

TO: District Superintendents, Principals, Test Coordinators, and Special Education Directors

FROM: Greg Gallagher, Assessment Director
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SUBJECT: Release of 2014-15 NDSA and NDAA Student Reports

DATE: September 28, 2015

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) announces the release of student reports from the 2014-15 North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA) and the North Dakota Alternate Assessment (NDAA). We write to provide a brief overview of the manner and scheduling in which you will access these student reports.

NDSA Student Reports

Measured Progress, the state's NDSA contractor, will soon release student NDSA reports on the Measured Progress NDSA Portal (<https://ndsasmarter.measuredprogress.org/portal/>), which will be the primary access point for registered users, including district and school administrators, teachers, and designated proctors. An individual must be registered within the Administration and Registration Tools (ART) site to access any student reports. Designated stages will be used to manage the rollout of student reports for the various levels of users. Refer to the NDSA Portal for any updates on the release of the student reports to your various users.

- Effective immediately, **Measured Progress has opened to district coordinators (DC) and school coordinators (SC) the NDSA ART system.** This enables DC and SC staff to review, retain, or delete any DCs, SCs, and test administrators (TA) within the ART to ensure that only properly designated staff can gain access to student reports.

The ART system database includes all DC, SC, or TA staff from 2014-15, simplifying any records management work. If a district administrator is new this year, they will need to contact the NDSA Help Desk to register for Portal access as a DC. All other staff, including SC and TA, can be entered into the system by an appropriate higher-level user. TA staff will not gain access to the NDSA Portal until Friday, October 2, 2015. To revisit how to navigate and use the ART system, refer to the ART Account Maintenance Quick Start Guide on the NDSA Portal. The NDSA Help Desk can be accessed at 800-929-3757 or NDSAservicedesk@measuredprogress.org.

Please note that student information on the ART continues to be locked down until after the final release of all student reports into the NDSA Reporting Module. The NDDPI will then retire the 2014-15 student files and repopulate files from the 2015-16 STARS system.

- At approximately noon, Wednesday, September 30, 2015, Measured Progress will open to **DC and SC staff access to the NDSA Portal Reporting Module** to review district-, school-, class-, and student-level reports, prior to the general release of reports for viewing by TA staff. This preview opportunity allows district and school administrators time to review and understand overall student results, prior to its release to TA staff on Friday. Measured Progress will post training guides on the NDSA Portal to support users in accessing and understanding the NDSA student reports.
- At approximately noon, Friday, October 2, 2015, Measured Progress will open to **TA staff access to the NDSA Portal Reporting Module** to review specific student reports.

An Important Note on Certain Assurance Scoring of a Limited Number of Student Reports

A certain limited number of students' NDSA reports will not be accessible to users for approximately two weeks, until final quality assurance scoring is conducted by Measured Progress. The NDDPI has instructed Measured Progress to conduct an extended rescoring of a limited number of students' NDSA tests, which were impacted by certain test disruptions during the NDSA spring administration. The NDDPI requested this rescoring to ensure the most complete and proper accounting of student performance for these students work. As rescoring is completed, these students' reports will become readily available on the NDSA Portal Reporting System for your use. Measured Progress will communicate directly with any schools who have students affected by this assurance scoring. The NDDPI will provide a more detailed accounting of all student assessment activity, including a formal release of final statewide student achievement results, following the completion of all quality assurance scoring and validation of results. **The NDDPI recommends that districts not release any preliminary state-, district-, or school-level NDSA reports until the NDDPI issues a final release of validated statewide results.** Schools, however, will have complete access to and use of all student reports for instructional and improvement purposes leading up to any final, official release.

Following the completion of all scoring and validation activities, Measured Progress will forward to school districts printed copies of all student-level reports, organized by school.

NDAA Student Reports

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), the state's NDAA contractor, will soon release student NDAA reports on the secure DLM NDAA Portal, which will be the primary access point for registered users, specifically special education directors and designated educators. DLM will communicate directly with the state's special education unit directors to coordinate the access to and use of any student reports, which is generally directed to designated special education personnel. Since the NDAA serves a limited number of students with significant cognitive disabilities, approximating 1% of students tested overall, DLM communications will be directed primarily to school district special education directors, to ensure proper management of student reports. DLM will post training guides on the DLM NDAA Portal to support users in accessing and understanding the NDAA student reports. The NDDPI provides a general guide regarding the presentation of the NDAA student-level report at the following site: <https://www.nd.gov/dpi/uploads/198/NDDLMScoreReportGuide.pdf>.

Next Steps

Both the NDSA and NDAA reporting systems provide a new format and means of accessing current and longitudinal student reports. The NDSA reporting system especially offers extensive data warehouse and reporting functionality that will expand and mature into the future, supporting integrated interim and summative assessment results, across years and subjects, referencing a common scaling scheme, and affording meaningful longitudinal growth reporting into the future. Since the warehouse and reporting systems are open-source, the state will expand the scope and sophistication of reports, beyond the current presentation developed within the first generation of Smarter Balanced design. The NDDPI will closely monitor the operational stability of the NDSA reporting system as it progresses through its rollout stages.

Measured Progress and DLM have reactivated and expanded their NDSA and NDAA Help Desks to provide direct, timely support to users. NDDPI will provide a detailed analysis of statewide student results, following the validation of all NDSA and NDAA results. Additionally, the NDDPI will issue a summary report on a NDSA validity study, analyzing the impact of recorded test disruptions on any test validity claims of overall student performance.

If you have any questions concerning the rollout of the NDSA, contact Rob Bauer at 701-328-2224 or rgbauer@nd.gov. If you have any questions concerning the rollout of the NDAA, contact Tammy Mayer at 701-328-3330 or tm Mayer@nd.gov. We wish you all the best as we proceed in this important reporting phase of the state assessment system.