

## Key Testing Terms and Acronyms

- **DAC (District Assessment Coordinator):** The district's main contact with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the service providers, as well as district staff, for statewide testing.
- **ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act):** A reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which initiated a new system for accountability, reporting, school improvement, and recognition in Minnesota.
- **GRR (Graduation Requirements Records):** System used by districts to request reimbursement for the administration of college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) for eligible students.
- **MARSS WES (Minnesota Automated Reporting Student Systems Web Edit System):** A system districts use to submit enrollment information to MDE. MDE provides this information (along with test eligibility) to service providers for testing through precode data files.
- **MDE-ORG (Minnesota Department of Education-Organization Reference Glossary):** A searchable database with organizational details, including contact information for DACs and other district roles.
- **Test WES (Web Edit System):** A system used throughout the year by DACs and other district staff for activities related to data editing and test security.
- **TSN (Test Security Notification):** The way DACs inform MDE (via Test WES) of breaches in test security.
- **TAR (Test Administration Report):** The way districts document special circumstances (e.g., invalidation).

## Standards-Based Accountability Assessments

- **Accommodations and Supports:** Changes in *how* students participate in assessments.
  - *General Supports:* Available for all students; tailors the experience for student needs or preferences.
  - *Linguistic Supports:* Available for English learners; supports that are specific to the needs of English learners on standards-based accountability assessments.
  - *Accommodations:* Only available for students with an IEP or 504 plan; provides changes in the way a test is administered to reduce or eliminate the effects of a disability.
- **MCAs (Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments):** Standards-based accountability assessments for reading, mathematics, and science based on the Minnesota Academic Standards.
- **MTAS (Minnesota Test of Academic Skills):** The alternate standards-based accountability assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.
- **PearsonAccess Next:** Website used for the administration of MCAs and MTAS. It contains user guides, trainings, and student resources, and is used to manage users, set up test sessions, and access results.
- **TestNav:** Pearson delivers online MCAs to students using the TestNav app. For students taking a paper accommodated MCA, staff use TestNav to enter the responses online.

## English Language Proficiency Accountability Assessments

- **ACCESS for ELLs:** An English language proficiency accountability assessment based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards for listening, reading, speaking, and writing.
- **Alternate ACCESS for ELLs:** The alternate English language proficiency accountability assessment for English learners who have significant cognitive disabilities.
- **DRC (Data Recognition Corporation):** A service provider that has subcontracted with WIDA to support administration of the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.
- **EL (English Learner):** Term used to identify students learning English as an additional language. May also appear as ELL (English Language Learner).
- **WIDA:** A service provider for the ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. The WIDA website is used to access test administration, technology, and reporting resources as well as training courses.
- **WIDA AMS (WIDA Assessment Management System):** DRC manages the WIDA AMS website, which is used for managing student data and test sessions, ordering paper and accommodated test materials, and accessing score reports for ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs.

## Resources and Reporting

- **ALDs (Achievement Level Descriptors):** An educator resource that describes the four levels of achievement on the MCA or MTAS using the Minnesota Academic Standards.
- **DSR/SSR (District and School Student Results):** Large data files that contains all student-level data from the assessments, including demographic information, achievement level information, and test scores.
- **ISRs (Individual Student Reports):** Reports that describe an individual student's performance in terms of overall results and performance level for each subject or proficiency level for each domain.
- **Released Items and Passage Sets:** Items and reading passages that were previously used on the MCA and available on the MDE website for educators and students to reference.
- **Secure Reports:** A secure location of the MDE website where districts can view accountability and assessment results for students, schools, and the district.
- **Student Resources:** Since districts are required to ensure students are familiar with the assessments, a variety of student resources are available, including a student tutorial and item samplers (MCA and MTAS) and Test Practice items, Sample Items, and Test Demos (ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS).
- **Test Specifications:** Specific rules guiding the development of a test, including information from the academic standards about how strands, sub-strands, standards, and benchmarks will be assessed.