



This Month in Assessment

ACCESS for ELLs	ACT with Writing	CRT/CRT Alt	MSAA
NAEP	Science News	Smarter Balanced	Professional Development & Training
Contact Us	Help Desk Numbers	Test Portal Links	

Grade	ACCESS for ELLs (English Language Proficiency)	Alternate Science (Alternate)	General Science (General)	MSAA (Alternate)	Smarter Balanced (General)	ACT with Writing (General)
Window Period	8 weeks			7 weeks	10 weeks	3 Opportunities
Test Window	Dec 4 – Jan 31	TBA	TBA	Mar 16 – May 1	Mar 18 – May 22	Initial: March 24 Make-up: April 7 Emergency: April 21
Required Subjects	ELP	Science	Science	Math and ELA	Math and ELA	Math and ELA
Grades Tested	K–12	Grades 4, 8, 10	Grades 4, 8, 10	Grades 3–8, 11	Grades 3–8	Grade 11

Prepared by the Office of Public Instruction on June 1, 2019.

Red text indicates these dates have not been finalized with the test delivery provider.

Putting Montana Students First



Dates and elements listed here are subject to change

OPI Assessment Division News

Renewal Units: 2018-2019 MontCAS Feedback

The purpose of this debrief form is to provide STCs with their renewal units as well as collect your feedback to help improve our MontCAS program and future test administrations in the state by learning what went well, what could have gone better, and how the OPI can provide resources to support school system needs moving forward. Your input will aid us in tailoring technical assistance and communications specific to these identified needs for 2020. Please take a moment to complete the [2018-2019 STC MontCAS Debrief Form](#) and receive renewal units for the hours spent providing and receiving professional development/training to administer the MontCAS tests. The form closes Friday, June 28th.

Q: HOW DO I GET MY OPI RENEWAL UNITS? A: System Test Coordinators (STC) receive a certificate of renewal units upon the completion of the [2019 STC MontCAS Debrief Form](#). We welcome all suggestions for improvement you may have. After providing us with your feedback, the OPI will issue you a certificate of renewal units.

Negotiated Rulemaking Update

During the May 2019 Board of Public Education meeting, the Chapter 56 Assessment Administrative Rules for Montana (ARM) were approved for Montana Administrative Register notice as found with this link: **MAR Notice 10-56-285**
<http://mtrules.org/gateway/ShowNoticeFile.asp?TID=9133>

Concerned persons may submit their data, views, or arguments either orally or in writing at the hearing. Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education, 46 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 2B, P.O. Box 200601, Helena, Montana, 59620-0601; telephone (406) 444-0300; fax (406) 444-0847; or e-mail pdonovan@mt.gov, and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., June 26, 2019.

English Learner Assessment Specialist Opportunity

This position gives you the opportunity to work with schools, offers some rewarding travel, rich professional development/training, and competitive salary and benefits. Please share this opportunity with friends.

APPLY TODAY!

Salary: \$53,880.28

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.

Follow this link to apply: [Assessment Specialist, PN#351-03306](#)

Don't miss out - this vacancy closes June 25, 2019.

Professional Development and Training Opportunities

After June 1st, the [OPI Assessment Statewide Web Page](#) will undergo an extensive refresh to reflect new administration manuals, new guidance, updated user guides, user-driven navigation, and content focused on providing a balanced assessment system.



Request Professional Development and/or Training from the OPI

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.

Participation in Statewide Assessments

Are you equitably serving the needs of all students? If this sounds new or interesting to you, we encourage you to participate in one of the 2019-2020 fall trainings on “Meaningful Participation in Statewide Assessments”. This training focuses on increasing educator knowledge about federal requirements and options for participation in statewide assessments through the lens of ensuring that students with disabilities are able to meaningfully participate in the assessments required under ESSA. This training will cover how meaningful participation can be accomplished through ensuring that students have appropriate accessibility supports and accommodations and that those supports are selected systematically, based on student need. This training would be suitable for districts and schools wishing to improve participation rates and performance of students with disabilities in statewide assessments. If you would like more information on this training, please contact Yvonne Field the Assessment and Accountability Specialist at

yfield@mt.gov or (406) 444-4940. More information can also be found in the [Meaningful Participation in Statewide Assessments flyer](#).

ACCESS for ELLs

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Things to do this month

- Review your Secure Portal account.** See below for information about updated WIDA Secure Portal access.
- Apply to become a panelist to participate** in establishing state-specific EL proficiency criteria (see below for more information).
- Inform your Technology Coordinator of the upcoming webinar** to assist them in changing over to the new testing site (see below for more information).

Review Your WIDA Secure Portal Account for Upcoming Changes

WIDA Secure Portal users will be prompted to change their login to a work email address beginning **June 10, 2019**. To prepare for this change, WIDA is encouraging educators to do a little “spring cleaning” of their Secure Portal accounts by completing the following tasks:

- Update personal information. All personal information, except for usernames, can be edited by the account-holder, simply by logging in and going to the grey “My Account Info” box on the right-hand side of the screen. Can’t log in? Enter your email address on our [Password Reset page](#) to have a link sent to your inbox. Still need assistance? Contact the WIDA Client Services Center at (866) 276-7735 or help@wida.us.
- Make sure your email address is correct and you are receiving emails from help@wida.us and info@wida.us, so you don’t miss any important news, announcements, or account information.
- Why do you need a Secure Portal account? Only users with a WIDA Secure Portal account have access to WIDA's assessment training courses and test materials, state-specific webinars, and WIDA's new eLearning platform. Check out your [member/state page](#) to find out how you can get a Secure Portal account!

Standards Validation Workshop: Seeking Panelists to Set Montana’s Future English Language Proficiency

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is recruiting panelists to participate in establishing state-specific English language proficiency criteria for the ACCESS for ELLs (or WIDA) assessment administered to English learners in grades K–12. Establishing meaningful proficiency criteria for Montana’s students is imperative to meeting the federal statutory requirement for assessments used in the statewide accountability system and Peer Review as mandated by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). This is also important to ensure our exit criteria is realistic for our unique students and based on the most current research. In order to meet these requirements, the committee will review historical WIDA and SBAC performance data to determine the most appropriate composite score for Montana students. The work from this committee will be used to comply with the Peer Review USDOE requirements and for statewide reporting.

Who Should Apply? — The OPI will select participants from a diverse group of Montana stakeholders, including (but not limited to):

- School administrators,
- School Title III Coordinators,
- English Learner specialists,
- Mathematics and ELA teachers,
- Cultural experts, and
- Parents.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating in this work, please have them [use this online form to apply](#) or explore the [application announcement](#) to learn more about the event.

COS-SD Transition and Q&A Webinar for Technology Coordinators

Central Office Service – Service Device (COS-SD) will replace the Testing Site Manager (TSM) for ACCESS for ELLs Online and WIDA Screener Online for the 2019-20 testing season. COS-SD will be phased in over the summer of 2019 and the TSM retired on June 27, 2019. Supporting documentation for COS-SD is available in [WIDA AMS](#) and on the [Technology](#)

[Coordinator page](#) of the WIDA Secure Portal. For assistance with this transition, please contact DRC at (855) 787-9615 or wida@datarecognitioncorp.com.

WIDA and DRC will be hosting a webinar for technology coordinators on the steps to implement COS-SD on **June 12 from 10:00-11:00 CT**. The link to join the webinar can be found on the [2018-2019 Q&A WIDA Webinar Schedule](#) and the [WIDA Q&A Webinars 2018-19 for Technology Coordinators](#) schedule.

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. Providing individual student score reports to parents/guardians and teachers as soon as is practicable after the assessment is given is a requirement under ESSA.

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

ACCESS Results Resources

Check out these resources to help analyze and understand your ACCESS for ELs score reports.

- [Finding Your Students' Superpowers: Using ACCESS Score Reports](#) – This flyer is your one-stop shop for information, guidance, and additional resources.
- ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs [Interpretive Guides for Score Reports](#) – Learn how scores are calculated, how they can be used, and how to better understand all the reports you receive.
- Watch the recorded webinar 'Interpreting Score Reports'. You can find it on the Webinar Recordings page on the [WIDA site](#).

On-Demand Student Reports

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

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

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

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

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

ACT with Writing

ELA and Mathematics

Things to do this month

- Watch for ACT Score Reports to be delivered to schools and districts.** The [Score Report Schedule](#) can be found online with information about when score reports can be expected.

ACT Score Report Resources

The following resources are available on the [ACT State and District website](#).

- [The ACT Test 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 Dates Selected for 2020

Dates for the Spring 2020 ACT with Writing administration have been selected. The initial test date will be **Tuesday, March 24, 2020**, the Makeup date will be **Tuesday, April 7, 2020**, and the Emergency Date will be **Tuesday, April 21, 2020**.

CRT Science and CRT-Science Alternate

Science

Things to do this month

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

Score Reports in MARS

The Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS) is a secure online site where digital results for the CRT Science and CRT Science Alternate can be accessed and analyzed. [MARS](#) is accessible by usernames and passwords assigned to schools and districts. Passwords are master passwords and are intended 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.

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 the OPI Assessment Division at 844-867-2569. Passwords cannot be given via email or voicemail.

MSAA

Alternate Assessment, ELA and Math

Things to do this month

- Watch for score results to be posted to the MSAA portal in late June for download.**

Score Reports

Schools and districts should expect to be able to access online score reports in early September. Districts will download and print student reports to share with parents. Providing individual student score reports to parents/guardians and

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teachers as soon as is practicable after the assessment is given is a requirement under ESSA.

Smarter Balanced

ELA and Math

Things to do this month

- Access student score reports in the Online Reporting System (ORS) in the AIR portal. Individual paper score reports will be delivered to schools in the fall to send home to parents.
- View the video highlighting Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments (see below for links and more information).

Smarter Balanced Results Reports Detail

Reports for students, as well as for schools, are 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.

The [Online Reporting System \(ORS\) User Guide](#) provides an overview of the ORS. After reviewing this manual, you should be familiar with navigating the system and viewing score reports.

Results Resources

Providing individual student score reports to parents/guardians and teachers as soon as is practicable after the assessment is given is a requirement under ESSA. To utilize the results from the Online Reporting System (ORS), check out the below resources.

- [SBAC Spreadsheet Analysis Tool Directions](#)
- [SBAC Analysis 2018 Data](#)
- [Example SBAC dataset](#)

Veteran Teacher Advice: “Use Interim Assessments Often and Early”

Be sure to check out the video link showcasing [Ronan Public Schools](#) and their experience in using Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments this past year. Also, be sure to check out [Laurel, DE](#) and their perspective on data-driven decision making based upon the interim assessments.

More information on the [Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments](#) can be found on the link provided. Stay tuned for late summer/early fall state-wide training focusing on using interim assessments in your classroom, school, and district.

NAEP

National and International Assessment Studies

Things to do this month

- Mark the Date**

National Assessment Educational Progress (NAEP) 2020 will monitor student performance in mathematics and reading through long-term trend (LTT) assessment. This assessment measures students' educational progress over a long time period to look for and monitor trends in performance. Results from the LTT assessments are based on nationally representative samples of 9-, 13-, and 17-year old students.

In May, schools were notified of their NAEP 2020 selection and will receive their assessment date in mid-June. Place the NAEP assessment date on your 2019-2020 school calendar. The assessment will take about 90 minutes for most students, including transition time, directions, and completion of a survey questionnaire. NAEP representatives will provide significant support to your school, bring all necessary materials and equipment, and administer the assessment. If you have a conflict with the scheduled assessment date, please notify Shantel Niederstadt, NAEP State Coordinator (contact information below) at your earliest convenience. More information about preparing for the assessment will be received by selected schools in August.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Shantel Niederstadt at (406) 444.3450 or sniederstadt@mt.gov. You can receive immediate assistance from the NAEP Help Desk at (800) 283-6237 or email naephelp@westat.com on Monday

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through Friday between 8 am and 5:30 pm EST.

Science News

Science Assessments

Calling all Teacher Leaders!

Montana adopted new Science content standards in 2016. A new statewide assessment of these standards will be field tested in spring 2020 and operational assessment implemented in spring 2021. With these big changes, the OPI is reaching out to engage with educators and connect them with opportunities to support the implementation of Montana's Science content standards. The OPI is looking for individuals interested in being Science Teacher Leaders in the following ways: creating or reviewing assessment items, developing professional learning, giving training, creating or facilitating an online course, networking, etc. Please consider partnering with the OPI to spread the word and build the capacity to engage science educators across the state on the shifts with these new three-dimensional science standards and assessments - *let's re-envision the system of assessments and practice for science!*

Are YOU interested in becoming a Science Teacher Leader? Or know someone who might be interested? If interested, complete the [interest survey](#). Your responses will help us get in touch and connect you with great professional opportunities over the next couple of years. Should you have any questions, contact Michelle McCarthy, Science Instructional Coordinator at 444.3537 or mmccarthy5@mt.gov or Jennifer Stadum, Indian Education Specialist at 444.0725 or jstadum@mt.gov. Thank you for taking the time to respond and share this survey with your colleagues.

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
- 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

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

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

Assessment Contacts

Assessment Division

844-867-2569

OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov

Marcy Fortner

Data Control Specialist

mfortner@mt.gov

Whitney Mitchell

Administrative Specialist

whitney.mitchell@mt.gov

Ashley McGrath

State Assessment Director

amcgrath@mt.gov

Duane Schlabach

Assessment Specialist

Duane.Schlabach@mt.gov

Vacant

Assessment Specialist

Vacant

Assessment Specialist

Shantel Niederstadt

NAEP State Coordinator

sniederstadt@mt.gov

Paula Schultz

Smarter Balanced Accommodations

pschultz2@mt.gov

Christy Mock-Stutz

Digital Library State Lead

CMock-Stutz@mt.gov

Marisa Graybill

Digital Library State Lead

Marisa.Graybill@mt.gov

Pam Birkeland

Digital Library State Lead

pbirkeland@mt.gov