



OPI ASSESSMENT BULLETIN

March 2020

MontCAS

(MT Comprehensive
Assessment System)

Resources and Supports

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Assessment Resources Quick Links

OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov
[Test Window Calendar](#)
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Important Upcoming Dates

March 16 – Montana Science Assessment, Alternate Montana Science Assessment, and Multi State Alternate Assessment test windows open.
March 24 – ACT Initial Test Date
March 24-April 3 – ACT Accommodations Initial Window

Statewide Required Assessments

ELA and Math

[Smarter Balanced](#)
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Science

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MontCAS

This section pertains to any updates or news under the umbrella of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) program not specific to any one statewide assessment.

Portal Link: [MontCAS Application](#)

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 Ongoing	STC requests non-routine accommodations for assessments where a child requires a support/accommodation that is not listed in the assessment-specific accommodations guidelines at least 2 weeks prior to test administration.
 Ongoing	STC reports testing incidents for Smarter Balanced, MSA, AMSA, MSAA, and ACT with Writing.

We estimate this will take 15–60 minutes to complete this month depending on the number of entries.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Observations	The Assessment Division will conduct site visits during the spring testing window. If your school district was contacted by the OPI, please return the requested document(s) to facilitate OPI planning for monitoring and site visits.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Monitoring	Have local plans for monitoring the integrity of the assessment before, during, and after all test administrations. Read through and familiarize yourself with the 2019-2020 MontCAS Test Security Manual expectations. Assessment checklists are posted on the OPI Test Security webpage .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attend the Local Monitoring Webinar	For ideas on local monitoring, attend the Monthly Webinar Series on March 18 th at 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Meeting details are published on the Stay Informed: MontCAS Monthly Webinar Page .  This webinar is intended for anyone responsible for administering or handling statewide assessments. It webinar will provide resources, tips, and strategies for implementing local test administration monitoring practices.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Share the Six Things Stakeholders Should Know About Participation and Testing in Montana	This resource will assist STCs with communicating about the significance of participating in state-level tests to various audiences.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 MontCAS User Guide	This resource will help STCs navigate the tabs in and describe the tasks required of STCs in the MontCAS Application .

Questions? Contact

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

MontCAS Alerts

 ***Attention** It is a testing irregularity to send student information over a non-secure service such as email. The OPI does not consider even encrypted emails to be secure for sensitive information such as student names and identifying details. Schools are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the [OPI STUDENT RECORDS CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY](#) and follow this guidance to maintain student confidentiality at all times.

Participation and Eligibility Updates

This section pertains to any updates or news under student participation and eligibility in the required statewide assessments umbrella of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) program not specific to any one statewide assessment.

Portal Link: [Test Participation & Eligibility Page](#)

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 Past Due!	STC Reports Non-Participation for ACCESS for ELLs in MontCAS.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 ED Resources	The OPI hosted a virtual call for Montana School Superintendents on March 13 th . During this call, guidance and information on the developing novel coronavirus was shared with schools and recommendations given on the steps to prepare locally. Per the assessment requirements, we encourage schools to familiarize themselves with the published U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) resources: [Fact Sheet: Impact of COVID-19 on Assessments and Accountability] and the [Press Release] . The USDOE has also created a [COVID-19 Website] . The OPI will continue to partner with its test delivery vendor(s) and consortium members to make sure the necessary and appropriate contingency and communication plans are developed. As always, the OPI's primary mission is to ensure the health and safety of its students. For the latest information as it pertains to Montana students, visit the [OPI/DPHHS COVID-19 Website] .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medical Exemptions	Enter non-participation information for students qualifying for medical exemptions only. Anything not considered a medical exemption will be reported as non-participation for both state and federal accountability purposes. For more information on these requirements, go to the MontCAS Student Participation and Eligibility page.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate Eligibility Decisions	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. See Eligibility Guidelines for MontCAS Alternate Assessments document.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parent Corner	Schools can use this page to explore ideas and ways to communicate with families about assessments and achievement results.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 MontCAS Student Participation and Eligibility Page	This website explains participation policies and registration processes for the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS).

Questions? Contact

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Participation Alerts

 ***Attention** - For the latest information as it pertains to Montana students, visit the [\[OPI/DPHHS COVID-19 Website\]](#).

Test Security

This section pertains to any updates or news under test security and data integrity under the umbrella of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) program not specific to any one statewide assessment.

Portal Link: [Test Security Page](#)

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 November 1, 2019	OPI provides the STC with access to the secure restricted-use assessment portals with which school systems are required to manage users (see the MontCAS Data Privacy Policy).

We estimate this will take 15 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACT Test Security	While preparing for the ACT with Writing, agreeing to ACT testing security requirements also covers OPI requirements for schools to complete statewide testing.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MontCAS Test Security Hotline	Any person may submit a Confidential Test Incident Report (TIR) to the OPI via phone (406) 444-2474 or the TIR Form .

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 MontCAS Test Security Manual	This resource will assist STCs with the prevention, detection, inspection, and resolution (PDIR) expectations of MontCAS test security.
 MontCAS Test Security Training Portal	The materials provided in this Test Security Toolkit will assist STCs (or presenters) to facilitate a training session so Test Administrators can be trained in Test Security for a standardized administration of the MontCAS statewide summative assessments.
 Multi-State Alternate Assessment 2019-2020 Checklist	Use this checklist to support local plans for monitoring the integrity of the assessment before, during, and after all test administrations.
 Smarter Balanced 2019-2020 Checklist	Use this checklist to support local plans for monitoring the integrity of the assessment before, during, and after all test administrations.
 ACT with Writing 2019-2020 Checklist	Use this checklist to support local plans for monitoring the integrity of the assessment before, during, and after all test administrations.
 Montana Science Assessment 2019-2020 Checklist	Use this checklist to support local plans for monitoring the integrity of the assessment before, during, and after all test administrations.
 Multi-State Alternate Assessment 2019-2020 Checklist	Use this checklist to support local plans for monitoring the integrity of the assessment before, during, and after all test administrations.

Questions? Contact

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Test Security Alerts

***Attention** - During WIDA testing this year, it was identified students were accessing the internet using mobile devices to define terms. **Reminder:** as a standardized testing condition within the MontCAS Test Security policies, students are not permitted to have mobile devices during testing unless there is a medical reason.

Accessibility Resources

This section pertains to any updates or news on accessibility under the umbrella of the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS) program not specific to any one statewide assessment.

Portal Link: [Accessibility Resource Page](#)

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 Ongoing	In accordance with the AIM Collection Schedule 2019-20 , ensure district clerks have completed IEPs and ERs locked, and Exit Dates & Exit Reasons are current.

We estimate this will take 10 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIM Updates: Statewide Assessment Editor	This is a recording of the webinar that was presented on 9/12/19. The webinar covers the changes that have been made to the statewide assessment editor in AIM . There is also an overview of statewide assessments and information about accommodations and supports that are available for statewide assessments in Montana . There are also two resources that were referenced during the webinar.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-College Reportable Scores are no longer permitted for the ACT with Writing.	Inform school staff responsible for identifying assessment supports and accommodations for participating in the ACT with Writing that the non-reportable score option will no longer be available. As a result of the ESSA Equal Benefit law, ACT Non-College Reportable Scores will no longer be permitted for the statewide Grade 11 assessment. Review the Accommodations vs. Arrangements Guidance on ACT-Approved versus Local Test Arrangements.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 Accessibility Resources	This webpage has been created to provide school districts with information on supporting students with participation in the statewide assessments. The purpose of accessibility supports is to eliminate the effects of student barriers that prevent them from demonstrating what they know and can do. All students can work toward grade-level academic content standards via differentiation and appropriately selected supports and accommodations. For additional resources and guides, please visit the Montana Statewide Assessments: Accessibility Resources webpage .

Questions? Contact

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages
YField@mt.gov	406-444-4940	Assessment & Accountability Specialist

Accessibility Alerts

ⓘ *Attention – On February 6th, the OPI issued guidance to schools on the “[Technical Assistance on Student Privacy for State and Local Education Agencies When Administering College Admissions Examinations](#)” specifically to address the sections within this document on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Smarter Balanced

ELA and Math

This assessment must be annually administered to all students in Grades 3–8 (unless the child is eligible for the alternate) using the OPI’s published guidance for test administration and test security.

Portal Link: [AIR Portal](#)

Spring 2020 Assessment Window: March 9 – May 15, 2020

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 1 week prior to administering the assessment to a student	Accommodations and supports must be in place one week prior to testing. Supports that are provided on state-wide assessments must be familiar to the student and must match those supports and accommodations that are provided for classroom instruction and assessments throughout the school year. The TIDE User Guide provides step-by-step instructions on setting accommodations while the Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations (UAAG) Guide lists all the tools, supports and accommodations available.
 May 15, 2020	Ensure that all eligible students in the district have participated in the math/ELA Smarter Balanced assessments. View Six Things Stakeholders Should Know About Participation and Testing in Montana .

We estimate this will take 20–60 minutes to complete this month dependent on the number of accommodations needed to be entered.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update AIM/Infinite Campus with any newly enrolled students	The OPI uploads students into TIDE daily through May 15. Ensure TIDE student lists are current by keeping AIM/Infinite Campus up to date throughout the testing windows.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 TIDE User Guide	This document provides step-by-step instructions on how to perform tasks in TIDE.
 UAAG	This document provides guidance on making decisions about testing special student populations on Smarter Balanced assessments.
 Contact Duane Schlabach	The Consortium is seeking educators to participate in item development review work.

Questions? Contact

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	 Phone 844-867-2569	 Website OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Assessment Help Desk		
 E-mail mthelpdesk@air.org	 Phone 877-365-7915	 Website AIR Portal

Smarter Balanced Alerts

 ***Attention** – Schools testing between March 9–11 will receive notice from Cambium Assessment (AIR) on PT options given an identified system testing time configuration issue for paused tests. In addition to this notice, some students with Grade 5 CAT items may have also experienced a timed-out issue. Please check the [Recent Announcement page](#) of the portal for updates.

ACT with Writing

ELA, Mathematics, and Science

This assessment must be annually administered to all students in Grade 11 (unless the child is eligible for the alternate) using the OPI's published guidance for test administration and test security.

Portal Link: [Pearson Access Next \(PA Next\)](#)

Due This Month

Due Date		Complete
	March 13, 2020	Order additional paper testing materials for the March 24 Initial Test Date if needed.
	March 13, 2020	For online testing, validate configuration and lock down devices for online testing.
	March 23, 2020 (paper) March 31, 2020 (online)	STCs submit "Enroll or Unenroll Students" file in PA Next, if applicable. See PA Next User Guide for assistance.
	March 24, 2020	Initial Test date for the ACT with Writing, paper mode.
	March 24–April 3, 2020	Initial Test window for the ACT with Writing with accommodations/supports, paper mode.
	March 24–April 2, 2020	Initial Test window for online ACT w/ Writing (Tues., Wed., & Thu only).
	March 24–April 6, 2020	If applicable, prepare for Makeup Test date as described in Schedule of Events
	April 7, 2020	Makeup Test date for the ACT with Writing, paper mode.
	April 7–17, 2020	Makeup Test window for the ACT with Writing with accommodations/supports, paper mode.
	April 7–16, 2020	Makeup Test window for online ACT w/ Writing (Tues., Wed., & Thu only).

We estimate this will take 80–100 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks —

Task		Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review testing activities and timelines	STCs review the ACT Schedule of Events to confirm planning for all steps.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request accommodations	By March 20, 2020, STCs complete the Late Consideration Request form for accommodations for qualified students.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Set up online sessions	For online testing, STCs or TCs set up student sessions by the deadline specified in the Schedule of Events for each testing window.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request fee waivers for retesting.	For qualifying students, ACT offers school counselors fee waivers for Saturday testing at national testing sites.

Resources and Supports —

Resource		Support with...
	PA Next User Guide	This guide explains how to complete Manage Participation.
	Schedule of Events	All required tasks and their due dates are presented in this document.
	Accommodations Office Hours	Chat with ACT support staff about accommodations on Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30 through April 14, 2020.

Questions? Contact:

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
✉ E-mail	☎ Phone	🌐 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Assessment Help Desk		
✉ E-mail	☎ Phone	🌐 Website
	800-553-6244	Pearson Access Next (PA Next)
Email Form	319-337-1270	State ACT Testing and District Testing

ACT with Writing Alerts

ⓘ The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is reaching out to the field to provide a resource related to student privacy that is available from the US Department of Education’s Privacy Technical Assistance Center. The [Technical Assistance on Student Privacy for State and Local Education Agencies When Administering College Admissions Examinations](#) document covers information that will help districts meet obligations under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Protection for Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) in relation to the administration of college entrance examinations like the ACT. **In preparation for upcoming ACT testing, please complete the required [ACT Student Privacy Assurances Form](#) before testing.**

Contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk with questions: OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov or 844-867-2569.

MSAA

Alternate Assessment, ELA and Math

This assessment must be annually administered to only students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 3–8 and 11 using the OPI’s published guidance for test administration and test security.

Portal Link: [MSAA System](#)

Spring 2020 Assessment Window: March 16 – May 1, 2020

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 March 9–13, 2020	STC’s have been provided district level user accounts in the MSAA System. STC’s are responsible for creating school level users. Step-by-step instructions for doing so can be found in pp. 21–23 of the TC User Guide .
 Prior to administration of assessment	Ensure that all Test Administrators have completed the Test Administration Training prior to administering the assessment. The Training Modules are available in the MSAA System . Review the Best Practices Videos in the training tab of the MSAA System .
 May 1, 2020	Ensure that all eligible alternate assessment students have completed the MSAA assessment.

We estimate this will take 2.5 – 7.5 hours to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Upload Process	The OPI provides student updates to the MSAA system weekly on Fridays through the testing window. Ensure that all newly enrolled alternate assessment students are entered in AIM with the alternate flag selected.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 MSAA System	This is the link to the main portal, which currently houses sample test items.
 MT Statewide Assessments: Accessibility Resources	This resource offers guidance to ensure all students can work towards grade level academic content standards via differentiation and appropriately selected supports and accommodations for all assessments, including MSAA.
 Eligibility Guidelines for MontCAS Alternate Assessments	This document provides guidance on determining individual student eligibility for an alternate assessment.
 TC User Guide	This document provides Test Coordinators (i.e.: STC’s) with guidance on accessing the MSAA portal.
 TA User Guide	This document provides Test Administrators with guidance on accessing the MSAA portal.

Questions? Contact:

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Assessment Help Desk		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
MSAAServiceCenter@MeasuredProgress.org	866-834-8879	MSAA System

MSAA Alerts

Ⓜ Do not add students into the MSAA portal! Student uploads are completed by the OPI.

Montana Science Assessment (MSA)

Science

This assessment must be annually administered to all students in Grades 5 and 8 (unless the child is eligible for the alternate) using the OPI's published guidance for test administration and test security.

Portal Links: [AIR Portal](#)

Spring 2020 Assessment Window: March 16 – May 8, 2020

Due This Month

Due Date		Complete
	March 16, 2020	Participation in the field test is required for all students in public and accredited non-public schools in Grades 5 and 8. Information about the requirement can be found on the Montana Science Transition site. Notify parents, students, and staff of these expectations accordingly.
	Ongoing	Share the practice test for MSA, available now on the Montana testing portal Practice Test site . Note that this practice test is designed to showcase interaction types and 3-D science assessment design. It does not reflect the general structure of the MSA. Pay special attention to interactions such as investigations and graphing activities, as students may require repeated practice with these.

Timely Tasks

Task		Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review TAM	STCs and TEs/TAs review the MSA Test Administration Manual (TAM) to learn more about new Montana Science Assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepare School Staff	STCs ensure all staff administering statewide assessments have completed security agreements and training as required. (See TAM for details.)

Resources and Supports

Resource		Support with...
	Montana Testing Portal	Access to all required Montana assessments and resources.
	Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS)	To view 2019 science results, use this data warehouse to view the CRT-Science and CRT-Science Alt data. The MARS application works best using Internet Explorer.
	MARS User Guide	This resource provides step-by-step instructions for using the MARS.

Questions? Contact:

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Assessment Help Desk		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
mthelpdesk@air.org	877-365-7915	AIR Portal

MSA Alerts

Summary of Montana's New Science Assessment Program

- Montana Science Assessment (MSA): Grades 5 and 8, online via the AIR portal (same portal as Smarter Balanced).
- ACT Science: Grade 11, paper or online (schools choose). Science scores will be reported along with ELA and mathematics.
- For MSA, participation by all students in the tested grades is required by the [federal waiver](#) for the independent field test. For more information on the science transition, visit the [Montana Science Transition site](#).

Alternate Science Montana Assessment (AMSA)

Science

This assessment must be annually administered to only students with significant cognitive disabilities in Grades 5, 8, and 11 using the OPI's published guidance for test administration and test security.

Portal Link: [AIR Portal](#)

Spring 2020 Assessment Window: March 16 – May 8, 2020

Due This Month

Due Date		Complete
	March 16, 2020	Participation in the field test is required for all students in public and accredited non-public schools in Grades 5, 8, and 11. Information about the requirement can be found on the Montana Science Transition site. Notify parents, students, and staff of these expectations accordingly.
	Ongoing	To ensure a smooth testing process this spring, confirm that all AMSA-eligible students have the electronic IEP checked and locked in AIM. Students must be designated as alternate-eligible in their IEPs to take this test. If you have questions about the electronic IEP, contact Yvonne Field at 406-444-4940 or yfielf@mt.gov .
	Ongoing	Share the practice test for AMSA (the Alt-HSA) available on the Montana testing portal Practice Test site .

Timely Tasks

Manual Reference		Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review TAM	STCs and TEs review the AMSA Test Administration Manual (TAM) to learn more about this new assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepare School Staff	STCs ensure all staff administering statewide assessments have completed security agreements and training as required. (See TAM for details.)

Resources and Supports

Resource		Support with...
	Montana Testing Portal	Access to all required Montana assessments and resources.
	Montana Analysis and Reporting System (MARS)	To view 2019 science results, use this data warehouse to view the CRT-Science and CRT-Science Alt data. The MARS application works best using Internet Explorer.
	MARS User Guide	This resource provides step-by-step instructions for using the MARS.

Questions? Contact:

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
	E-mail	OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov
	Phone	844-867-2569
	Website	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Assessment Help Desk		
	E-mail	mthelpdesk@air.org
	Phone	877-365-7915
	Website	AIR Portal

AMSA Alerts

① Summary of Montana's New Science Assessment Program

- Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA): Grades 5, 8, and 11, online via the AIR portal (same portal as Smarter Balanced). The AMSA is for those students (about 1%) with the most severe cognitive disabilities.
- For the AMSA, participation by all students in the tested grades is required by the [federal waiver](#) for the independent field test. For more information on the science transition, visit the [Montana Science Transition site](#).

ACCESS for ELLs

English Language Proficiency Assessment

This assessment must be annually administered to all students in Grades K–12 who are indicated to take the assessment based on the results of the WIDA Screener (unless the child is eligible for the alternate) using the OPI’s published guidance for test administration and test security.

Portal Links: [Training and Online Resources](#)
[Assessment Management System \(AMS\)](#)

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 Past Due!	STCs were contacted by the OPI if the system had missing secure testing materials returned to DRC. If you were contacted and have not yet returned materials, do so immediately.

We estimate this will take 10-30 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review the Accessing Score Reports tutorial	STCs should review the tutorial on ACCESS for ELLs score reports. Score reports will be available in the WIDA AMS April 24, 3030. Printed reports will be sent to districts the week of May 5, 2020.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> View the Interpreting Score Reports Webinar	A link to the recorded “Interpreting Score Reports” webinar is posted on the WIDA calendar .

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 Technology Coordinator Resources	The Supported System Requirements for WIDA Screener [lists.wisc.edu] has been posted to WIDA AMS and in the WIDA Secure Portal. Contact DRC Customer Service at (855) 787-9615 or wida@datarecognitioncorp.com with questions.
 District and School Test Coordinator Manual	This manual, also known as the DSTCM, is designed to provide information on the management and logistics of returning test materials. Log in to view the manual.
 MontCAS Application User Guide	The OPI Guidance for MontCAS Application User Guide has step-by-step instructions for reporting testing incidents and non-participation reasons in the MontCAS Application .

Questions? Contact

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov	844-867-2569	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Assessment Help Desk		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
help@wida.us	866-876-7735	WIDA Training & Resources
WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com	855-787-9615	WIDA Assessment Management Site

ACCESS for ELLs Alerts

 Share this opportunity with friends and/or colleagues who may be interested in working at the OPI as the EL Assessment Specialist. This position gives you the opportunity to work with schools, offers some rewarding travel, rich professional development/training, and competitive salary and benefits. **To Apply Now, follow this link [Assessment Specialist PN#351-03306 \[mtstatejobs.taleo.net\]](#)** - the vacancy closes March 29, 2020.

NAEP

National and International Assessment Studies

This assessment is administered to ONLY selected schools and students. This year NAEP will be given in mathematics and reading for ages 9, 13 and 17 (unless the child is eligible for the alternate).

Portal Links: [My NAEP](#)

Due This Month

Due Date		Complete
 NA		Nothing due this month.

We estimate this will take 0 hours to complete this month, depending on the number of students selected.

Timely Tasks

Task		Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reserve space	Schedule assessment sessions and reserve space at your school.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Task 7: Plan for Assessment Day	Task 7: Plan for Assessment Day – NAEP School Coordinator answers school specific questions on MyNAEP about logistics and details the NAEP Assessment Team needs to follow in order to ensure the assessment runs smoothly.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Task 8: Encourage Participation	Task 8: Encourage Participation – NAEP School Coordinator informs and prepares teachers and students for the NAEP assessment.

Resources and Supports

Resource		Support with...
		None at this time.

Questions? Contact:

Office of Public Instruction Staff		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
SNiederstadt@mt.gov	406-444-3450	OPI Statewide Assessment Testing Pages

Assessment Help Desk		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
naephelp@westat.com	800-283-6237	Nation's Report Card

NAEP/International Alerts

 This section pertains to any updates or news for the NAEP required statewide assessment. There are no special alerts at this time.

Parents Corner

Portal Link: [Parents Corner Page](#)

The Parent Corner Page includes 6 facts and resources on the following items for each assessment:

1. The assessment name and reporting needs.
2. The [state](#) and [federal](#) law and regulation requirements.
3. Public access to school or district achievement data on the OPI's longitudinal data warehouse ([GEMS](#)) or the [Montana ESSA Report Card](#).
4. The parents/guardians notification requirements for the planned assessments. (Here is the [Sample OPI Smarter Balanced Notice Letter](#).)
5. The parents/guardian score report notification requirements. (Here is the Sample [OPI Smarter Balanced Score Report Letter](#).)
6. Resources for supporting achievement discussions with parents (e.g., the [Starting Smarter](#) website).

Resource		Description
	MT Starting Smarter	This site will help parents and families better understand their student's Smarter Balanced score reports.
	Smarter Balanced Interpretive Guide – color Smarter Balanced Interpretive Guide - greyscale	This guide will help parents understand student results. The guide can also be used to assist teachers at parent/teacher conferences.
	My Child is an ELL: A Parent's Guide	This visual was developed to help educators explain the ELL identification process to parents and family members.
	ACCESS for ELLs Parent Handout	This document helps parents and families understand the ACCESS for ELLs assessment and its components.
	Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Parent Handout	This document assists parents and families with understanding the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs assessment and its components.

Professional Development

	<p>March 18th (Webinar 7)</p>	<p>Attend the March Monthly Webinar focused on “Local Test Administration Monitoring”. This webinar is intended for anyone responsible for administering or handling statewide assessments. Ashley McGrath will hold a session on the importance of monitoring and everyone’s role in it including some examples of desk and site monitoring from different school perspectives. Participants will leave this webinar with resources, tips, and strategies for implementing local test administration monitoring practices.</p> <p>Mark the date: Wednesday, March 18, 2019 from 3:30-4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Follow these login instructions for this online GoToMeeting meeting or dial in using your phone at (571) 317-3122 with the Access Code: 511-102-621.</p>
	<p>April 15th (Webinar 8)</p>	<p>Meaningful Score Reports Presented by Duane Schlabach</p>
	<p>May 20th (Webinar 9)</p>	<p>Science Next Steps and Opportunities Presented by Rawnie Crasco</p>
	<p>Available on the Teacher Learning Hub</p>	<p>Implementing Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments Training on the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments that will enable school systems in Montana to implement interim assessments.</p>

Contact Us

Assessment Team

Assessment Division

844-867-2569

OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov

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