Montana Office of Public Instruction

April Focused Monthly Webinar
Critical Updates in Assessment

Assessment Team | Teaching and Learning Department
Montana Office of Public Instruction

April 14, 2021
Virtual Zoom Basics

1. Mute your mic when it is not in use.

2. Share your video.

3. Clearly name yourself as a participant.

4. Use the chat to introduce yourself, ask questions, and engage with your peers.
Session Disclaimer:
The information shared in today’s webinar is current as of [Timestamp: 04/14/2021] and stems from laws, regulations, and the OPI’s policies for testing, accountability, and reporting.

State of Affairs in Montana
State Assessment
• Make sure your name is clearly visible in participant list.
  
  (e.g., Ashley McGrath at OPI)
Session Overview

- Clarify the 95 Percent Rule and Waiver Status;
- Summative and Interim Test Completions;
- Setup and Preparation Support;
- Local Monitoring Strategies;
- Reminders on Key Dates;
- Resources to Support Schools; and
- Ask Questions and Clarify Information on Assessments.
Department’s February 22 Memo

On February 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) sent to a memo to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on guidance for the assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Memo outlined the expectations for:
- (1) Accountability and School Identification,
- (2) Transparency and Reporting,
- (3) Assessments, and
- (4) Public Comment.
The **memo** invites States to request a waiver for accountability and school identification requirements using an optional state accountability waiver template.

- It eliminates the annual meaningful differentiation and identification requirements (e.g., LTGs, MIPs, AMD, and identification of CSI, ATSI, and TSI schools).
- It waives the "Academic Achievement Indicator" requirement which is the calculation of the 95 participation rate.

The **memo** invites States to request a waiver for some reporting requirements; however, it does NOT eliminate many of state and local report card requirements.

- States with the waiver must publicly report disaggregated data (e.g., chronic absenteeism).
- States must ensure transparency to the public including reporting the percentage of students not assessed, disaggregated by student subgroups.

The **memo** invites States to introduce test administration flexibilities such as shortened tests, extended windows, and remote assessments, but it does NOT allow for blanket waivers from testing.

- If a child is unable to attend school safely it is not expected to bring them into school buildings for the sole purpose of taking a test.
- The OPI has determined it is not practicable to allow state assessments to be delivered to students in remote settings this school year.

The Department has assured the OPI it would not have to re-conduct public comment to secure the waivers offered under the **memo**.

- The OPI will continue to meet with the Department to address its questions and Montana’s unique circumstances and conditions.
- On April 6, the OPI received a letter declining approval of the strategic waivers; however, no additional public is required for the accountability waiver.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accountability Indicators</th>
<th>Elementary (K-5)</th>
<th>Middle (6-8)</th>
<th>High (9-12)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Achievement</td>
<td>Proficiency on statewide mathematics and ELA assessments (25 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proficiency on statewide mathematics and ELA assessments (30 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Growth</td>
<td>Improvement on statewide mathematics and ELA assessments (30 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learner Progress</td>
<td>Applied to all schools with 10 or more English Learners (10 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Applied to all schools with 10 or more English Learners (10 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-year adjusted cohort</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (25 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexibility (5th) (SQSS)</td>
<td>These indicators are determined by the state of Montana. (25 pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td>These indicators are determined by the state of Montana (35 pts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Treated as K-8 System*
What Does the 95 Percent Waiver Mean?

The “Academic Achievement Indicator” flexibility grants school districts relief from the participation rate calculation on the 95 percent requirement within the State’s accountability process. However, with this calculation waiver, schools must continue to provide the assessment opportunity to all students when it is safe to do so. The asterisk (*) indicates this ESEA-ESSA section has had a full or partial waiver granted from March 26th with the Department’s invited accountability and reporting waiver template.

ESEA-Essa Requirements

Testing: All Students
ESEA Section 1111(b)(2)(B)

Accountability: *95 Percent Rule
ESEA Section 1111(c)(4)(E)

Reporting: *Academic Achievement Indicator Results
ESEA Section 1111(h)(1)(C)
Medical Exemption Policy

Released on February 19, 2021

Replaces the Statewide Assessment Participation & Registration Guide

Link: MontCAS Policies and Procedures for Participation in State Assessments

This guide explains the participation policies and procedures to register and include students in each of the state assessments.
Medical Exemption Process

District reports reasons for non-participation that are likely due to qualifying medical reasons for OPI's consideration.

Standard Medical Code Reason:_____

COVID Code Reason:_____
MontCAS Application Medical Exemption Reporting Tips

**Note:** The OPI needs to confirm the student will not test at any time throughout the published test windows for the state assessment reported to us (e.g., LEP, Math, ELA, and Science). If the test window has not expired, then opportunities for testing may remain. An OPI decision will be postponed until the information is certain.

**Relevant Parts of a Medical Reason or COVID Explanation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant Parts</th>
<th>Suggested Information toClarify Reasons to the OPI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 1)</strong> Medical Exemption =</td>
<td>Clear in the explanation that the reason relates to documented illness or injuries and/or treatment or prevention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 2)</strong> Consultation =</td>
<td>It is evident that reason was determined through consultation with the student, family, medical provider (where appropriate), and the school district.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 3)</strong> Reason =</td>
<td>Clear in the explanation that the fact or situation explains why the non-participation reason is justifiable/happened.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 4)</strong> COVID =</td>
<td>Clear in the explanation that it relates to the virus or pandemic in some way.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OPI Flexibility with State Assessments

- Plan on delivering tests this spring when it is safe to do so. The participation requirement to administer state assessments is required under federal and state law.

- NEW - April 6: The Department denied the OPI’s strategic waiver requests for testing, accountability, and reporting. The OPI had proposed the option to the Department to allow local assessments (e.g., interims) and other measures of student learning and progress; however, the Department indicated the OPI had not demonstrated the specific circumstances that would warrant granting a waiver of the testing requirements and, specifically, not administering state assessments at all.

- The Montana Pre-Testing Checklist provides tasks that should be completed before the planned testing day for Smarter Balanced, Montana Science Assessment (MSA), and Alternate MSA to ensure a smooth testing experience for students.

- No remote proctoring (at-home testing) service for remote learners. School districts wishing to afford the opportunity for remote-only learners to participate in state assessments this spring can use the OPI’s Sample Family Letter. Other sample parent letters for state assessments can be found on the OPI’s Statewide Testing Parent Corner Page.
MontCAS 8-Step Data Cycle

Prevention, Detection, Inspection, and Resolution (PDIR)

1. Identify Goals
2. Adhere to Windows
3. Actively Monitor
4. Inspect and Reflect
5. Compare Results
6. Compile Data
7. Report Results
8. Adjust Goals

Adapted from: https://www.dataone.org/data-life-cycle
The Cycle of Testing Plans and Monitoring

**Before**
- Build Assessment Team
- Create strong Testing Plans
- Provide Appropriate Training

**During**
- Monitor Testing Rooms
- Monitor Assessment Portals
- MontCAS Reporting

**After**
- Review Test Incidents
- Debrief with TAs
- Review Results for Trends
Focus on These 3 Key Activities for Each Assessment Program:

- Summative and Interim Test Completions;
- Setup and Preparation Support;
- Local Monitoring Strategies;
Math and ELA Summative Testing Progress

FY21 ELA/Math Summative Preliminary Test Participation

Tests Available: 1
Tests Started: 2

- 16%
- 84%

*Updated 4/14/2021
Math and ELA Summative Testing Progress

FY21 ELA/Math Summative Test Completions

Unique Counts (#)

Grade 3: Total Test Started 5,130, Total Test Completed 4,408
Grade 4: Total Test Started 4,972, Total Test Completed 4,195
Grade 5: Total Test Started 5,915, Total Test Completed 4,979
Grade 6: Total Test Started 7,184, Total Test Completed 6,335
Grade 7: Total Test Started 8,424, Total Test Completed 7,587
Grade 8: Total Test Started 7,886, Total Test Completed 7,079
State Total: Total Test Started 34,583, Total Test Completed 39,511

*Updated 4/14/2021
Math and ELA Interim Testing Progress

FY2021 Montana Interim Use Report

- ICAs
- IABs/FIABs

Putting Montana Students First
Smarter Balanced Adjustments

Summative and Interim Testing Window Closes May 28, 2021

• The OPI has adopted a shortened blueprint for the Smarter Balanced assessment. The blueprint removes the ELA Performance Task (PT) and replaces it with brief writes in the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT).

• The average testing time is reduced by approximately 2 hours. To learn more about this test modifications, view the session titled “Five Things You Must Know About Smarter Balanced This Year”.
1. Student Test Settings

Local Responsibility

Universal Tools
- **Embedded**

- **Non-embedded**
  - Breaks, English Dictionary, Scratch Paper, Thesaurus

Designated Supports
- **Embedded**
  - Color Contrast, Illustration Glossaries, Masking, Mouse Pointer, Streamline, Text-to-speech, Translated Test Directions, Translations (Glossary) Translations (Stacked or Toggle), Turn off Any Universal Tools

- **Non-embedded**
  - Amplification, Bilingual Dictionary, Color Contrast, Color Overlays, Illustration Glossaries, Magnification, Medical Supports, Noise Buffers, Read Aloud, Read Aloud in Spanish, Scribe, Separate Setting, Simplified Test Directions, Translated Test Directions, Translations (Glossary)

Accommodations
- **Embedded**
  - American Sign Language, Braille, Closed Captioning, Text-to-speech

- **Non-embedded**
  - 100's number table, Abacus, Alternate Response Options, Braille, Calculator, Multiplication Table, Print on Demand, Read Aloud, Scribe, Speech-to-text, Word Prediction
2. Test Administrator Prep

Test Administrator Certification Course

Online Test Security Agreement (TSA)
3. Update Secure Browsers

Annual updates required on all student computers
4. Review TAM

Test Administration Manual (TAM)

- Familiarity with TAM
- Refer to during testing
Test Location Check
Environment Check
Notice Given
Instructional Aides Removed
TA Present

Example: Assessment Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Est. Mins</th>
<th>CAT</th>
<th>Est. Mins</th>
<th>PT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and Duration of Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong> 45 mins</td>
<td><strong>Part 1</strong> 60 mins</td>
<td><strong>Part 1</strong> Complete in 1 test session.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong> 45 mins</td>
<td><strong>Part 2</strong> 60 mins</td>
<td><strong>Part 2</strong> Complete the next school day. Allow enough time to complete the full write in 1 sitting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA Breaks within Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CAT Recommendation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Breaks can be provided during sessions. If paused for more than 20 mins, the student will not be able to go back to items on previous screens. A single test session should not include a break longer than 20 mins. Instead, separate sessions should be scheduled around extended breaks (e.g. lunch). Tests are not timed, so all the estimates are approximate. Students should be allowed extra time if they need it, but TAs need to use their best professional judgment when allowing students extra time. Students should also be actively engaged in responding productively to test questions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PT Recommendation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take breaks within Parts 1 and 2; however, once a student moves to Part 2, they cannot review or revise items in Part 1. For the PT, students may be served by sequential, uninterrupted time that may exceed the time in a student’s schedule.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA Total Duration</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Session 1 &amp; 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Once the CAT is started it is available for 45 days. Complete within 5 days of starting. Duration: 90 mins.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Est. Mins</th>
<th>CAT</th>
<th>Est. Mins</th>
<th>PT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number and Duration of Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong> &lt;60 mins</td>
<td><strong>Part 1</strong> &lt;120 mins</td>
<td><strong>Recommendation:</strong> Given in 1 sitting. Duration: 40–120 mins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Session 2</strong> &gt;60 mins</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 long session &gt; 60 mins.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Breaks within Sessions</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CAT Recommendation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Same as ELA instructions above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PT Recommendation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Can take breaks during PT test sessions. Math PT items are presented on a single screen. With a pause break, including a break of 20 mins, the student will have access to the same items.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Total Duration</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Session 1 &amp; 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Duration: 90 mins.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Duration: 60 mins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Example: Demographics

**Montana Comprehensive Assessment System**

#### Search Students

- **Number of students found:** 6
- **Search terms:**

**Student Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>SSID</th>
<th>Student's Last Name</th>
<th>Student's First Name</th>
<th>Student's Middle Name</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Birth Date (MMDDYYYY)</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>IDEA Indicator/IEP</th>
<th>Section 504</th>
<th>Alternate Assessment</th>
<th>Test Settings and Tools</th>
<th>Language (Designated Supports and Accommodations)</th>
<th>Test-To-Speech (Designated Supports and Accommodations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9998</td>
<td>9998_9998</td>
<td>229655214</td>
<td>Dermo</td>
<td>FName</td>
<td>Dermo</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>10112000</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ELPT:TDS_CompGrayULGray MA:ESN</td>
<td>MA:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item ELPT:TDS_TTS_Slim EL:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>test</td>
<td>test</td>
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<td>08262005</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ELPT:TDS_CompGrayULGray MA:ESN</td>
<td>MA:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item ELPT:TDS_TTS_Slim EL:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>test</td>
<td>test</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>08262005</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ELPT:TDS_CompGrayULGray MA:ESN</td>
<td>MA:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item ELPT:TDS_TTS_Slim EL:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>111111105</td>
<td>test</td>
<td>test</td>
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<td>Male</td>
<td>08262005</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ELPT:TDS_CompGrayULGray MA:ESN</td>
<td>MA:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item ELPT:TDS_TTS_Slim EL:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item</td>
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<tr>
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<td>08262005</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ELPT:TDS_CompGrayULGray MA:ESN</td>
<td>MA:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item ELPT:TDS_TTS_Slim EL:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9998</td>
<td>9998_9998</td>
<td>229604345</td>
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<td>Inamechange</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ELPT:TDS_CompGrayULGray MA:ESN</td>
<td>MA:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item ELPT:TDS_TTS_Slim EL:TDS_TTS_Slim&amp;TDS_TTS_Item</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Materials in the room that could give an examinee an unfair advantage are covered or removed.

"Testing in Progress - Do Not Disturb" signs are posted on all entrances to the testing location.

Resource: Smarter Balanced Checklist
Multi-State Alternate (MSAA) Summative Testing Progress

FY2021 MSAA Testing Report

- 34% Tests Opened
- 66% Tests Not Started

Updated 4/14
Multi-State Alternate (MSAA) Summative Testing Progress
Summative Testing Window Closes May 14, 2021

- This test window extension is intended to provide Test Administrators and students with sufficient time to plan and conduct a safe test administration using the COVID-19 State Standardized Testing Guidance.

PII Reminders
- Reminder to protect student data at all times.
There are 11,115 students registered to test this spring in Montana.

**Note:** students registered to test. Final counts will not be available until late May or early June.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>March 23</th>
<th>April 6</th>
<th>April 20</th>
<th>May 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>7,112</td>
<td>4,003</td>
<td>*100+</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Tests</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Tests</td>
<td>5,948 scored</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Over 100 Montana high schools have ordered materials for testing on April 20.*
A COVID Emergency testing date has been secured for districts and schools who need this opportunity.

- This testing date will occur in early May and will be offered only in paper/pencil mode.

ACT Assessment Update

Last Test Date – April 20, 2021

Setup and Preparation Tips
For Online Testing
- Change Delivery Format in PANext
- Ensure all steps have been taken to ensure machines are ready for online testing

For Paper and Online Testing
- Distribute the Non-Test Instructions to students
ACT Score Reporting

● Score Reporting
  ○ Online mode testing scores are available sooner than paper.
  ○ Online Reporting is located in Success.ACT.org.
  ○ Beginning with Spring 2021 score reporting, score reports will no longer be posted to PearsonAccessnext.

● MyACT Account
  ○ Students will likely see their scores in the MyACT account before schools/districts will be able to access them via Online Reporting.
Science Summative Testing Progress - Overall

20/55 = 36% of testing days have passed

Data accurate as of EOD Friday April 9th - End of Week 4 of Science Testing
Science Summative Testing Progress - Over Time

FY21 Science Weekly Test Completions

Total Student Started vs. Total Student Completed

Data accurate as of EOD Friday April 9th - End of Week 4 of Science Testing
Flagged Science Item

Context

- Science Grade 8 Test
- Item with error in stem
- Flagged by students to TA, TA to STC, and STC to OPI

Action

- Cambium has corrected and redeployed the item
- Field test data will be reviewed separately for before and after the fix
- Due to reporting and accountability waivers for science there are not significant implications for students who engaged with item before fix
Alternate Science Progress

Data accurate as of EOD Friday April 9th - End of Week 4 of Science Testing

20/55 = 36% of testing days have passed

FY21 Alternate Science Summative Preliminary Test Participation

*Updated 4/12/2021
Alternate Science Summative Testing Progress - Over Time

FY21 Science Weekly Test Completions

Data accurate as of EOD Friday April 9th - End of Week 4 of Science Testing
Percent of ALL Science Tests Complete By District

- 95% and above: 8%
- 70% - 94%: 7%
- 30% - 69%: 12%
- 1% - 29%: 5%
- Not Started: 68%

Data accurate as of EOD Friday April 9th - End of Week 4 of Science Testing
Interims have been used in 39 of 317 Districts
Summative and Interim Testing Window Closes May 28, 2021

- The Department extended the OPI’s science field test from last spring to this spring 2021. This field test waiver decouples the accountability and reporting requirements from the census administration.

- The waivers will benefit Montana’s students and educators in many ways including providing the opportunity to:
  - Transition fully to the new science standards.
  - Transition to new tested grades and to engage with new item types.
  - Experience the new online science testing format.
Science Frequently Asked Questions

• **Are we giving the science test this year?**
  – Yes - our new science test is called the Montana Science Assessment or MSA and will be administered in Montana for the first time this year as a Field Test.

• **Will there be scores?**
  – Not formally - we have a federal waiver for accountability and reporting to allow for the Field Test to happen.
  – We will do our best to provide some form of reporting to districts so that the experience can be used to evaluate science instruction and prepare for next year’s operational assessment.
Science Frequently Asked Questions

• Are we still testing grades 4 and 8?
  – With the adoption of the new Montana Science Standards we shifted our assessment in science to grades 5, 8, and 11. This better matches the standards and our assessments in other subject areas.
  – The 11th grade assessment for science is the ACT

• Why haven’t I gotten my CRT Science print materials yet?
  – The MSA is delivered via computer through the same browser as the Smarter Balanced Assessment. If you need print materials for an individual student please contact us immediately.
Section III - Agenda

☑ Reminders on Key Dates;
☑ Resources to Support Schools; and
☑ Ask Questions and Clarify Information on Assessments.
### Spring 2021 Test Windows

- The Multi-State Alternate Assessment has been extended 2 weeks.
- The ACT will allow a COVID-Emergency test date in early May.
- Extensions for the Science assessments and Smarter Balanced assessments have been granted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMSA (Alternate)</th>
<th>MSA (General)</th>
<th>MSAA (Alternate)</th>
<th>Smarter Balanced (General)</th>
<th>ACT with Writing² (General)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Subjects</strong></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Math and ELA</td>
<td>Math and ELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades Tested</strong></td>
<td>Grades 5, 8, 11</td>
<td>Grades 5, 8</td>
<td>Grades 3–8, 11</td>
<td>Grades 3–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Window Period</strong></td>
<td>11 weeks</td>
<td>11 weeks</td>
<td>9 weeks</td>
<td>12 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Test Window</strong></td>
<td>Mar 15 – May 28</td>
<td>Mar 15 – May 28</td>
<td>Mar 15 – May 14</td>
<td>Mar 8 – May 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Tentative State Score Report Timelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMSA (Alternate)</th>
<th>MSA (General)</th>
<th>MSAA (Alternate)</th>
<th>Smarter Balanced (General)</th>
<th>ACT with Writing² (General)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated District/Student Access</strong></td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Aug. 2 - Sept. 24</td>
<td>~2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated State Access</strong></td>
<td>July 9, 2021</td>
<td>July 9, 2021</td>
<td>July 1, 2021</td>
<td>July 9, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Subjects</strong></td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Math and ELA</td>
<td>Math and ELA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grades Tested</strong></td>
<td>Grades 5, 8, 11</td>
<td>Grades 5, 8</td>
<td>Grades 3–8, 11</td>
<td>Grades 3–8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** For Smarter Balanced ISRs no reports will be sent to districts this year. Attend the May 12th MontCAS Monthly Webinar to learn more about score report strategies.

*The ACT dates are accurate as long as no schools use the COVID emergency test date in early May.*
### Resources

- **Smarter Balanced, MSA, AMSA Pre-Testing Checklist**
- **April Assessment Bulletin**
- **STC Corner Site**
- **Explore the Assessment FAQ: COVID-19 Testing Alerts**
- **Safety First! FY2021 COVID-19 State Standardized Testing Guidance**

### MontCAS Test Readiness Checklist

| SBAC | Spring 2021 Assessment Go Live in March! The participation requirement to administer an annual state standardized assessment is required under federal and state law. In the event of non-participation due to COVID reasons, the test must be completed by the end of May. You will need to provide the necessary information to your student. If you miss the test, the student will not be able to participate in the next assessment. |
| ACT | Verify Proctor Training & Certification: Make sure your Test Administrators are trained and certified to proctor assessments and have the correct user roles to perform the functions assigned to them. System Test Coordinators may verify certification and roles in the Test Administrator Portal. |
| MSA | Verify Student Testing through the Secure Browser: All student testing will be completed through the Secure Browser. Check for all technological requirements and configurations based on your school's infrastructure. This is an essential step to ensure that your school's technology meets the requirements for the test. |
| AMSA | Verify Student Test Settings: In the Fall 2020, the OPI added student test settings for Smarter Balanced, Montana Science Assessment (MSA), and Alternate MSA from the previous spring to support schools with the back-to-school needs for testing. Schools must administer these tests with or without accommodations based on individual student needs on an annual basis (MSA 19-26.504). View the MontCAS Monthly Practice Webinar: Meaningful Participation and Student Success to learn more about verifying and setting up student test settings for each assessment. Verify all student information and test settings are correct in the Testing Portal - TDE. All test settings must be enabled in TDE prior to a student entering the test in order for them to be available. Some test settings cannot be edited by a user with a TA-level role. You may have a School/District Coordinator role to edit test settings in TDE. Click here to access the TDE User Guide. |

### Safety First! FY2021 COVID-19 State Standardized Testing Guidance

- **Download and Install Java:** Download and install the Java 8 version for the test. This is necessary for the virtual environment to run properly. |
- **Install the Test Software:** The current version of the Test software must be downloaded into the testing environment. This can be done by visiting the MontCAS online testing resources page. |
- **Complete a Mock Administration:** Create test sessions in PAW to test the installation process and ensure it is working correctly. Use the Mock Administration Manual to complete the steps. |
Questions?

We are here to help. Contact us.

OPI Assessment Help Desk at 1.844.867.2569 or e-mail at OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.
We welcome you to join us again on –

- Wednesday, **May 12** at 3:30 PM (1 hr)
- Wednesday, **June 9** at 3:30 PM (1 hr)