



Welcome to *JUMP*, the OPI 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.

In this issue:

- ◆ Pg. 1—State Assessment Schedule
- ◆ Pg. 2—MontCAS Training Schedule
- ◆ Pg. 2—Checklist of Dates
- ◆ Pg. 3—September Announcements
- ◆ Pg. 4—September Announcements cont.

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MontCAS Goals and Objectives

Our goal is to provide the necessary support and training that test administrators and their teams will need to successfully administer the Smarter Balanced Assessment in addition to all other statewide assessments. We will:

- ◆ Provide comprehensive trainings via topical and assessment-specific webinars and make them available through recordings and printable slides on our website. We will also prepare timely information and materials.
- ◆ Work with OPI staff to spread important information to stakeholders.
- ◆ Coordinate with vendors so all trainings can be focused on topic and touch all applicable assessments.

2014-2015 Assessment Schedule

Assessment Window	Assessment	Grades
December 3, 2014-January 28, 2015	English Language Proficiency	K-12
February 17, 2015-March 24, 2015	CRT-Alternate Science	4, 8, 10
March 3, 2015-March 24, 2015	CRT Science	4, 8, 10
April 28, 2015 (Initial Test Date)	ACT Plus Writing for Public School Students	11
April 28, 2015– May 12, 2015 (Accommodations Window)	ACT Plus Writing for Public School Students	11
May 12, 2015 (Makeup Day)	ACT Plus Writing for Public School Students	11
March 30-May 15, 2015	NCSC Alternate English Language Arts and Math	3-8, 11
March 18—May 27, 2015 (Official Dates TBA)	Montana Smarter English Language Arts and Math	3-8, 11

MontCAS Training Schedule

Mark your calendars for these MontCAS trainings as we help you set the stage for the MontCAS testing windows. Each webinar will be hosted live on the Start Date, and a recording will be posted online two days after the live session. Links will be posted closer to the webinar dates.

We want to know which systems we are reaching, so the links will take you to a short survey where you will be asked which school system you are from and for your contact information. After finishing the survey, you will be given the link to the webinar. Once you reach the webinar, please enter as a guest.

Training	Link	Start Date
Setting the Stage: Building Teams and Defining Responsibilities	TBA	10/08/2014 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Setting the Stage: Preparing for Accommodations and Technology	TBA	10/22/2014 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Setting the Stage: Test Manual Guidance	TBA	11/05/2014 3:30-4:30 p.m.
ACCESS for ELLs Test Administrator Training	TBA	11/11/2014 3:30-4:30 p.m.
ACT Fall Webinar	TBA	11/18/2014 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Setting the Stage: Data Expectations	TBA	11/19/2014 3:30-4:30 p.m.
MontCAS Eastern Assessment and Data Conference, Billings	TBA	01/08/2015- 01/09/2015
MontCAS Western Assessment and Data Conference, Missoula	TBA	01/15/2015- 01/16/2015

Additional webinars specific to the various MontCAS assessments will be offered throughout the year and will be announced through emails and subsequent issues of the JUMP newsletter.

Test Coordinator Checklist of Dates

What's the best way to know you are on track? We have started a progressive checklist for test coordinators that will be updated monthly with new information on tasks that should be started and/or completed that month. The checklist can be found on the OPI MontCAS Home Page at: http://opi.mt.gov/PDF/Superintendent/September_Checklist_of_Dates.pdf

September Announcements

SMARTE

OPI is pleased to announce that UCLA CRESST and Measured Progress (contract pending) will be the vendors for the Smarter Balanced Assessments, including the formative, interim, and summative assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8, and 11. The formative, interim, and summative components will be provided to all accredited schools. Details are being compiled and will be provided early in October.

NCSC

A second pilot of the NCSC Alternate Assessment in ELA and Math is scheduled for October and November 2014. Montana teachers of students with significant cognitive disabilities are invited and encouraged to participate. Details can be found in the [NCSC Field Test Memo](#).

ELP

In 2015-16, the current paper/pencil English Language Proficiency Test (WIDA: ACCESS for ELLs) will be replaced by an online assessment, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. Montana educators are invited and encouraged to participate in the pilot for the online assessment. Details can be found in the [Field Test Memo](#).

W-APT Screener Training Webinars Available on the WIDA Website

<http://www.wida.us/assessment/w-apt/>

NEW THIS YEAR! Log in is required to access the W-APT trainings. All System Test Coordinators have access to the W-APT materials and trainings via the personal log in. Test Administrators may also be granted access to the W-APT materials. Contact Yvonne Field with access questions.

October 17, 2014 AIM Fall Program Participation Collection Deadline

[Click here](#) for more information on entering students in AIM. LEP status must be updated in AIM by the Fall Program Participation date in order for testing materials to be accurately ordered. Students who are identified in AIM on the October collection date will have testing materials ordered and must be tested during the 2014-2015 testing window. Schools with new LEP students who enroll after the collection date will be able to order additional materials directly from MetriTech.

ACT

Site establishment for the ACT Plus Writing for juniors will begin October 6th. ACT has made several changes to the establishment process, including contacting previous ACT staff directly instead of asking for the principal to assign the roles. Also, the role formerly known as Test Supervisor has been changed to Test Coordinator. While OPI has asked ACT to always refer to the role as ACT Test Coordinator in materials sent to Montana, there will likely still be referenced to simply "Test Coordinator". Please note that unless a task is assigned to "System" or "District" Test Coordinator, the task is the responsibility of the ACT Test Coordinator.



The results from the 2014 CRT Science and CRT-Alternate Assessment are now available on MARS. If you need help logging in, please contact Ashley Makowski at 406.444.3511. Passwords will only be given directly on the phone, not via email and/or voicemail.

The window to register students for the CRT-Alt Science is October 6-December 1, 2014. [Click here](#) for information on eligibility for the alternate assessment.

MontCAS Website

The MontCAS website is currently under reconstruction. The updated site will make it easier for you to find the information you need for each assessment and more. In the meantime, please be sure to read the JUMP Newsletter for assessment news.

Here's to a job well done:



Thank you for all your AWESOME work
during the Smarter Field Test!