

Please join us for the

Minnesota Assessment Conference



Thursday, August 5, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Northwestern College

3003 Snelling Avenue North, Saint Paul

Presented and sponsored by



*MDE would like to thank its collaborators in the divisions of Academic Standards, No Child Left Behind,
Special Education Policy and School Improvement*

Who should attend?

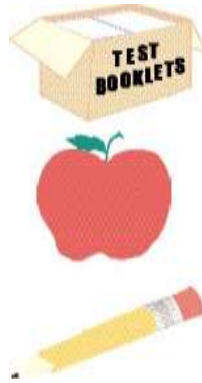
The Minnesota Division of Research and Assessment recognizes the need for high-quality professional staff development in Minnesota's assessment program. Join educators from around the state at conference sessions that focus on a wide range of assessment topics and network with your peers on testing issues important to your district.

Audience:

District Assessment Coordinators

Teacher Leaders in language arts, mathematics, science, English as a second language and special education

Administrators who are charged with interpreting state and federal assessment policy for their districts



As you review the available conference sessions, the icons above will indicate the primary intended audience. No session is closed to any attendee. The icons are simply to assist, not define, who should attend a particular session.

Space is limited to the first 1,000 registrants. Identify a team of attendees at your district or school level to get the most value from the conference.

Ticketed Sessions: Early registration for these sessions is highly recommended. The ticketed sessions are clearly indicated on the registration form. As sessions fill, they will be posted on the Government Training Services (GTS) Website (www.mngts.org).

Where can I stay?

Overnight accommodations: A block of rooms has been reserved for Wednesday, August 4, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel Roseville, 2540 North Cleveland Avenue. The room rate is **\$89** plus tax (single or double occupancy). **Reservations are due by July 19, 2010.** Call 651-636-4567 or 1-800-333-3333. Mention the conference to secure the reduced rate.

***The Radisson will provide complimentary shuttle service** to and from Northwestern College based upon registrant needs. If you intend to use the shuttle service, please check the specified box under "Special Needs" on your registration form.

What is the cost?

Conference Fees: \$70/person for registrations postmarked by June 10, 2010 and \$85/person for registrations postmarked June 11 - July 22, 2010. Registration after July 22 will be strictly on a space-available basis for \$100/person. Fees include tuition, instructional materials, lunch and refreshment breaks. Payment options available are check (payable to Government Training Services) or credit card (Amex, Discover, VISA or Mastercard accepted). You may also choose to be billed. If payment is not received before the conference, a \$20 fee will be added to the follow-up invoice. Make your payment selection on the registration form.

New Registration Option!

We are pleased to offer pre-service teachers an opportunity to attend this year's conference at a substantially reduced rate of \$25/person. This fee includes tuition, instructional materials, lunch and refreshment breaks.

How do I register?

Online registration (available at www.mngts.org) is preferred. For those not able to register online, a registration form is included in this brochure and may be returned via U.S. mail or fax. Registration is open until July 22, 2010, or until all available spots are filled.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION

Electronic confirmation notices will be sent out beginning June 1, 2010. Registrants will also receive a reminder notice in early August with updated conference program details.

QUESTIONS ABOUT REGISTRATION

Contact Catherine Dubbe (cdubbe@mngts.org) or Carol Schoeneck (cschoeneck@mngts.org) at Government Training Services (651-222-7409 metro or 1-800-817-5718 non-metro).

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONFERENCE OR SESSIONS

Contact Minnesota Department of Education at mde.testing@state.mn.us.

CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS

Fees will be refunded (less a \$20 service fee) if cancellation notification is received by Thursday, July 29, 2010. If your registration is not cancelled and you do not attend, you will be responsible for payment of the entire fee. Should severe weather (or other circumstances beyond our control) necessitate program cancellation, notification will be posted on these WCCO Websites:

www.wcco.com and www.830wcco.com.

ABOUT GOVERNMENT TRAINING SERVICES

GTS GTS is a non-profit organization begun in 1976 that provides program planning, management and support services to government and non-profit groups and organizations.

Upon request, the information in this brochure can be provided in an alternate format. Contact us by e-mail at mde.testing@state.mn.us.

Minnesota Assessment Conference

August 5, 2010, 8:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Final On-site Check-in: 8:00-8:30 a.m.

NOTE: *Early Bird Check-in* will also be available on Wednesday evening (4:00-6:00 p.m.) at the Radisson Hotel Roseville

The Future of Statewide Assessment in the Common Core Era

FEATURED SPEAKER: Dr. Jon S. Twing



Dr. Jon S. Twing is currently the Executive Vice President for Pearson Assessment & Information. In addition to his responsibilities for the development of assessment and instructional-support content, measurement research and psychometrics at Pearson, Dr. Twing has recently participated in a collaborative effort with ETS, the College Board, and Pearson to explore how innovative approaches and best practices in high-quality assessments can be applied to the creation of a common assessment system.

Dr. Twing will share the key outcomes of this collaboration and will facilitate a discussion among some key stakeholders in Minnesota to help guide participants as we plan for the next generation of statewide assessment.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS: Each conference participant will have the opportunity to attend four (4) sessions which have been sorted into sections: A, B, C and D. Section D will repeat the most commonly chosen sessions from sections A, B and C based on registration information. Please select a session from each of sections A, B and C by circling the session number on the registration form. The ticketed sessions are hands-on computer labs with very limited space. As each ticketed session is filled, we will post its status on the Government Training Services (GTS) Website (www.mngts.org). Lunch assignments will be based on your session choice in Section B. **If you do not select a session in section B, you will be randomly assigned to a lunch time.**

CONFERENCE LOCATION: The conference will be held at Northwestern College* – 3003 Snelling Avenue North in St. Paul, Minnesota. Free, on-campus parking is available for conference attendees. Visit their Website <http://nwc.nwc.edu/index.php?id=51> for directions and map.

Driving directions:

From the North: Follow 35E to 694 West or 35W to 694 or Hwy 10 East to Snelling Ave. South. At the first stop light, Lydia Ave., turn right.












From the South: Follow 35W North to 94 East to 280 North to Hwy 36 East. Exit onto Snelling Ave. North to the third stop light, Lydia Ave., and turn left.



From the East: Follow Hwy 36 to Snelling Ave. North. At the third stop light, Lydia Ave., turn left.

From the West: Follow 694 East to Snelling Ave. South. At the first stop light, Lydia Ave., turn right.










**Northwestern College is a smoke-free and alcohol-free campus. All attendees are asked to refrain from smoking or using alcohol inside the facility or on the grounds of the campus.*













Session A Presentation Descriptions




A1	<p>ACCESS – <i>Jennifer Dugan and Dirk Mattson</i> MDE’s plans to implement the legislation creating the new High School graduation system that will replace the GRAD.</p>	
A2 Ticketed Session	<p>NAEP Results—State-by-State Comparisons – <i>Kate Beattie</i> This session will show you how to compare NAEP results state to state and how to find more in-depth information on each state’s results.</p>	
A3	<p>Perspective Redesign – <i>Chris Shira</i> This session will provide an in-depth exploration of the extensively redesigned Perspective family site and provide new users with strategies for extending the utility of Perspective throughout the school year using the Assignment Sheet function.</p>	
A4	<p>Reading 2011 and Beyond – <i>Alice Golden, Angela Norberg and Jennifer Dugan</i> An overview for Minnesota Reading Assessments in the coming years. Topics discussed will include 2011 administrations, standards alignment, and adaptive algorithm.</p>	
A5	<p>The <i>Common Core State Standards</i>: Important Implications for Minnesota – <i>Beth Aune, Sue Wygant, Kari Ross and Charon Tierney</i> Learn why <i>Common Core</i> standards are important and how Minnesota helped develop them. Examine how they compare to our standards, and what this means for schools.</p>	
A6	<p>Crafting a Balanced System of Assessment – I (Overview) – <i>Thomas E. Dohm</i> The primary focus of this overview will be the importance of a balanced approach to assessment. The discussion will integrate current approaches to state/national initiatives.</p>	
A7	<p>Now That’s Interesting! – <i>Connie Milstein</i> Teachers will learn a little more about the importance of assessing students’ interests and learning styles. Participants will take home interest and learning style assessment materials that can be completed by students and teachers.</p>	
A8	<p>Linking MAP Strand Scores to MCA-II Strand Scores – <i>Chi-Keung (Alex) Chan, Eric Vanden Berk and John Denbleyker</i> The presenters will examine the reliability and validity of MAP strand scores for predicting MCA-II strand performance and recommend best-practices for reporting and using the MAP strand scores.</p>	
A9	<p>Analyzing Data to Inform Instructional Decisions – <i>Renee Ringold and Anne Sheridan</i> This session will provide practice in using protocols to look at data to set targeted SMART goals.</p>	
A10	<p>Jump Starting School Improvement with a Data Retreat – <i>Paul Brashear, Sharon Burrell, Sandy Winegarden and Tim Murtha</i> Hear how one district uses an annual data retreat as the anchor to an improvement process which creates aligned Site Improvement, QComp, Staff Development and AYP Improvement plans, and a coherent focus for its PLCs.</p>	
A11	<p>Does Your Data Actually Indicate a Gap in Student Achievement? – <i>Margaret Biggerstaff</i> Gap analysis is more than a difference between two numbers. Look at data in four different perspectives to deepen understanding of gaps in student achievement.</p>	

<p>A12</p>	<p>Using Technology Effectively for Data-based Decision-making: Ideas for Better Implementation – <i>Benjamin Silberglitt</i> Schools are increasingly turning to software to support the use of data. Proper training and planning are important keys to rolling out any new tool. Learn about a model for effective implementation.</p>	
<p>A13</p>	<p>Engaging Design for Diversity – <i>Mary Haney and Barbara Jo Stahl</i> Innovative ways to use assessment data, focusing on student strengths and connecting to what needs to be done to get it right, “pay it forward,” and close the achievement gap.</p>	










Session B Presentation Descriptions






<p>B1</p>	<p>Race-to-the-Top Assessment Consortia Update – <i>Dirk Mattson</i> This past April the US-DOE released a Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) for consortia of states to build a common assessment system aligned to a common set of standards. This session will provide an update on the US-DOE requirements and where Minnesota is in this conversation, including decision points and timelines.</p>	
<p>B2 Ticketed Session</p>	<p>A Tour of Useful Resources on MDE’s Website – <i>Roger Anderson</i> There is a lot of information on the MDE Website that is useful to DACs. This session will show you where it is and how to use it.</p>	
<p>B3</p>	<p>Advantages of Adaptive Testing – <i>Nathan Thompson</i> Will examine the basis for adaptive testing (item response theory), then computer adaptive testing advantages and disadvantages, and what the benefits mean for schools and students.</p>	
<p>B4</p>	<p>New DAC 101 Training – <i>Jennifer Burton and Teri Broderick</i> If you are a brand-new District Assessment Coordinator and have not experienced statewide testing, this session will provide you with a basic understanding for a successful start.</p>	
<p>B5</p>	<p>DAC 102 – <i>Tracy Cerda and Julie Nielsen-Fuhrmann</i> If you are a District Assessment Coordinator who has been through the statewide assessment a time or two, this session will provide information on what is new for the coming year and a brief refresher of the assessments, your responsibilities and the systems used.</p>	
<p>B6</p>	<p>Overview of PearsonAccess 101 – <i>Melanie Gross</i> This session will be an introduction to the PearsonAccess Site for districts to perform many test-related duties such as ordering materials, setting up online tests and viewing student results.</p>	
<p>B7</p>	<p>Why is Readability Important? – <i>Kari Ross and Julie Scullen</i> This session will explore the foundations of why matching a reader to a text of a specific reading level supports comprehension and increases academic achievement, especially in reading informational text.</p>	
<p>B8</p>	<p>Writing to Read: How Writing Can Improve Reading – <i>Charon Tierney</i> We will focus on instructional practices in writing which have been shown to improve student reading achievement. We will explore how reading and writing can be combined for efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	
<p>B9</p>	<p>Math MCA-III – <i>Rosemary Heinitz and Jennifer Dugan</i> An overview of the Math MCA-III Grades 3-8 that will be operational in spring 2011. Topics discussed will include test design, item types and supporting materials.</p>	

B10	Science Standards and Assessment – Dawn Cameron and John Olson Updates provided on implementing the revised science standards and graduation requirements, preparing for changes in the MCA exam and anticipating future changes in standards and assessments.	
B11 Ticketed Session	NAEP Questions Tool – Kate Beattie This session will explore the online tool available to generate your own classroom assessments using released items from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in Mathematics, Reading and Science at grades 4 and 8.	
B12	ELL Program Update – Leigh Schleicher Updates regarding state and federal ELL programming for the 2010-2011 school year. ELL coordinators, administrators and teachers are encouraged to attend.	
B13	Using Formative Assessment to Engage Students – Margaret Biggerstaff Student self-assessment and peer assessment are critical features of effective classroom formative assessment. Discuss what it looks like and the scaffolding needed to engage students.	
B14	Lexile® measures and MCA Reading Scores – Making Test Results Actionable – Ellie Sanford and Otis Fulton Staff from MetaMetrics will review how The Lexile Framework® for Reading links to the scale provided on MCA 2010 reading scores. An overview of the various tools available for use by teachers, parents, and students will be demonstrated.	
B15	Assessment Data R Us – George Henly This session will provide an overview of some of the assessment data sets available from MDE and provide examples of how graphical tools available through the free statistical software program R can be used to better understand this data.	
B16	Using Data to Improve Professional Learning Community Work – Renee Ringold and Anne Sheridan This session will provide tools to help Professional Learning Community teams to analyze student data and improve classroom instruction.	
B17	Using Multiple Data Points to Identify Gifted and Highly Able Learners – Wendy Behrens and Kris Happe Best practices in identification that are sensitive to under-represented groups including low-income, minority, gifted, learning disabled, and English language learners will be discussed.	
B18	Crafting a Balanced System of Assessment – II (Measurement Issues and Concerns) – Thomas E. Dohm Part II of this discussion of balanced assessment will focus on measurement-related issues that impact implementation. Assessment tools/methods will be integrated into the discussion.	
B19	Computer Administration of Math This Spring! – Dirk Mattson A preview of the computer-administered grades 3-8 math test in spring 2011. New, technology-enhanced items will be demonstrated, as well as an overview of the testing engine. Find out why you want to be thinking about delivering the test this spring on computer and learn about the expanded administration features that are planned for 2011-2012.	
B20	Sustaining the School Improvement Plan – Linking Assessment Data to Action Plan – Chi-Keung (Alex) Chan and Nicole Norton Various types of assessment data can be used to sustain a school improvement plan. Learn how to use assessment data to develop, monitor, and modify the action plan.	
B21	Using Test Data to Drive Student Growth – Asad Zaman Based on the successes at Tarek ibn Ziyad Academy (TiZA) Charter School, this session explores how test data can be used to drive student growth.	

B22	Guiding Your Students to College and Career Readiness with EPAS – <i>Sally Wherry and Angie Judd</i> Gain understanding of EXPLORE/PLAN data such as student intervention rosters, college readiness benchmarks, profile summary data, and career interest materials to increase students' postsecondary readiness.	
B23	Communicating Test Results – <i>Bill Walsh and Tom Weber</i> This session will discuss how to effectively communicate test results and test data to members of the media and the general public.	
B24	Learning Progressions: A Helpful Tool in the Development of Standards-Based IEPs – <i>Debra Price-Ellingstad and Donna Tabat</i> Students taking the MCA-Modified must have an IEP that includes goals based on grade level content standards. Discover how learning progressions can help IEP teams individualize these goals.	

Session C Presentation Descriptions

C1	Overview of PearsonAccess 102 – <i>Kaitlynn Griffith</i> For more advanced users, this session will demonstrate additional functionality and provide an opportunity to ask questions in PearsonAccess.	
C2 Ticketed Session	Using the Educator Portal – <i>Roger Anderson</i> An in-depth tour of the information available at the Educator Portal and how DACs can use it. Bring your MDE User ID and Password.	
C3	Test Monitor Training: What Works? – <i>Mary Roden</i> Come hear lessons learned by other districts for how to design and implement test monitor training to ensure smooth administration for both online and paper-and-pencil tests. Participants are encouraged to come with questions and ideas to share.	
C4	GRAD Update – <i>Jennifer Dugan and Dirk Mattson</i> Discuss the 2010-2011 GRAD administration options and provide updates based on the latest legislation.	
C5	Reading is HOT in Middle School – <i>Wendy Behrens and Kari Ross</i> Participants in this session will discuss the importance of fostering and facilitating critical reading and thinking skills at the middle school level.	
C6	A Look at Learning Progressions in the Minnesota Mathematics Standards – <i>Sue Wygant</i> We will look at a process showing how different strands in the mathematics standards develop across grades and how they are connected within a grade.	
C7	Reviewing MCA Questions: What We Have Learned – <i>MDE Research and Assessment Staff and Advisory Panelists</i> Working in small groups, participants will discuss some of the wisdom gathered by panel members as part of the process of reviewing materials from the MCAs. Discussion in each content group will focus on how to best teach the MN standards and prepare students for success on the state assessments.	
C8	Using MCA-II Proficiency Level, Minnesota Growth, and MAP Growth for Setting Individual Student's Goals – <i>Chi-Keung (Alex) Chan</i> The presenter will illustrate the use of DPME Analyses along with Minnesota and MAP growth data for setting individual student's goals. Strengths and limitations of this data triangulation approach will be addressed.	
C9	Developing SMART Goals with MCA-II Results – <i>John Gimpl</i> SMART goals offer clarity and transparency for action planning in raising student achievement. Discover tools available and explore aspects of MCA-II data.	

C10 Ticketed Session	How to Conduct a Multi-year MCA Strand Analysis Using z-scores – <i>Jeff Kienitz</i> Hands-on session showing how to use Educator Portal data and online resources to generate a low-cost, in-depth analysis of MCA scores by class and grade. Will show how to import student data to compare grades and classes by strand. Bring your MDE User ID and Password.	
C11	Using Assessment Data via Data Coaching – <i>Stacey Akyea</i> Participants will learn how our district supports schools by using assessment data to create an infrastructure of data literacy supported by a data coach.	
C12	Analyzing Classroom Assessments with Excel – <i>Nathan Thompson</i> Excel can easily be set up to automatically score tests and provide item statistics. These statistics help you evaluate the difficulty and quality of your test.	
C13	Building Capacity for Data-driven Decision-making – <i>Margaret Biggerstaff</i> Data-driven decision-making needs to be an integral part of school improvement. Discuss how to build capacity for this in your district or school.	
C14	Assessing School Culture for Optimum Learning – <i>Mary Menne</i> It is possible to create a school culture that raises engagement and hope, and thus achievement. Participants will leave with a different/innovative sense of accountability.	

Session D Presentation Descriptions

Session D presentations will repeat the most commonly chosen sessions from sessions A, B and C during the registration period. Information on the presentations for this session will be sent to you with your final confirmation information one week before the conference.