



This Month in Assessment – September 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	✓					

[*NAEP Schedule of Assessments](#)

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 (link 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
- Online form for new test coordinators: [form link](#)
- Online form for existing system test coordinator contact updates: [form link](#)

September Live Webinars

Date	Topic	Link
September 12, 2017 3:30–4:30 p.m.	This Month in Assessment: MontCAS Updates	MontCAS Updates
September 18, 2017 3:30–4:30 p.m.	Accessibility Series: MontCAS Assessment Accommodations and the IEP	Accessibility Series
September 27, 2017 3:30-4:30	Teacher Learning Hub Monthly Data PLC September Topic: Montana Data Systems Overview Earn CEUs	Register on the Teacher Learning Hub

The New OPI Website

Assessment Pages Tour

The new OPI website is live as of August 31, 2017. Watch this [short video](#) tour of the assessment pages to become oriented.

MontCAS System, School, and Student Results Reports

Mailing District Reports to Parents

In September, districts will receive shipments with CRT and CRT ALT Science and Smarter Balanced individual student paper reports. In August, districts should have downloaded the MSAA results reports and printed the individual reports to share with parents. In late July, individual results reports for the ACT with Writing were delivered to districts. Each district should have a plan to distribute reports to parents by early October.

Passwords

Many of the MontCAS programs, including administration and training materials, test results, and other administrative functions, require separate passwords. Please check with the OPI regarding protocols for obtaining or updating passwords. The following is a list of those 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?
Click here to
contact us.

CRT & ALT Science

Science

CRT/CRT Alternate Letter

The CRT/CRT alternate letter that was sent to STCs last week has incorrect links due to the website updates.

- The new [link for the guide and sample reports](#) mentioned in the letter is available under the heading “Data & Results”.
- The [new link for the Science CRT released items and answer keys](#) is available under the heading “Practice”.

SMARTER BALANCED

ELA and Mathematics

Availability of the [Smarter Balanced Assessment System](#)

The AIR test administration platforms for the 2017-2018 school year will be going live over the next several weeks.

The Secure Browser, Updated Practice Tests, and Portal are scheduled to be available starting on September 15. TIDE and the Online TA Certification Course will follow on October 17, and Interim Tests (and their associated systems, including AIRWays, the Assessment Viewing Application (AVA), and Teacher Hand-Scoring System (THSS)) will go live on October 23, along with the Online Reporting System (ORS).

TIDE, ORS, AIRWays, AVA, and THSS are scheduled to be down for maintenance October 11-17. These systems will not be available during this maintenance period.

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

WIDA ACCESS for ELLs Webinars

WIDA offers a series of webinars that cover important test administration topics. This [2017-2018 ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinars PDF](#) includes dates, links, and topic information.

Test Administrator Checklists

WIDA provides [The Montana ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Checklist](#). This resource is intended for STCs, school coordinators, and TAs as a tool to ensure successful management and administration of the annual ELP test.

Montana Identification and Placement Guidelines Resources

This guidelines document is a new resource that is available via the [WIDA website](#). The document provides an overview of state-specific guidance. This document is a resource that can be used in addition to our EL guidance document: [Montana's English Language Learners: Guidance for School Districts](#).

WIDA Screener Info Pages

The new WIDA screener online is replacing the W-APT for grades 1-12. More information about the WIDA screener online is available on the [WIDA Screener Online](#) page.

User Accounts

- ✓ In September, it is time to update user accounts for the WIDA websites. STCs should review TA and other district users to remove anyone who is no longer working in the district and add any new users who will be assisting with test administration of the ACCESS for ELLs or WIDA screeners.

STCs have permissions to set up WIDA website and Assessment Management System (AMS) accounts. A DRC-specific login, that is separate from the WIDA-user account login, will allow login to WIDA AMS. Users who have given the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 summative assessment will use the same login for WIDA Screener. TAs and other testing personnel who did not participate in ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will need to be added to WIDA website and WIDA AMS and provided permissions for "WIDA Screener."

New STCs that do not have WIDA-user accounts may contact Marcy Fortner at the OPI.
mfortner@mt.gov, 406-444-3511

Registration for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

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 met the exit criteria have been exited and that any new students have been assessed with the W-APT screener and are identified are entered into the AIM system as LEP. Please contact Yvonne Field with any questions at yfield@mt.gov, or 406-444-0748.

Device Toolkit Enhancement

In late August 2017, DRC enhanced the Device Toolkit, which is the interface used to manage and configure testing devices for WIDA Screener Online and ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessments. The [Device Toolkit Enhancements](#) document provides an overview of the changes and steps for using the new interface to configure your testing environment. In addition, WIDA and DRC have developed [a tutorial and quick demo](#) to support users.

2018 Assessment Conference

2018 Assessment/Data Conference

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**

Marcy Fortner

Administrative Assistant

mfortner@mt.gov

Yvonne Field

Assessment Coordinator

yfield@mt.gov

Jessica Eilertson

State Assessment Director

jeilertson@mt.gov

Ashley McGrath

NAEP State Coordinator

amcgrath@mt.gov

Paula Schultz

Smarter Balanced

Accommodations Lead

schultz2@mt.gov

Pam Birkeland

Smarter Balanced Digital

Library Lead

pbirkeland@mt.gov