

---SPECIAL ISSUE---

ASSESSMENT BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2020

OPI COVID Page: opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information

CORONAVIRUS AND SCHOOLS

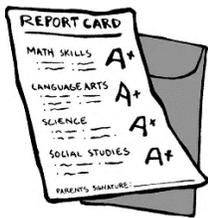
Coronavirus Information and Updates

[+ Read more](#)

Special Issue

This issue shares updates with state assessments and resources to support data literacy and its direct influence in guiding instruction, alongside a balanced approach including the use of formative and interim strategies. In this issue, you will find four sections tailored to these state assessment updates: (1) assessment updates, (2) state assessment activities, (3) webinar resources, and (4) contact information.

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[Webinars & Educator Resources](#)



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Assessment News

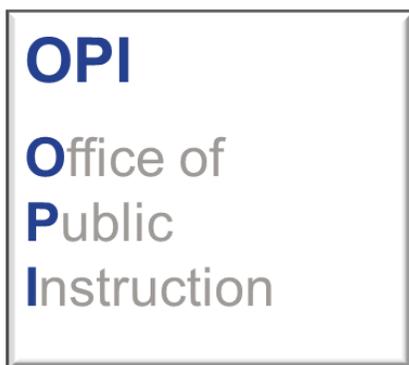
We thank the readers for the planning, preparation, training, and overall effort to support state assessment at the local level and to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements under state and federal law. Given the uncertainty that exists with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we look forward to creative solutions to address the requirements and opportunities to build strong partnerships as we strive to improve student outcomes across the state.

On September 3, Secretary DeVos issued a memo to Chief State School Officers on the requirements of testing this school year. To learn more about this directive and what it means for schools, please read the [September 3 Memo](#).

This section is tailored to System Test Coordinators (STC) with a lens for providing the current news, testing alerts, and changes planned for each of these program areas. Use these hyperlinks to navigate to each section of the Bulletin:

- [OPI News](#)
- [MontCAS News](#)
- [Smarter News](#)
- [ACT News](#)
- [MSAA News](#)
- [MSA News](#)
- [AMSA News](#)
- [ACCESS for ELLs / WIDA Screener](#)
- [NAEP and International](#)

OPI News



Testing Portals:

1. On August 11, 2020 access to the [Montana Testing Portal](#) was granted to schools.
2. On August 11, a **Student Rollover file from spring 2020** was made available. This rollover file includes student demographics and test setting details (e.g., accommodations, supports, and tools).
 - a. **Note:** the purpose of this rollover file is intended to reduce the test setup for interims; however, it is imperative schools verify the accuracy of these data before assigning or administering any interims.

System Requirements:

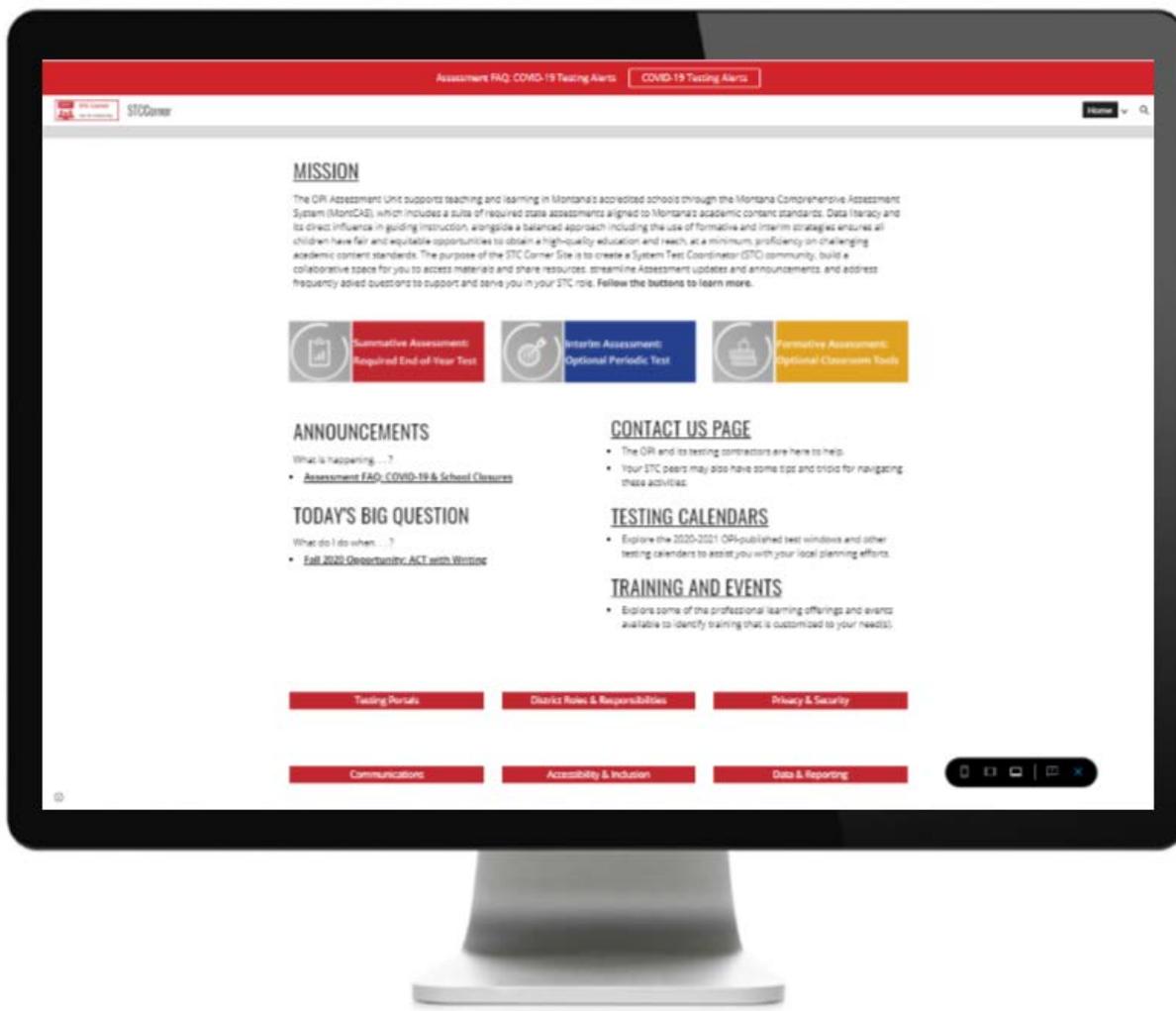
1. **User Management:** The OPI requires strict user management policies at the local level to protect student information. Annually, designated users must update passwords and accounts with school e-mail accounts.
2. **TIDE Test Administration Certification:** To proctor an online assessment and receive access to the Test Administration Site, a user must complete the [TA Certification Course \[Resource\]](#).
3. **TIDE Test Security Agreement:** To proctor an online assessment, a user must acknowledge the Test Security Agreement located in TIDE.

Interims and Practice Tests:

1. On August 24, 2020, **Smarter Balanced interims** were released.
2. On September 14, 2020, **Science interims** at Grades 5, 8, and 11 will be released. For more information, see the [MSA News](#) section.
3. **Practice and Training tests** are scheduled for release in early September.

The [STC Corner Site](#) will be released to STCs in early October!

Screen



To learn more about this resource, attend the September STC Open Forum Webinar Series. Joining details for this event are described in the [Educator Opportunity Section](#)

Montana Office of Public Instruction
Published Test Windows for All Required Statewide Assessments
2020–2021 School Year

Grade	ACCESS for ELLs (English Language Proficiency)	Alternate Montana Science Assessment (Alternate)	Montana Science Assessment (General)	MSAA (Alternate)	Smarter Balanced (General)	ACT with Writing* (General)
Window Period	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	7 weeks	10 weeks	3 Opportunities
Test Window	Dec 2 – Jan 29	Mar 15 – May 7	Mar 15 – May 7	Mar 15 – April 30	Mar 8 – May 14	Date 1: March 23 Date 2: April 6 Date 3: April 20
Required Subjects	ELP	Science	Science	Math and ELA	Math and ELA	Math, ELA, and Science
Grades Tested	K–12	Grades 5, 8, 11	Grades 5, 8	Grades 3–8, 11	Grades 3–8	Grade 11

Prepared by the Office of Public Instruction on
July 27, 2020.

Putting Montana Students First



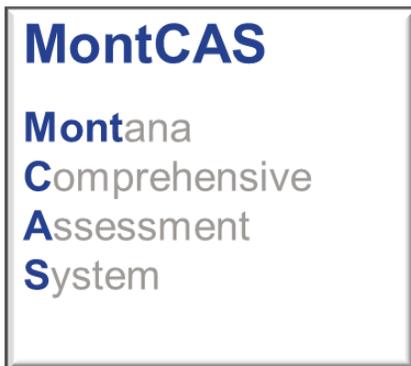
Dates and elements listed here are subject to change
*Online testing windows are posted on the Montana ACT site.

ACT with Writing Fall 2020 Optional Testing Opportunity for Grade 12 Students

Date 1	Paper Testing*	Accommodations Window
	October 6, 2020	October 6-16, 2020 (weekdays)
Date 2		
	October 20, 2020	October 20-26, 2020

*Fall testing is paper only – no online testing available.

MontCAS News



This section pertains to any updates or news under the umbrella of the MontCAS program not specific to any one state assessment.

Portal Link: [MontCAS Application](#)

NEW for 2020–2021 School Year – Electronic Test Security Agreements

The Assessment Division continues to use educator feedback to improve assessment related sites, responsibilities, and tools. Beginning the 2020–2021 school year, the collection of the Test Security Agreements (TSAs) started its migration to an online electronic format.

Authorized Representative (AR): The AR will electronically sign the test security agreement within the TEAMS Report this year. Check the [TEAMS page](#) for data collection deadlines and guidance.

System Test Coordinator (STC): STCs must sign the electronic TSA and the testing plan assurances in the [MontCAS Application](#) by the dates specified in the “MontCAS Test Security Collection Schedule 2020-21”.

Test Administrators (and other portal account holders): All staff with [TIDE Testing Portal accounts](#) will be required to sign an electronic TSA. All staff



with WIDA accounts, ACT accounts, and MSAA accounts will be required to sign an electronic TSA or non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to gain access to the online test administration and reporting sites.

Staff in Supporting Roles: All staff within the district who may assist with state assessments (e.g., storing ACT materials, sending score reports home, and scribes) will sign the [MontCAS Test Security Agreement for Supporting Roles](#). The TSA should be electronically signed prior to the opening of the state assessment test windows.

The STC is responsible for maintaining records of TSAs at each level for at least three years as the OPI may request copies of them within that time period. **Table 1** below outlines the test security requirements for each state assessment.

Table 1. TSAs Across Assessment Portals

ACCESS for ELLs (WIDA) and Screener	Educators logging into the WIDA Secure Portal on or after July 1 will be prompted to agree to the “Non-Disclosure and User Agreement” (NDUA). Educators will not be able to view secure materials and resources without first agreeing to the NDUA.
Smarter Balanced, Montana Science Assessment, and Alternate Montana Science Assessment	On or after August 3, current and new users are required to sign the Online TIDE TSA. Users will be unable to access the interim or summative assessments without first agreeing to the online TIDE TSA.
Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)	When the MSAA portal opens users will be required to agree to the online TSA in order to access the secure materials and administer tests.
ACT with Writing	STCs for the state required ACT will be requested to sign the ACT TC Student Privacy Assurances Form prior to administration. Test Coordinators (TC) and proctors are required to complete the ACT’s test security assurances including the NDA before testing.

Assessment Roadshow



The Assessment Roadshow has three remaining events this fall to provide professional learning across the nine MASS regions. This professional learning is in addition to the [annual ASSIST Conference](#) to ensure our MontCAS program provides equitable teaching and learning training opportunities to schools across the state. This professional learning will provide educators with robust and actionable information on student performance and the available MontCAS tools and resources to improve instruction. Participants will get a foundation on balanced assessment system, testing requirements (e.g., testing security, participation, and accessibility) and customizable content based on the region's need. **Visit the [Assessment Roadshow Website](#) to learn more about these fall trainings and options available to in the [MASS Region Schedule](#).**

Smarter Balanced News

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: [Cambium Portal](#)

Score Report Interpretations

Students who completed or started a math or ELA assessment prior to the closing of schools due to COVID-19 last spring received score reports in the Online Reporting System within the [Montana Testing Portal](#) on April 15. An explanatory email was sent all schools who had students receiving scores. It's important to note that due to the testing waiver these student scores will not be used for participation or accountability purposes. The results may not accurately reflect their abilities and are intended for local school use only.

Disclaimer: scores are conditional and should be used with caution.

Interim Recommendations

Interims will be available on August 24. The OPI recommendations for administering math and ELA interims can be found on the [Fall 2020 Interim Benchmarks](#) webpage. This webpage includes a [19-minute Quick Start Video](#) and the Five Ws of interims. Districts are encouraged to develop interim plans for Fall 2020 to include an action plan on using the data.

Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs)

The [Smarter Balanced](#) Interim Assessment Blocks ([IABs](#)) show individual student attainment of the math and ELA standards for specific learning targets and connect to online instructional resources.

Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs)

Districts are encouraged to administer the [Smarter Balanced](#) Interim Comprehensive Assessments ([ICAs](#)) this fall to establish a benchmark and show growth over the school year on the same scale as the summative assessment.

For more information or resources on this program, contact Duane Schlabach at 406-444-0748 or Duane.Schlabach@mt.gov

Smarter Balanced August 2020 Tasks

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 None.	No deadlines this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review TIDE User Roles	Review all district TIDE User Roles. TIDE User Roles were transferred from last spring. Confirm current users, delete former district employees, and add new district staff members per district discretion.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update Student Records	Ensure that any newly enrolled students are updated in AIM/Infinite Campus. Student data file uploads to TIDE occur twice a week until the testing window opens. Resources: AIM Website

Depending on the number of schools and students, we estimate this will take 60–100 minutes to complete this month.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 Montana Testing Portal	The portal on which TIDE users and student test settings can be added. This portal also includes the summative and interim administration and scores.
 Schedule of Events	This document provides the deadlines and calendar events for the 2020–2021 school year as it relates to math and ELA interims and summative assessments.
 Fall Interims - OPI Resource Site	This site offers OPI guidance, resources, and a Quick-Start Video on all things related to interims.
 Tools for Teachers	In May, the <i>Digital Library</i> was retired from the Montana testing portal and replaced by the new <i>Tools for Teachers</i> . A brand-new resource, higher-quality suite of tools carefully crafted to save teachers time, streamline lesson planning, and help students learn.
 The Reporting System	This new reporting system replaces both AIRWays and the Online Reporting System. Both interim and summative score reports will be housed in this new tile on the Montana testing portal. View the tutorial video to learn more. <i>*The summative Online Reporting System will be retired on Sept. 28. All historical data will be transferred over to the new Reporting System.</i>
 Interim Assessment Item Portal (IAIP)	A new site, that is housed within Tools for Teachers, is designed for educators to interact with sample test questions just as students experience them. A print feature has been enabled to permit printing items for remote learning via packets.
 Content Explorer	This new website is designed for educators to help interpret student results by understanding the claims, targets, and standards that are being assessed.

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@cambiumassessment.com	877-365-7915	Montana Testing Portal

ACT with Writing News

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: [PearsonAccess Next \(PA^{Next}\)](#)

Review ACT's plans to address COVID-19 related safety and protection during administration of the ACT with Writing

- The new [Testing Amid COVID-19 landing page](#) acknowledges ACT's soon-to-be released requirement for students to wear face coverings while testing.
- Listen to ACT CEO Janet Godwin's blog: [Testing Amid COVID-19: Our Plans to Help You Achieve Success.](#)

Spring 2021 ACT with Writing testing dates have been set.

Test Window 1

Standard Paper Testing: March 23

Accommodated Paper Testing: March 23–April 2

Online Testing: March 23–April 1 (Tues.–Thurs. ONLY)

Test Window 2

Standard Paper Testing: April 6

Accommodated Paper Testing: April 6–16

Online Testing: April 6–15 (Tues.–Thurs. ONLY)

Test Window 3

Standard Paper Testing: April 20

Accommodated Paper Testing: April 20–30

Online Testing: April 20–29 (Tues.–Thurs. ONLY)

For more information or resources on this program, contact Marcy Fortner at 406-444-3511 or MFortner@mt.gov.

ACT with Writing August 2020 Tasks

Due This Month

Due Date		Complete
	September 23, 2020	Complete the parent-notification tasks and assurances outlined in the ACT Test Coordinator Student Privacy Assurances Form .
	September 25, 2020	For fall senior testing purposes: Order additional standard time materials in PearsonAccess Next for use on the October 6 test date.
	October 2, 2020	For fall senior testing purposes: Request late consideration of accommodations and/or supports for eligible students in TAA using the Late Consideration Request form. Students eligible is limited – see the form for details.
	October 5, 2020	For fall senior testing purposes: Conduct sessions for students to complete non-test information for October 6 testing.
	October 7, 2020	For fall senior testing purposes: Return test booklets, used answer documents, and test administration forms from October 6 standard time test date. Materials must be received at ACT no later than October 13, 2020 or they will not be scored.

	October 9, 2020	For fall senior testing purposes: Order materials in PearsonAccess Next for use on the October 20 test date. Call ACT Accommodations to order materials for the October 20-26 accommodations and/or supports testing window – 800-553-6244, ext. 1788.
	October 9, 2020	For fall senior testing purposes: Request to enroll any new students for paper testing on October 20 by submitting the <i>Enroll or Unenroll Students file</i> in PearsonAccess Next .
	October 21, 2020	For fall senior testing purposes: Return test booklets, used answer documents, and test administration forms from October 6-16 accommodations and/or supports testing date. Materials must be received at ACT no later than October 23, 2020 or they will not be scored.

Depending on the number of students, we estimate this will take 60–240 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks —

Task		Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review testing activities and timelines	STCs review the ACT Fall Schedule of Events to confirm planning for voluntary Fall 2020 test administration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View Q&A Session	View the recorded Q&A session about test administration and ACT accommodations and supports.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request reconsideration	By October 2, request reconsideration of accommodations/supports in TAA for Fall testing.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Train staff	Train all staffed involved in administration of the ACT per the Test Administration Manual .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	October 30, 2020	Set up access to ACT's Online Reporting System . District administrators received an email from the system with instructions in May, 2020.

Resources and Supports —

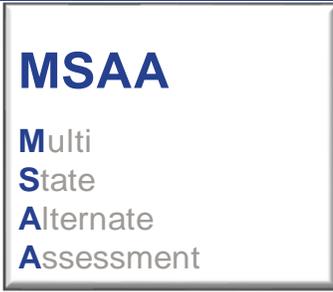
Resource	Support with...
 PA^{Next} User Guide	This guide explains how to complete Manage Participation and Enroll/Unenroll students.
 TAA User Guide	This guide explains how to request accommodations and support and re-assign test dates.
 TAA Tutorial	This click-through tutorial outlines the steps to create accounts to request accommodations through the Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) site.
 Schedule of Events	All required tasks and their due dates are presented in this document.
 Test Administration Guide	Includes information for training staff, setting up for testing, and administering the ACT.
 Online Reporting System	ACT is transitioning away from PearsonAccess ^{Next} for score reporting. By Spring 2021, reports will be available only through this new reporting system.

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
Email Form	800-553-6244	PearsonAccess^{Next} (PA^{Next})
	319-337-1270	State ACT Testing and District Testing

MSAA News

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](#)

Students eligible to 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.

Distance Learning Resources for Parents with Children with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Share the [MSAA Parent Brochure](#) with parents and families. The brochure includes links designed for parents with Students with Significant Disabilities (SwSCD) to provide insight into what students are able to do.

For more information or resources on this program, contact Duane Schlabach at 406-444-0748 or Duane.Schlabach@mt.gov.

MSAA August 2020 Tasks

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
None.	No deadlines this month.

We estimate this will take 0 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop District Guidance	Develop district guidance for serving students with severe disabilities (SwSD) and review the OPI’s Special Education COVID-19 information page.

Resources and Supports

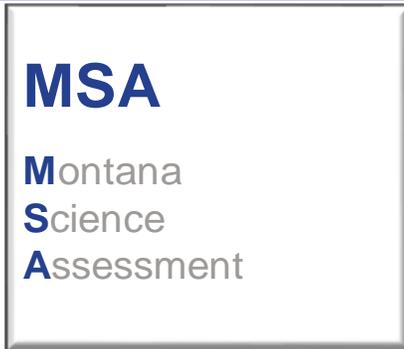
Resource	Support with...
OPI Special Education COVID-19 resource	The OPI webpage offering resources and support for districts to ensure that ALL student needs are met.
Instructional Supports	MSAA Instructional Supports and Resources are available on the NCSC Wiki site . A recorded webinar on instructional supports and resources is available on the District Test Coordinator webpage under “Webinars” tab. This information should be shared with teachers.
MSAA Consortia Site	This new website designed by the MSAA consortia member-states offers guidance and resources for educators.
TIES Center	The TIES Center is the national technical assistance center on inclusive practices and policies with resources on teaching during the novel coronavirus.
Schedule of Events	All required tasks and their due dates are presented in this document.

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
MSAServiceCenter@MeasuredProgress.org	866-834-8879	MSAA System

MSA News

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: [Cambium Portal](#)

Development of Montana's comprehensive assessment system for science continues! In the spring of 2021, the MSA will be delivered as operational field tests, integrating items developed for Montana with items previously field tested in our partner states. Results will be available after the testing window and test validation activities take place. Subsequently, accountability determinations can be made after the validation activities are completed. Educators interested in participating in development activities can complete the [2021 Science Content Development Team Application](#).



Announcing the Addition of Science Interims

Science interims will be released on September 14. These item clusters are aligned to a specific science standard (or NGSS Performance Expectation) at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Students will automatically be eligible for Science Interims in their grade band. See our new [MontCAS Science Development Site](#) for more information about this new resource. Visit bit.ly/MTSciTest for more information.

For more information or resources on this program, contact Nathan Miller at 406-444-5899 or Nathan.Miller@mt.gov.

MSA August 2020 Tasks

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
🕒 None.	No deadlines this month.

We estimate this will take 0 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attend a 2020 Assessment Roadshow webinar	Attend one of the virtual Fall 2020 Roadshow webinars to learn more about the new science assessments. View the agendas on the Fall 2020 Roadshow website to decide which date works best for your needs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan specific rosters and technology set-up tasks	Preview the MSA Schedule of Events to plan specific rostering and technology set-up tasks.

☑	Explore 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.
☑	Administer the Science Interim assessments	<p>Use the Science Interims to establish students' baseline skills and knowledge with respect to the Montana Science Standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are eligible for the interims in their current grade band (elementary, middle, or high school). • Select one Performance Expectation per discipline and administer them across several weeks to plan instruction.

Resources and Supports

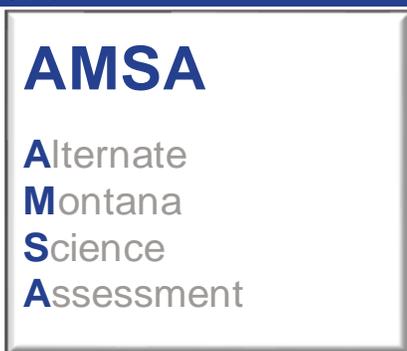
Resource	Support with...
 Montana Testing Portal	Access to Montana Science Assessment and resources.
 MontCAS Science Development Site	Explore this one-stop shop for all the information you need about Montana's science assessments and how they are being developed.
 The Reporting System	Both interim and summative score reports will be housed in this new tile on the Montana testing portal. It will be available beginning August 24.

Questions? Contact

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✉ E-mail	☎ Phone	🌐 Website
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Assessment Help Desk		
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mthelpdesk@cambiumassessment.com	877-365-7915	Montana Testing Portal

AMSA News

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 Links: [AIR Portal](#)

Students eligible to 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.

Development of Montana's comprehensive assessment system for science continues! In the spring of 2021, the AMSA will be delivered as operational field tests, integrating items developed for Montana with items previously field tested in our partner states.

For more information or resources on this program, contact Nathan Miller at 406-444-5899 or Nathan.Miller@mt.gov.

AMSA August 2020 Tasks

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 None.	No deadlines this month.

We estimate this will take 0 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attend a 2020 Assessment Roadshow webinar	Attend one of the virtual Fall 2020 Roadshow webinars to learn more about the new science assessments. View the agendas on the Fall 2020 Roadshow website to decide which date works best for your needs.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan specific rosters and technology set-up tasks	Preview the MSA Schedule of Events to plan specific rostering and technology set-up tasks.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Explore 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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update IEP/504 Plan status	Ensure the IEP and/or 504 Plan for students are updated in the AIM/Infinite Campus system. Check to be sure alternate student records have the alternate flag checked and locked.

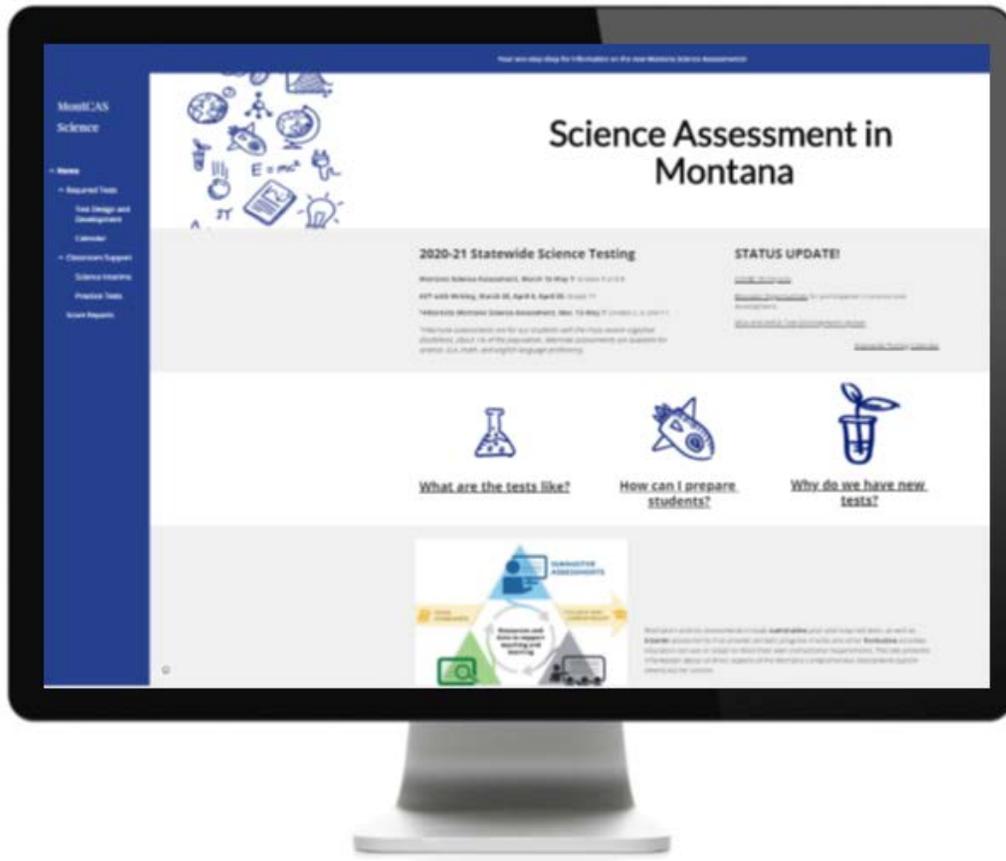
Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 Montana Testing Portal	Access to Montana Science Assessment and resources.
 MontCAS Science Development Site	Explore this one-stop shop for all the information you need about Montana's science assessments and how they are being developed.
 The Reporting System	Both interim and summative score reports will be housed in this new tile on the Montana testing portal. It will be available beginning August 24.

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Assessment Help Desk		
 E-mail	 Phone	 Website
mthelpdesk@cambiumassessment.com	877-365-7915	Montana Testing Portal

Check out the new [MontCAS Science Development Site!](#)





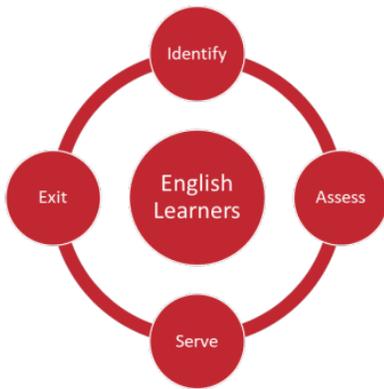
This assessment must be annually administered to all students in Grades K–12 who are indicated to take the assessment based on the results of the WIDA Screener (unless the child is eligible for the alternate) using the OPI’s published guidance for test administration and test security.

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

WIDA Exit Criteria

Effective August 1, the new proficiency criteria for ELs is in effect. The criteria cited in the “[2020-2021 ELP Guidance for School Districts](#)” was approved by the U.S. Department of Education on June 12. According to Montana’s definition of proficient, a student must achieve an overall composite score of 4.7 on Montana’s ELP assessment (or the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0) to be considered proficient in English. Additionally, Montana defined proficiency for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs as an achievement level “P2” for ELs with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is aligned to alternate ELP achievement standards.

Under federal law, all school districts are required to identify students who are eligible for language assistance. School districts must use the “[2020-2021 ELP Guidance for School Districts](#)” to identify and support ELs. More resources are available on the [Title III English Learners](#) web page of the OPI website.



School districts must enter and maintain accurate data for ELs in the Achievement in Montana Student Information System/Infinite Campus (AIM) database and annually monitor individual progress in acquiring academic English consistent with all state and federal laws and regulations ([ARM 10.56](#)). Follow the [EL Checklist for Districts](#) steps:

- Districts administers the [Home Language Survey \(Appendix A\)](#).
- District **screens** potential ELs within 14 days of enrollment using an approved WIDA screener.

Standard Screener Process	Remote Screener Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIDA Screener Online Webinar • WIDA Screener – Accessing Data Export 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIDA Remote Screener Flyer • Remote-learning guidance document

- Newly identified students AND transfer students are marked correctly in AIM. **AIM data includes:** (1) Home Primary Language (HPL), (2) Language of Impact (LOI), (3) EL identification (within 30 days), (4) Date identified as EL, (5) Date identified as proficient, and (6) 2 years of monitoring after exiting EL status.
- EL identification: Parents of newly identified ELs receive an EL designation and [placement letter](#) within the first 30 days of enrollment.

- ☑ ALL EL students are marked in AIM with the primary home language and language of impact coded by October count date (see the [AIM Data Collection Schedule 2020-21](#)).
- ☑ All identified ELs are administered the ACCESS for ELLs during the test window, Dec. 2 to Jan. 29, 2021.

For more information or resources on this program, contact Jacob Barto at 406-444-4420 or Jacob.Barto@mt.gov

WIDA August 2020 Tasks

Due This Month

Due Date		Complete
	October 19, 2020*	Ensure ALL EL students are marked in AIM/Infinite Campus with the primary home language and language of impact coded by October 19 to receive pre-ID labels.
	All year as required.	As students enroll, districts must administer the Home Language Survey (Appendix A) . Read the 2020-2021 ELP Guidance for School Districts and EL (English Learners) Tool Guide for more information.
	All year as required.	District screens potential ELs within 14 days of enrollment using an approved WIDA screener. Newly identified students AND transfer students are marked correctly in AIM. AIM Data includes: (1) Home Primary Language (HPL), (2) Language of Impact (LOI), (3) EL identification (within 30 days), (4) Date identified as EL, (5) Date identified as proficient, and (6) 2 years of monitoring after exiting EL status.
	All year as required.	EL identification: Parents of newly identified ELs receive an EL designation and placement letter within the first 30 days of enrollment.

*Depending on the number of schools and students, we estimate this will take 60 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Register for the MontCAS Monthly webinar	The September 16 webinar will focus on EL assessment: the new ELP Guidelines , best practices for language screening and EL identification, and how to use the new WIDA Remote Screener.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> View Score Reports	View score reports on WIDA AMS by selecting 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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Send Score Reports home	Schools districts are required to notify parents/guardians of assessment results in a timely manner. Send home ACCESS Score Reports accompanied by the OPI Sample Parent Letter .
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Learn about the temporary WIDA Remote Screener	If you missed the WIDA Remote Screener webinar earlier this month, view the recorded version. Find it, and the paper screener webinar, on the WIDA Q&A Webinar Schedule . View the WIDA Remote Screener Flyer for more information.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 2020-2021 ELP Guidance for School Districts	The guidance document describes the OPI's policies and procedures required to serve English Learner (EL) students in the state of Montana. These requirements fall under the authority of both state and federal laws and regulations.
 Provisional English Learner Identification Procedure	This remote-learning guidance document provides a means of provisionally identifying ELs in times of extended school closures where remote-learning plans have been approved by the Governor and school districts are providing a continuity of educational services online and face-to-face screening is not possible.

	Remote WIDA Screener	This flyer provides guidance and instruction for administering the remote WIDA Screener.
	WIDA Secure Portal	Access the WIDA Secure Portal for training and remote screener test materials.
	WIDA Download Library	Explore the WIDA Download Library for resources to assist with training, test administration, screener administration, score reports, and more.
	WIDA AMS Site	The WIDA AMS site serves as the test administration site.

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

WIDA eSummit Announcement

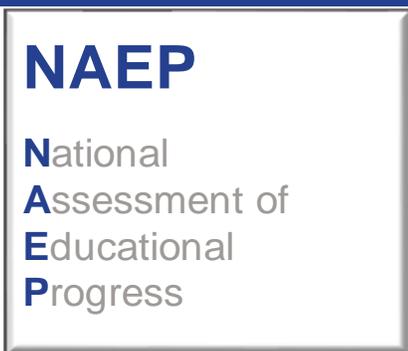
The WIDA eSummit is a free virtual learning opportunity for educators in WIDA Consortium states, territories, and federal agencies from **October 12 to 30, 2020**. Each week of the eSummit will have a theme with multiple webinars relating to the weekly topic:

- **2020 Standards:** sessions introducing the WIDA ELD Standards, 2020 Edition, Proficiency Level Descriptors, and updated Key Language Uses.
- **Teaching Multilingual Learners:** a panel discussion with the WIDA Fellows exploring responses to COVID-19 and sessions focused on the planning and implementation of instructional practices that support language development and content learning.
- **WIDA Assessments:** webinars about the WIDA assessment system, the upcoming WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, and WIDA MODEL.

Members of WIDA Consortium states, territories, and federal agencies will be able to access the live virtual sessions through the eLearning Center in the WIDA Secure Portal. Webinar recordings and downloadable resources will be available after the event. Additional information will be available on the WIDA website in September.

NAEP News

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 in grades 4 and 8 (unless the child is eligible for the alternate).

Portal Links: [My NAEP](#)

[National Assessment of Educational Progress](#) (NAEP) is a congressionally mandated program administered by the [National Center for Education Statistics](#) (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education. The [National Assessment Governing Board](#) (NAGB) oversees and sets policy for NAEP.

NAEP is not administered in all schools. The schools and students selected to participate in NAEP represent the demographic and geographic composition of the nation as a whole. The participation of selected schools and students is critical to ensuring accurate performance estimates for different groups of students in states and districts across the country. NAEP is the only

nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas.

For more information or resources on this program, please contact Shantel Niederstadt at 406-444-3450 or SNiederstadt@mt.gov.

NAEP August 2020 Tasks

Due This Month

Due Date	Complete
 September 30, 2020	Mark your Calendar – January 25 to March 19, 2021 for possible school selection. Due to COVID-19, the assessment window has been extended from March 5 th to the 19 th . If selected, schools will receive an email by the end of this month.

We estimate this will take 60 minutes to complete this month.

Timely Tasks

Task	Responsibility
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None.	No timely tasks this month.

Resources and Supports

Resource	Support with...
 An Overview of NAEP	This document provides an overview of the NAEP program.
 Selecting Schools for Participation in State-Level NAEP	This document explains how NAEP ensures a representative sample of students is assessed.
 Sample Questions Booklet	The booklet includes assessment directions as well as links to sample questions and survey questionnaires that explore students' activities and characteristics related to education and the subject being assessed.

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
naephelp@westat.com	(800) 283-6237	Nation's Report Card

Webinars and Educator Resources

Educator Opportunities

MontCAS Monthly Webinar Series

The OPI Assessment Unit will be hosting a monthly webinar focused on timely content each month. Visit the [MontCAS Monthly Webinar Schedule](#) for dates, times, and content. Webinars will be scheduled for one hour, will include an opportunity to ask questions, and will be recorded for future viewing.

The September webinar, “**ACCESS for ELLs Training**”, is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th from 3:30-4:30 p.m.



Register for the Zoom Meeting to receive information about joining

<https://mt.gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEudOigpjwvH9b4g7QheXZ5DYRINDymqk8y>

STC Open Forum Webinar Series

In addition to the monthly focused webinar, the Assessment Unit will be hosting a monthly, half-hour session for questions and comments from the STC community. The series, STC Open Forum, will be open only to confirmed STCs. It will provide an opportunity for STCs to ask questions of the OPI Assessment Unit and other STCs across the state and to share tips and tricks for managing the Montana state assessments. View the [STC Open Forum Webinar Schedule](#) for dates and times. Confirmed STCs will receive an invitation to the webinar each month.

Contact Information

Assessment Team

Assessment Unit Teaching and Learning Department Phone: 844-867-2569 Email: OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov State Testing General Sites: OPI Statewide Testing Website STC Corner Site	Ashley McGrath State Assessment Director amcgrath@mt.gov 	Marcy Fortner Assessment Specialist mfortner@mt.gov 
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Duane Schlabach Assessment Specialist Duane.Schlabach@mt.gov 	Nathan Miller Assessment Specialist Nathan.Miller@mt.gov 	Jacob Barto EL Assessment Specialist Jacob.Barto@mt.gov 
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Shantel Niederstadt NAEP State Coordinator sniederstadt@mt.gov 	Digital Library State Lead Marisa Graybill Marisa.Graybill@mt.gov	Additional Contacts Accessibility Support Specialists Paula Schultz Smarter Balanced Accommodations pschultz2@mt.gov Yvonne Field Assessment & Accountability Specialist YField@mt.gov
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Accommodation statement for publications

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Human Resource Manager

406-444-2673

OPIpersonnel@mt.gov

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, call 1-800-421-3481 or visit

<http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that serves your area.