



This Month in Assessment – October 2017

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	ACCESS for ELLs	CRT-ALT	CRT	MSAA	SBAC	ACT with Writing
2017-2018 Statewide Assessment Calendar	English Language Proficiency (ELP)	Alternate Science	Science	Alternate English Language Arts (ELA) and Math	ELA and Math	ELA and Math
Dates:	Dec. 6–Jan. 31	Feb. 20–Mar. 27	Mar. 1–Mar. 27	Mar. 19–May 4	Mar. 21–May 25	Initial: Mar. 20 Make Up: Apr. 24 Emergency: May 8
K	✓					
1	✓					
2	✓					
3	✓			✓	✓	
4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	✓			✓	✓	
6	✓			✓	✓	
7	✓			✓	✓	
8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	✓					
10	✓	✓	✓			
11	✓			✓		✓
12	✓					

Updating System Test Coordinator Contact Information

If a district has a new System Test Coordinator (STC) this school year, contact information may be updated by phone or online form (links below). Assignment of STCs is a decision made by the county superintendent. OPI may confirm new STCs and changes.

- Assessment contact: Marcy Fortner, Administrative Assistant, 406-444-3511, mforter@mt.gov
- Online form for new test coordinators: [form link](#)
- Online form for existing system test coordinator contact updates: [form link](#)

October Live Webinars

Date	Topic	Link
October 10, 2017 3:30-4:30 pm	The Month in Assessment: MontCAS Updates	MontCAS Updates
October 16, 2017 3:30 - 4:30 pm	Accessibility Series: ACT with Writing	Accessibility Series
October 25, 2017 3:30-4:30 pm	Monthly Data and Assessment PLC October Topic: Using Interim Assessment Data Earn CEUs	Register on the Teacher Learning Hub

Webinar Recordings:

Recordings of live webinars can be found on the OPI website at this link: [Assessment Webinars and Training](#).

Passwords

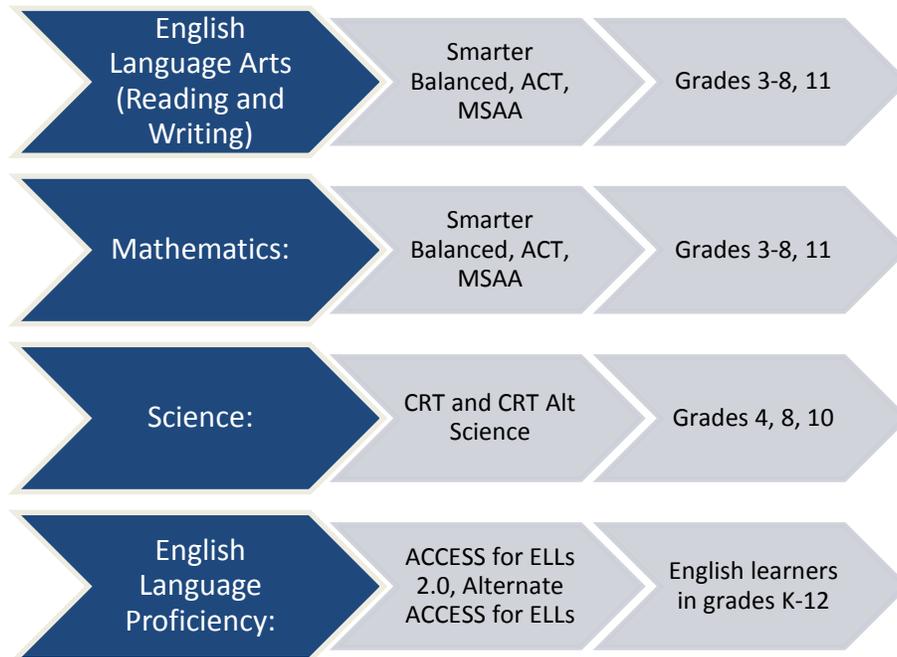
Many of the MontCAS programs require separate passwords to access test management sites, training materials, and test results. The following is a list of programs that require separate passwords:

- **Smarter Balanced** test administration, administration certification, interim tests, and test results
- **Smarter Balanced Digital Library** of formative assessment processes
- **CRT and CRT Alt** test results
- **ACT Plus Writing** test administration, reports, results
- **MSAA** (Multi State Alternate Assessment) test administration and training, results, and student reports
- **Access for ELLs 2.0** Test Administrator (TA) training, Assessment Management System, WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT), results reports
- **MontCAS Online Reporting** nonparticipation and testing irregularity reports and nonstandard accommodations requests

**Need help with
passwords?
Click here to contact
us.**

Participation and Registration Information

Participation Requirements



Percentages of Participating Students for Accountability

At least 95% of all students and 95% of each subgroup of students who are enrolled in public schools are required to participate in the statewide assessments listed above. No more than 1% of the total population may participate in alternate assessments.

Participation Options for Students with Disabilities

1. Participate in general population assessments without accommodations
2. Participate in general population assessments with accommodations
3. Participate in alternate assessments when the [participation criteria](#) are met.

Special Circumstances

English Learners

- Exempted from ELA portion of the Smarter Balanced and ACT tests in the first calendar year of enrollment in a US school

Part Time Students

- Must participate if enrolled at least quarter time (180 or more hours)

Digital Academy

- Students enrolled at least quarter time

Montana Youth Challenge, Job Corps, and students in treatment centers

- Students that are enrolled at least quarter time in the home district.
- Students are included in the home school data and reporting.
- ACT: Students that are enrolled quarter time in the home district may arrange to take the ACT at the home testing site.

Private Accredited Schools

- Students participate in statewide assessments for accreditation purposes, but are not included for accountability.

Home School Students

- May participate at the discretion of the district, but are not included for accountability

Foreign Exchange Students

- May participate at the discretion of the district, but are not included for accountability

Registration Processes

The OPI uses data from AIM/Infinite Campus to identify and register students for statewide assessments.

General Population Assessments: (Smarter Balanced, ACT, and Science CRT):

Students who are enrolled in the applicable grades are identified in AIM and a registration list is uploaded to online testing systems/securely transferred to test vendors by the Office of Public Instruction.

ACCESS for ELLs:

Students who are identified in AIM as Limited English Proficient in grades K-12 by the program participation date, October 27, 2017, will be registered. An additional upload will be completed by the OPI the week prior to the test window opening. Districts will be responsible for adding any newly identified students during the test window.

Alternate Assessments:

Alternate assessments allow students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to participate in statewide assessments. The decision to have a student participate in an alternate assessment is made by the IEP team based on Montana's [alternate assessment participation criteria](#). The decision must be documented in the IEP. The OPI uses data from the statewide assessment section of the locked electronic IEP to identify students that need to be registered.

Assessment Readiness

Tools to Prepare Educators and Students for Statewide Assessments

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

The WIDA website has a new page that provides guidance and resources to help prepare English learners for the ACCESS for ELLs tests. The OPI recommends sharing the resources on this page with all educators in the district that work with English learners. [Preparing Students Tab Link](#)

CRT Science

The released practice items for the CRT science test can be download from the OPI website. These items can be used by teachers to familiarize students with the test. Answer keys are provided. [CRT & CRT Alt Science Page Link](#)

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

Sample items are available on the MSAA System site. The OPI recommends using the sample items to familiarize students with the MSAA test platform and accessibility features. For students that have the paper accommodation, a PDF version of the sample items is available. The MSAA is a one to one, read aloud test. It is important to download the script and Directions for Test Administration (DTA) for use in preparing for and administering the sample items to the student. [MSAA System Sample Items Link](#)

Smarter Balanced

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium website has Practice and Training Tests and associated resources that are available without log in. The Montana Smarter Balanced Portal has practice and training tests that can be accessed with log in credentials. This allows the use of the secure browser for testing of text to speech and assistive technology.

[Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Test Page \(Public\)](#)

[Montana Smarter Portal Practice and Training Test \(Secure\)](#)

ACT

Eleventh grade students in Montana can prepare for the ACT with ACT Online Prep. ACT online prep allows students to access practice questions and tests and track progress over the course of the year. Online prep can be accessed via secure log in to the ACT Online Prep site via computer or using a free application. [ACT Online Prep: Montana](#)

Using Practice Tests to Determine Accessibility and Accommodation Needs

Practice and training tests are not just tools to help students practice in the test environment. They can be useful in evaluating individual student accessibility and accommodations needs.

Teachers can experience tests to understand what accessibility features and accommodations will be needed for individual students and how accommodations and supports function in the platform.

Students gain experience using the supports and accommodations that are available on the test. We recommend that teachers have conversations with individual students to identify what helps and what hinders their being able to show what they know and can do on the test.

SMARTER BALANCED

ELA and Mathematics

Availability of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System Components

TIDE and the Online TA Certification Course will be available starting on **October 17, 2017**. AIRWays, the Assessment Viewing Application (AVA), Teacher Hand-Scoring System (THSS), and Online Reporting System (ORS) will go live on **October 23, 2017**.

ACCESS FOR ELLs

English Language Proficiency Assessment

Testing Calendar

Test Cycle	Testing Specifics	Start Date	End Date
Pre-Testing	OPI Loads Pre-ID File into AMS	Fri 10/28/17	Fri 10/28/17
	WIDA AMS Test Setup Available for Test Sessions	Fri 11/3/17	Wed 1/31/18
	Districts Receive Test Materials	Tue 11/28/17	Tue 11/28/17
During Testing	Test Window	Wed 12/6/17	Wed 1/31/18
	Additional Test Material Ordering Window in AMS	Tue 11/28/17	Wed 1/24/18
Post Testing	Deadline for Shipping Completed Test Materials to DRC	Wed 2/7/18	Wed 2/7/18
	Districts Receive Reports, Printed and Online	TBD	TBD

Registration Reminder

The OPI will register all students who are identified as EL/LEP in AIM as of the fall program participation deadline 10/27/17. Please ensure that all students who meet the exit criteria have been exited and that any new students that have been identified with the WIDA screener are entered into the AIM system as LEP.

Resource Link: [LEP Tool Guide](#).

Speaking Guidance Documents

New this year! WIDA has just released ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Speaking Guidance documents (Grades 1-3, 4-5, and 6-12) to help educators prepare their students for the Online Speaking Test. These documents provide strategies for ongoing student preparation, including:

- helpful hints and classroom tools to use while working with students on their speaking skills
- suggestions for preparing students to show their best skills while interacting online with a virtual test administrator and model student
- reminders for students before and during testing
- logistical planning for test administration

WIDA's Online Speaking Guidance documents can be found on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 webpage under the new [Preparing Students](#) tab.

Final Release of 2017-18 Manuals

The complete District and School Test Coordinator Manual and Test Administrator Manual have been uploaded to the [WIDA website](#) on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Preparation & Training webpage.

ACT with Writing

ELA and Mathematics

Upcoming ACT Releases and STC Tasks:

- ACT Online Prep will be available for loading student account info on October 13, 2017.
- The window for ACT approved accommodations is November 6 through February 2, 2018.

2018 Assessment Conference

Making a Difference with Data

Save the Date!

The locations and dates have been set for the 2018 Assessment/Data Conference:

- Billings – February 8-9 (Thursday/Friday)
 - Red Lion Hotel and Convention Center
 - 406-248-7151, Room Block: OPI Assessment
- Helena – February 12-13 (Monday/Tuesday)
 - Radisson Colonial Hotel
 - 406-443-2100, Room Block: OPI Assessment

Online Assessment System Links

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

- Training and online resources: www.wida.us
- Assessment Management System: www.wida-ams.us
- [OPI ELP page link](#)

Smarter Balanced

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

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

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

ACT with Writing

- Assessment Management Link: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/montana.html>
- [OPI ACT page link](#)

MontCAS Assessment Help Desk Contact Information

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

- WIDA Help Desk Phone Number: 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

Smarter Balanced and Science CRT and Alt Service Desk

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

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA)

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

ACT Plus Writing

General Inquiries

Phone: 800-553-6244, Ext. 2800

Email: [Contact Form](#)

Accommodations Questions:

800-553-6244, Ext. 1788

ACTStateAccoms@act.org

Assessment Contacts

Assessment Division

Toll-free Phone:

844-867-2569

[OPI Assessment Help Desk](#)

[Email](#)

**Not sure who
to contact?
Click here**

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