Schools will be asked to share any special check-in procedures or visitor instructions and to confirm the testing information (e.g., grade(s), subject(s), time(s), and location(s)). The OPI will unobtrusively observe students testing and after testing, review the material handling processes including reviewing archived test security agreements.

## Professional Development and Training Opportunities

The Assessment Division is partnering with the Content Standards and Instruction Division to deliver high-quality and high-demand professional development on an as-needed basis. Beginning in January we will have the refreshed “January Monthly Assessment Webinar” with guest presenters. This webinar will be recorded and saved on the [Statewide Testing page](#) of the OPI website in case attending the live webinar is not possible. A portion of this session will be devoted to open forum to gauge the interest and need in OPI-provided professional development and training. If you have any school-specific training needs, please make this request to the OPI Assessment Team using the [Assessment Professional Development/Training Request Form](#). All requests will be processed and considered by the OPI Assessment Team using key criteria.

### Upcoming Webinars

Date	Topic	Link
	Recorded video from the Teacher Learning Hub (Hub) providing an overview of MontCAS assessments, data uses, and data systems of the required statewide assessments.	<a href="#">ELP 101: Serving English Learners in Montana's Schools</a>
Wednesday, Feb. 13 3:30-4:30 p.m.	MontCAS Updates–Monthly Assessment Webinar	<a href="#">Join here</a>
Monday, Feb. 25 3:30-4:30 p.m.	PreACT Q&A Session about test administration hosted by ACT	<a href="#">Register here</a>

### Professional Development and Training Opportunities

Recordings of live webinars can be found on the [Assessment Webinars and Training tab](#) of the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Statewide Assessments website. Various types of courses can be found on the Teacher Learning Hub. The Hub provides active learning, high-quality content, relevant topics, and offers renewal units for completion of courses.

### Test Coordinator Academy

The OPI is gearing up to launch the [Test Coordinator Academy](#) self-paced course. When it is available it will be published in the [Teacher Learning Hub Course Catalog](#). This course will provide System Test Coordinators with training and support for successful management and test administration of the MontCAS summative assessments (Smarter Balanced, ACCESS for ELLs, CRT and Alt Science, ACT, and the Multi–State Alternate Assessment). The course will take place over the school year to support STCs as the test window for each assessment approaches. Until the course is open for enrollment, please review the [New System Test Coordinator Academy Site](#).

### Student Assessment Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (Committee) Updates

The OPI will present its timeline to the Board of Public Education at the upcoming March meeting. For more information on this process, visit the [Student Assessment Negotiated Rulemaking Committee](#) page on the OPI website.

# ACCESS for ELLs

## English Language Proficiency Assessment

### Things to do this month

- Report missing materials to the OPI via the [MontCAS Application](#).** Missing materials require a testing irregularity report.
- Test materials were due to DRC by February 6, 2019.**
- Continue screening newly enrolled students.** See below for more information about screening incoming students. Per federal guidelines, this is a task that is required throughout the school year, not just prior to or during the ACCESS for ELLs testing window.

## WIDA Screener

Federal guidelines require all schools to screen incoming students for English language learner status. When a student enrolls at your school, the district has 14 days to administer the state-mandated [Home Language Survey](#) (HLS). If a language other than English is indicated on the HLS, or if an educator notices that there may be a language of impact while working with the student, the WIDA Screener is administered to the student. Once the screener has been administered, districts have 30 days to make a determination about whether or not the student is identified as an English learner.

Frequently asked questions about English learner identification can be found in the [Identification and Placement Guidance document](#) found on the [Montana page of the WIDA site](#). For more information, see [Montana's English Language Learners: Guidance for School Districts](#).

## WIDA Field Test Opportunity for Kindergarten in 2020

Schools needed! WIDA is seeking schools to administer the Kindergarten Screener to at least 20 students during one or two field test windows throughout 2019 and 2020. This important field test will help WIDA develop a useful tool for our Montana communities. The OPI Assessment Division encourages all interested schools to consider participating as a field test site.

Two field test windows are available. Field Test Window 1 from July 29, 2019 through October 4, 2019 will test incoming Kindergarten students and first graders. Field Test Window 2 from January 6, 2020 through February 28, 2020 will test currently enrolled Kindergarten students. For more information, see the [Kindergarten Screener Field Test flyer](#) on the statewide assessment page of the OPI website.

 **Professional Development/Training Opportunity** - Take the Montana Teacher Learning Hub the [ELP 101: Serving English Learners in Montana's Schools](#) course or the [Teaching and Assessing English Learners](#) course.

# ACT with Writing

## ELA and Mathematics

### Things to do this month

- Request ACT approved accommodations. The deadline for accommodations requests is February 15, 2019.** Request ACT approved accommodations and/or supports through the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations System](#) (TAA).
- Verify student enrollment in Pearson Access Next (PA Next).** Beginning December 11 and through February 15, 2019, ACT Test Coordinators will verify student information in PA Next and enroll and unenroll students as needed. Instructions for completing this task can be found in the [Pearson Access User Guide](#) beginning on page 11. *Students added after this deadline will still be able to test, but will not receive barcode labels.*
- Install Proctor Cache software and setup proctor caching in PA Next.** Schools opting to administer the ACT online must complete this task by February 15, 2019. If not completed by the deadline, ACT will change your school's administration from online to paper.
- Administer a mock administration of the online ACT with Writing.** If your school has selected to administer the ACT with Writing online this year, ACT recommends you schedule a mock administration. See below for more information.
- \*Please Note:** While preparing for the ACT with Writing, agreeing to ACT testing security requirements also covers OPI requirements for schools to complete statewide testing.

### Online Testing Site Readiness Videos

ACT has several videos available for online technical readiness support. The videos are posted on the [Montana ACT State and District website](#). The following documents and videos are from the "Configuration" section of The ACT Test Resources tile can be found under the "Configuration" stage of the ACT State and District web page.

- [Technical Coordinator Checklist \(PDF\)](#)
- [Technical Requirements for the ACT Test Taken Online](#)
- [The ACT Online Testing Site Readiness Plan \(Graphic\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Technical Guide \(online testing\) \(PDF\)](#)

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- [Mock Admin Guide \(PDF\)](#)
- [ACT Online Technical Readiness 1: Overview \(Video\)](#)
- [ACT Online Technical Readiness 2: Proctor Caching \(Video\)](#)
- [ACT Online Technical Readiness 3: TestNav \(Video\)](#)
- [ACT Online Technical Readiness 4: Mock Administration \(Video\)](#)
- [ACT Online Technical Readiness 5: PreCache/Purge Test Content \(Video\)](#)

### Perform a Mock Administration of the Online ACT with Writing

A mock administration provides an indication of how your technical infrastructure and testing devices will interact with the testing software during a real administration. It also provides a chance for your school to simulate online testing to ensure you're ready.

ACT strongly recommends that the test coordinator run a mock administration. This administration should be completed prior to the proctor caching deadline referenced in the Schedule of Events. See the [ACT Test Mock Administration Guide](#) for Online Testing for assistance in setting up the mock administration.

### Take advantage of the PreACT

This year, for the first time, the statewide testing program will include PreACT testing for your 10th graders. The test provides a review of academic progress in high school while there is still time to make necessary interventions to keep students on track toward educational and career goals. It also measures knowledge and skills in four core areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science and may serve as an early indicator of college readiness and acts as a predictor of student performance on the ACT test. The testing window for this optional assessment is April 2 – 19, 2019. For more information about the administration of the PreACT, please see [Montana PreACT website](#).

## CRT Science and CRT-Science Alternate

### Science

#### Things to do this month

- Download and print CRT-Science Alternate Test Administrator's Manual and CRT-Science Alternate Test Booklets.** These manuals are available on [iServices](#). Users can download and print the number of booklets they need for testing using the alternate password that was delivered to your system in January.
- Ensure all CRT-Science Alternate eligible students have the electronic IEP checked and locked in AIM.** If you have questions about the electronic IEP, contact Mary Graff with the OPI at 406-444-0684 or [mgraff@mt.gov](mailto:mgraff@mt.gov).
- CRT-Science and CRT-Science Alternate materials shipped the first week of February.** If you haven't already done so, inventory your shipment(s) and order any additional materials you need on [iServices](#).

#### NEWS

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 assessment and alternate assessment is slated for spring 2020.

## MSAA

### Alternate Assessment, ELA and Math

#### Things to do this month

- To ensure a smooth testing process this coming spring, confirm that all MSAA eligible students have the electronic IEP checked and locked in AIM.** The OPI identifies eligible students in Grades 3-8 and 11 for the MSAA based on the electronic IEP in AIM. If you have questions about the electronic IEP, contact Mary Graff at the OPI at 406-444-0685 or [mgraff@mt.gov](mailto:mgraff@mt.gov).
- STCs can add users to the MSAA system after March 1, 2019.** The OPI will upload STCs to the system by March 1. The training modules will open on March 4, 2019. Students will be in the system when it opens for users.

## Testing Calendar

Pre-Testing Activities	Completed By	Start Date	End Date
Montana uploads System Test Coordinators	OPI	03/01/2019	03/01/2019
STCs upload TAs and other District users to the system	STC	03/01/2019	05/03/2019
Training Module Live	STC, TA	03/04/2019	05/03/2019
TAs complete pre-test tasks, Demographics, SRC, LCI, Accommodations	TA	03/04/2019	05/03/2019
TAs access DTAs to prepare/adapt materials/and familiarize with script	TA	03/04/2019	05/03/2019

### Eligibility Information

Students who participate in alternate assessments make up approximately 1% of the total student population. The decision to move a special education student to an alternate assessment has significant implications for the path that a student will take in their K-12 school career. It means the student is not able to participate in the general education curriculum even when provided with accommodations. A student who participates in alternate assessment requires a modified curriculum. The following resources can aid districts in determining eligibility for the MSAA test:

- [Eligibility Guidelines for MontCAS Alternate Assessments](#)
- This resource, created as part of the development of the MSAA, provides a more in depth look at determining eligibility for alternate assessments:
  - [IEP Team Guidance for Alternate Assessment Participation Decisions](#)

### Registration Information

- OPI identifies eligible students in grades 3-8 and 11 for the MSAA assessment based on the electronic IEP in AIM.
- For a student to be registered for the MSAA test, the alternate assessment checkbox must be marked and the IEP must be locked (finalized).
- OPI creates a registration file based on this information and uploads the file of student names to the MSAA assessment system.
- OPI will update student information in the MSAA system on a weekly basis during the test window.
- System Test Coordinators will be able to view their list of uploaded students in late February in the MSAA system.
- OPI contact for troubleshooting electronic IEPs: Mary Graff 406-444-0685 or [mgraff@mt.gov](mailto:mgraff@mt.gov).

### Manage Users in the MSAA System

STCs will add users to the MSAA system after it opens on March 1, 2019. Instructions for adding users can be found in the [MSAA Online Assessment System User Guide for Test Coordinators](#). Instructions begin on page 12.

# Smarter Balanced

## ELA and Math

### Things to do this month

- MacOS users must [download and update to the new Secure Browser 10.6](#).** See below for more information.
- Add school users to the Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE).** Users in TIDE were cleared in August. STCs were then uploaded to the system by the OPI and STCs need to add all other users for their districts and schools. STCs can refer to the User Roles and Access Document found on the Resources tab on the [AIR portal](#) for assistance in choosing the correct role assignment for local users.
- Complete the TA Certification Course.** All users in TIDE administering Smarter Balanced assessments are required to take the [Test Administrators Certification Course](#) annually. If taking the course as a group, ensure each user is logged into the portal so the system will auto-update course completion for each user.
- Ensure your secure browser has been updated.** See below for more information on downloading the current browser.

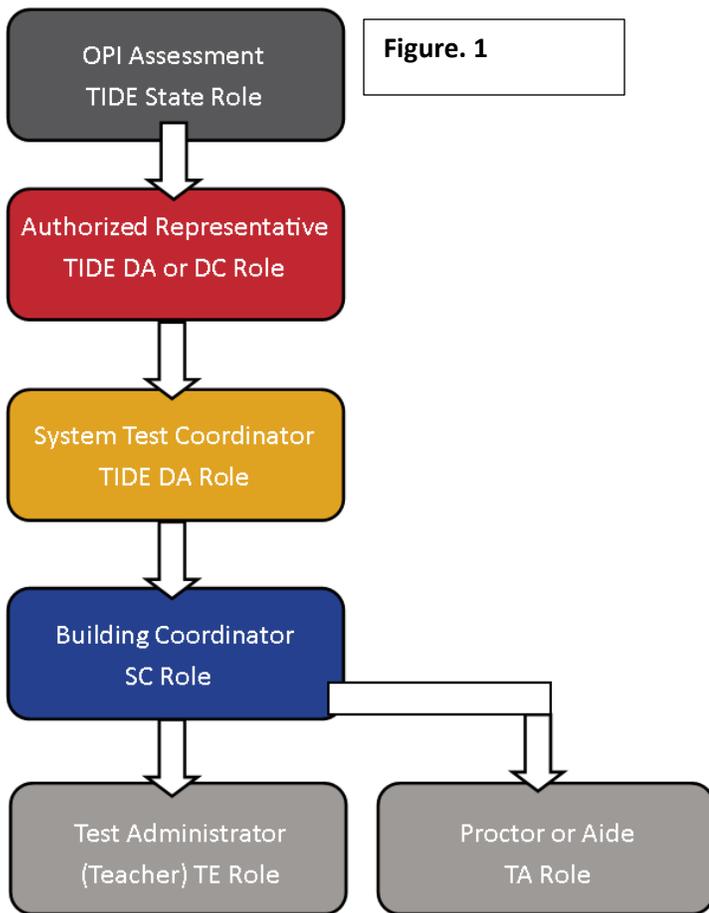


Figure. 1

### TIDE Roles Use and Clarification

Before assigning roles in the Test Information and Distribution Engine (TIDE), restricted-use portal, or any other MontCAS portal, the OPI encourages you to read through and familiarize yourself with the [MontCAS Test Security Manual expectations](#).

This issue of the newsletter offers some clarity around the 2018-2019 OPI Authorized User Access Policy and how these relate to the MontCAS Test Security roles and responsibilities. These roles are not intended to be interchangeable, the OPI Test Security roles and responsibilities are roles the OPI recommends as part of testing staff with the understanding that School Systems vary in size and sometimes one person may have multiple roles. Having this hierarchy not only forces a chain of custody as we describe in the [MontCAS Test Security Manual](#), but also helps prevent one individual from being overwhelmed or responsible for all assessment activities. We encourage school systems to [BUILD AN ASSESSMENT TEAM](#) early in the school year to divide out work, ensure everyone knows their role, knows when to do it, and know where they can get help. Please see Figure 1 to see how the MontCAS roles relate to the TIDE roles.

System Test Coordinators are encouraged to create accounts for their Building Coordinators with the role in

TIDE as School Coordinator (SC). One thing to keep in mind is that the role 'SC' is specific to the roles in the AIR portal and TIDE and not an OPI state, district or school wide role designation for all assessments.

### TIDE Appeals Process for 2018-2019

Test incidents falling into the 'Impropriety' category and occurring during the administration of the Smarter Balanced summative assessments must be reported via the [Smarter Balanced TIDE Appeals Request Form](#). Incidents falling into this category are those that occur during testing that have a low impact on the individual or group of students who are being tested. These incidents have a low risk of potentially affecting the student performance on the test, test security, or test validity (example: student leaving the testing room without authorization, or a student's test becoming inactive due to absence or other reason).

Those with the TIDE role of School Coordinator (SC) or District Coordinator (DC) can fill out and submit the TIDE Appeals Form. Once the TIDE Appeals Form has been submitted, the OPI will make a determination and the status of the appeal will be sent to the email indicated in the TIDE Appeals Form.

### Meeting the Needs of All Students

Due to accommodation misadministration in the past, the OPI implemented control over permissions for editing the test setting pages to only those assigned at the TIDE 'SC role'. This change to 'SC role' for inputting accommodations and designated supports started in the 2017-2018 school year. For this 2018-2019 school year the same restriction remains in place for the "SC Role" alongside restrictions for accommodations limited to only IEP/504 students. These changes have been announced in our newsletters, e-mails, and in the TIDE Manual (attached).

Only TIDE roles set as 'SC' can enter accommodations into the test settings portion of TIDE. System Test Coordinators may assign 'SC' roles to more than one person in a school. Some school systems have schools with staff with specialized training in IEPs/504s and English Learners (EL). Schools with this capacity may assign the 'SC' role to one or more of their Special Education or EL teachers to provide appropriate accommodations in TIDE.

## Take advantage of the Interim Assessments

Students have been uploaded by the OPI so educators can utilize the interim assessments. These free assessments can assist teachers in grades 2-11 in identifying student strengths and weaknesses and can be useful in modifying curriculum to meet those needs. For more information on the interim assessments, please see the Interim Assessment tab on the OPI website. Additional information can be found on the AIR portal under the Resources tab.

 **Professional Development/Training Opportunity** - Take the [Montana Teacher Learning Hub Implementing Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments](#) course or [request OPI training specific](#) to your school district needs.

## Smarter Balanced Digital Library

The Smarter Balanced Digital Library (DL) is provided by OPI to Montana educators at no charge. The Digital Library is an online collection of high quality instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. For more information on access, including checking to see if you have a password, please contact Pam Birkeland, [pbirkeland@mt.gov](mailto:pbirkeland@mt.gov), 406-560-2060.

# NAEP

## National and International Assessment Studies

### Things to do this month

- Plan for Assessment Day – Task 8
- Encourage Participation – Task 9
- Support Assessment Activities – Task 10

**It's finally here! The NAEP assessment window is open from January 28 until March 8, 2019. Here are your final tasks:**

### **Plan for Assessment Day (Task 8)**

The NAEP assessment team needs to know some details about your school before Assessment Day. The Plan for Assessment Day section helps school coordinators identify assessment times and locations as well as logistical information such as room set-up, student groups and assessment team instructions to ensure that Assessment Day runs smoothly.

### **Encourage Participation (Task 9)**

To ensure a successful administration of NAEP, it is important that everyone is informed and prepared. Schools that implement strategies to encourage participation have higher participation and engagement. The Encourage Participation section offers strategies to help your school prepare for Assessment Day.

### **Support Assessment Activities (Task 10)**

By printing Student Appointment Cards, teachers can direct students to the correct assessment location and time on Assessment Day.

Thank you for preparing to make a successful Assessment Day at your school. When your assessment is complete, you will receive a survey to give feedback regarding 2019 NAEP. In appreciation of your hard work, you will receive 12 renewal units for your participation as a NAEP school coordinator, if interested. In order to receive the renewal units, the feedback survey must be completed on or before March 13, 2019.

School coordinators can refer to [NAEP 2019 School Coordinator Checklist and Time](#) for more information. If you have questions or concerns, contact Shantel Niederstadt at (406) 444-3450 or [sniederstadt@mt.gov](mailto:sniederstadt@mt.gov). You can receive immediate assistance from the NAEP Help Desk at (800) 283-6237 or email [naephelp@westat.com](mailto:naephelp@westat.com) on Monday through Friday between 8 am and 5:30 pm ET.

# Science News

## Science Assessments

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

*The Strengthening Claims-based Interpretations and Uses of Local and Large-scale Science Assessment Scores (or SCILLSS)* was developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education under EAG Program CFDA 84.368A.

The OPI is in the transition phase with its new three-dimensionally aligned science assessment; however, this transition timeline is VERY similar to the transition that occurred in Montana with the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Implementing new statewide assessments takes time and typically for large-scale assessment the process is about five years from the time of standards adoption to reporting score results. Best practices also recommend states allow two years of exposure to new content before assessing such content for accountability purposes.

### Montana Content Standards for Math and ELA Adoption to Transition to New Smarter Balanced Assessment Timeline:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards adoption event.</li> <li>Adopted math and ELA standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisions to Student Assessment Rules on October 12, 2012.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last year administration of MontCAS CRT-Math and Reading</li> <li>Implemented new standards for all districts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Double-Testing Waiver for states.</li> <li>Census Fielding Testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First operational year for Grades 3–8 &amp; 11.</li> <li>Technology challenges rendering no reportable data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official State baseline -Year 1.</li> </ul>

### Montana Content Standards for Science Adoption to Transition to New Science Assessment Timeline:

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards adoption event.</li> <li>Adopted new science standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MT implemented new science standards</li> <li>Contract extended for two years for CRT-Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MT ESSA State Plan Approved</li> <li>Accountability system uses 5<sup>th</sup> indicator with 2016-2017 data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last year of CRT-Science</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure Federal Waiver</li> <li>Census Fielding Testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First operational year</li> <li>Use results for reporting and accountability</li> </ul>

## 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 with 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:** Nonparticipation 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.

## Online Assessment System Links

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

- [Training and online resources](#)
- [Assessment Management System](#)
- [OPI ELP page link](#)

### ACT with Writing

- Assessment Management: [Pearson Access Next](#)
- [ACT State and District Testing](#)
- [ACT Academy](#)

### MSAA

- [Assessment Management System](#)
- [OPI MSAA](#)

### Smarter Balanced

- [Assessment system](#) (AIR portal)
- [OPI Smarter Balanced](#)

### My NAEP

- [My NAEP Login](#)

## 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](mailto:help@wida.us)
- WIDA AMS help desk phone: 855-787-9615
- WIDA AMS help desk email: [WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com](mailto: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](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org)

### CRT Science and CRT 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)

### Smarter Balanced Service Desk

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

### NAEP

- Phone: 800-283-6237
- Email: [naephelp@westat.com](mailto:naephelp@westat.com)

## Assessment Contacts

### Assessment Division

844-867-2569

[OPI Assessment Help Desk](#)

[Email](#)

### Marcy Fortner

Data Control Specialist

[mfortner@mt.gov](mailto:mfortner@mt.gov)

### Ashley McGrath

State Assessment Director

[amcgrath@mt.gov](mailto:amcgrath@mt.gov)

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