



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov



August 2016 JUMP Newsletter



Welcome to *JUMP*, the OPI MontCAS online assessment newsletter. *JUMP* is published several times during the year to announce important assessment and data events. It provides up-to-date information necessary for the administration of statewide assessments and the accompanying data collections. This *Back to School* issue is packed with information; please scan the main sections and then take them one at a time.

MontCAS: Things to Know and Do

A good place to start is this short [checklist](#) that was presented at the August School Administrators Institute/New Leaders Summit.

MontCAS System and School Contacts

Are you a new system test coordinator? Are you a superintendent who has a new system test coordinator? [Click](#) to access and complete the update form.

- The primary contact for MontCAS information is the System Test Coordinator (superintendents/authorized representatives are copied) who then forwards the information to the principals, school test coordinators, and other staff involved in assessments and assessment data collections such as special education directors, ELL leads, counselors, teacher test administrators, IT staff, data collection staff, and ACT test coordinators.

NOTE: Specific ACT information is sent to both the System Test Coordinator and the ACT Test Coordinator with copies to superintendents/authorized representatives.

- It is essential that MontCAS have the most current contact information. Please use the link above or call OPI to check or confirm current contact information ASAP. Thank you.

MontCAS System, School, and Student Results

▪ Science CRT and CRT-Alternate

- Electronic results of the Spring 2016 administration have been available online on MARS (Montana Analysis and Reporting System) since June. The results are available on the Measured Progress iservices portal and accessed by secure user names and passwords. Please contact MontCAS staff at 406-444-3511 or 406-444-3656 for assistance.
- Paper copies of the individual student reports (IRS) for parents/guardians will be mailed in September from Measured Progress. Schools should have a plan to distribute those reports within two weeks of their receipt.



■ Smarter ELA/Literacy and Mathematics

- System and school results of the Spring 2016 administration have been available on ORS (the Online Reporting System) at <https://mtsmarter.measuredprogress.org/portal/> since June. Access to the results is by individual password. System superintendents and system test coordinators assign roles for access to the ORS and permission to obtain a password. Superintendents and/or system test coordinators, please contact MontCAS staff at 406-444-3611 or 406-444-3656 for assistance.
- Paper copies of the individual student reports (IRS) for parents/guardians will be mailed in September from Measured Progress. Schools should have a plan to distribute those reports within two weeks of their receipt.

NOTE: CRT/ALT and Smarter paper copies will arrive in separate shipments from Measured Progress.

■ MSAA (Alternate) ELA/Literacy and Mathematics

- Results will be available for download from the MSAA Test Portal August 19 – **September 16**. Reports include district and school summaries, school rosters, and individual student reports and can be accessed on the MSAA portal by individual password.
- Schools will print the student reports and should have a plan to distribute them by October 3, 2016. No MSAA student reports will be mailed to the schools.

■ ACT Plus Writing

3-9 Weeks after Testing

- Students with reportable scores received their printed paper reports at their home addresses.
- Schools received the following addressed to the **Director of Counseling**
 - Lists of tested students with reportable scores.

NOTE: Organized in scoring groups, each alphabetical within the larger list.

- Printed paper reports and score labels for students with reportable scores. There may be more than one shipment as these are shipped in batches. Schools should have a plan to distribute those reports for parents/guardians by the end of September.

By August 22, 2016 and addressed to Test Coordinator

- ACT Profile Report: includes records of students who tested with non-college reportable accommodations
- ACT Profile Report: report of college reportable scores only
- Non-reportable score reports/letters
 - Three letters per student: 1 for parent/guardian, 1 for student, and 1 for school
 - Schools should have a plan to distribute those letters by the end of September.
 - Shipped separately from the ACT Profile Reports



Release of 2016 Smarter and MSAA State and System Test Results

The OPI release of the 2016 state, district, and school Smarter Balanced results earlier this week is posted [online](#). Schools and districts have had access to their Smarter Balanced results on the Online Reporting System (ORS) since June. On August 22, districts and schools will have access to the state results on the ORS. There are differences in the OPI released data and the data on ORS. OPI applied accountability rules to calculate the results. ORS did not. The OPI release included the alternate assessment (MSAA) participation and achievement level data. ORS data do not include the MSAA participation and achievement level data. Please refer to the table below for other differences and information.

NOTE: MSAA district, school, and state reports are posted and password accessible on the MSAA portal on August 19.

Description	2016 OPI Release of Smarter Balanced and MSAA Test Results with Accountability Rules Applied	2016 Online Reporting System (ORS)	Comparison Details of 2015 and 2016 Results
Alternate assessment results (MSAA)	Included in 2016 Smarter Preliminary Results	Not included	Not included in 2015 ART or 2016 ORS results
ELL Students - First Year in United States	Not included in 2016 ELA results	Included in 2016 ELA results	Included in 2015 ART and in 2016 ORS results
Students not enrolled the entire academic year	Not included in 2016 results	Included in 2016 results	Included in 2015 ART and in 2016 ORS results
Students enrolled entire academic year who did not test or did not complete the minimum required to receive a score	Considered non participants and receive Novice achievement level	Smarter Balanced scoring rules, students without scores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not included in the number tested • Not included in the achievement level calculations • Therefore not included in the Novice achievement level on ORS 	2015 ART and 2016 ORS data reflect Smarter Balanced scoring rules
Grade 11 students	Not tested and not included in participation or achievement levels	Not tested and not included in participation or achievement levels	Tested in 2015 and included in state and district participation and achievement levels for 2015
Students who moved during testing window	Attributed to school where tested	In some cases, not attributed to appropriate school	Same both years



Planning Checklist

- ✓ **Contact MontCAS Staff and/or complete online form** to update/confirm System Test Coordinator, Superintendent, and ACT Test Coordinator information and to get password information and protocols.

- ✓ **Passwords**

Many of the MontCAS programs (including administration and training materials, test results, and other administrative functions) require separate passwords. Please check with 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**
- **MSAA** (Multi State Alternate Assessment) test administration and training, results, and student reports
- **Access for ELLs** test administrator training, Assessment Management System, WIDA Access Placement Test (W-APT), results reports
- **MontCAS Online Reporting** non-participation and testing irregularity reports and non-standard accommodations requests

NOTE: Please remember that passwords are assigned to individuals and should not be shared. Sharing a password is a testing irregularity. Please keep passwords in a secure place.

- ✓ **Smarter Tide Quick Start Guide for Spring 2017**

TIDE, the Test Information and Distribution Engine for the Smarter Balanced assessments, connects the students, test administrators, assessments, accommodations, and reports. Below are important dates:

- August 26: The TIDE Quick Start Guide for the 2017 administration will be posted on the OPI site. A link will be sent to all system test coordinators.
- August 26-September 16: Update/ Cleanup for schools and systems to add/delete users. Instructions will be in the Quick Start Guide.
- September 19: All, both previous and new, TIDE users will receive email notification to refresh their passwords.

- ✓ **The English Language Proficiency (ELP) Test: Access for ELLs 2.0, Grades K-12**

This is the first required MontCAS assessment of the school year with the testing window tentatively opening on December 7, 2016.

- OPI will register all students who are identified as LEP in AIM by October 28, 2016.
- All students who met the exit criteria should be exited as LEP students in AIM by October 28.
- Any new students identified as LEP should be entered as LEP in AIM by October 28.
- Results and reports for the 2015-16 ELP assessments were posted online and password accessible. In addition, paper student reports were mailed to the schools in April 2016.



✓ **Accommodations**

- Fall is the time to confirm which students need accommodations and supports and to incorporate them in instruction and classroom assessments.
- Fall is also the time to begin the process of identifying students who demonstrate cognitive abilities and adaptive behavior that require substantial adjustments to the general curriculum and who may be eligible for the Science CRT-Alt and/or the MSAA alternate assessment. This should be documented in the student’s IEP.

✓ **MontCAS Webinars and Training Schedule**

- MontCAS and its test vendors offer webinars and training during the year. The webinar schedule will be posted and updated regularly on the MontCAS General Interest page
- http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/index.html?gpm=1_2
- Designated days and times for MontCAS webinars are listed below. Specific dates will be announced by email and added to the online schedule. Slides for most webinars will be posted online in advance of the webinars. And most webinars will be recorded and posted online.

Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 pm	Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:30 pm	Thursdays 3:30 –4:30 pm
ACT Plus Writing: Public Schools, Grade 11	Smarter Balanced Assessment System Digital Library and Interim and Summative Assessments, Grades 3-8 ELA and Math. NOTE: Private Accredited Schools, Grade 11	Multi State Alternate Assessment (MSAA): ELA and Math, Grades 3-8 and 11
Access for ELLs 2.0: English Language Proficiency, Grades K-12	Science CRT and CRT-ALT, Grades 4, 8, and10	

Contact Information

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 Yvonne Field, ELP and MSAA Alternate Lead, yfield@mt.gov 406-444-0748
 Pam Birkeland, Digital Library and Special Projects, pbirkeland@mt.gov 406-560-2060
 Paula Schultz, Smarter Accommodations Lead, pschultz2@mt.gov
 Judy Snow, State Assessment Director, jsnow@mt.gov 406-444-3656
 MontCAS Website: <http://opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/>

