

# Welcome

# MontCAS

Montana Comprehensive Assessment System

Setting the Stage:  
Accommodations and Technology  
October 22, 2014



# Webinar Details

- Recorded webinar and slides will be posted on the Field Test Site under Training two business days following the live broadcast.

[OPI Smarter Field Test and Spring 2015 Information](#)



▼ TRAINING

- <http://www.opi.mt.gov/curriculum/MontCAS/#>
- Phones are muted for this webinar.
  - 1-866-469-3239 Access code: 638 231 837
    - Using the call-in with computer audio option is preferred.
- Use the Chat box on the right of your screen
  - if you have problems with the system.
  - with questions about the content.
    - Please include your name and email address as these questions will be answered after the webinar.

# Agenda

- Global Accommodations Information
  - Including Alternate Assessments' Eligibility Requirements
- Smarter
  - Accommodations
  - Technology
- NCSC
  - Alternate Assessment Information
  - Technology
- CRT & CRT-Alt Science Accommodations/Alternate
- ELP Accommodations
- ACT Accommodations

# MontCAS



## Measured Progress

Science CRT and CRT-Alt grades 4, 8, and 10

**Spring--Through 2016**



## UCLA/CRESST and Measured Progress (contract in progress)

English Language Arts (ELA) and math, grades 3-8 and 11

**Full implementation: Spring 2015**



**NCSC Alternate:** English Language Arts (ELA) and math, grades 3-8 and 11

**Full implementation: Spring 2015**



## WIDA: Access for ELLs and Alternate

English Language Proficiency (ELP), Grades K-12

Reading, writing, speaking, listening

**December – January each year**



ACT Plus Writing

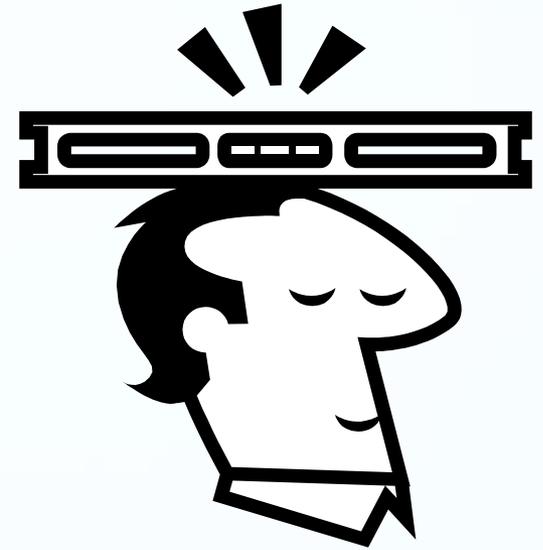
Public high school juniors

**April/May each year**



# Global Accommodations Rules

- What are accommodations?
  - Standard accommodations
  - Non-standard accommodations
- How do accommodations affect AYP?
  - Standard accommodations
  - Non-standard accommodations



# Global Accommodations Rules

- Who can administer accommodations?
  - Montana-certified educator employed by the district
  - Para professionals can administer accommodations as long as they are within hearing distance and sight of a Montana-certified educator employed by the district.



# Global Accommodations Rules

- Accommodations should be determined on an individual basis. The determination should be made by a team of educators, the student, and the student's parents/guardians.
- There is no standard accommodation (including oral presentation) that provides an opportunity for a student to request or receive help on a specific word, phrase, line, pronunciation, definition, item, question, answer choice or any part of the assessment.



# Montana Eligibility for Participation in Alternate Assessments

**Student's demonstrated cognitive abilities and adaptive behavior require substantial adjustments to general curriculum.**

Student's learning objectives and expected outcomes focus on functional application of skills, as illustrated in the student's IEP's annual goals and short-term objectives

Student requires direct and extensive instruction to acquire, maintain, generalize and transfer new skills.

**Student has active IEP and receives services under IDEA.**

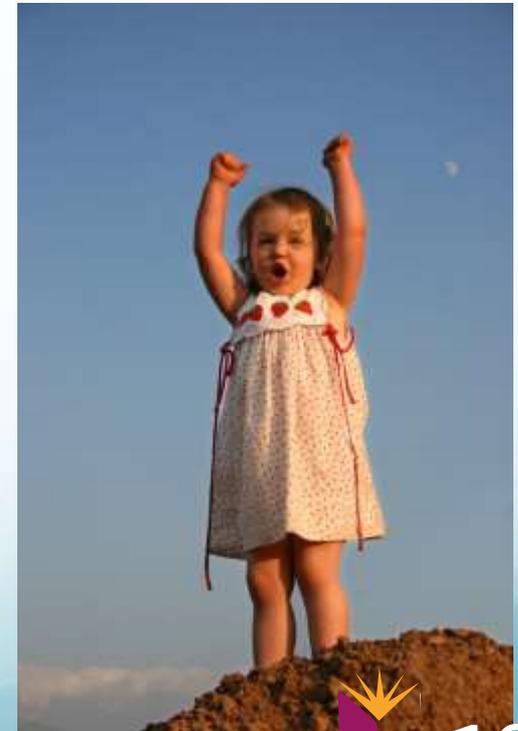
**Must answer YES to all four**

# Eligibility May Not Be Based on any of the Following

- Excessive or extended absence
- Disability category
- Social, cultural, or economic difference
- The amount of time receiving special education services
- Academic Achievement significantly lower than his or her same age peers.

# Smarter Accessibility & Accommodations Framework

- The goal is to provide every student with a positive assessment experience
  - Fair and accurate estimate of each student's achievement
  - Remove obstacles to accurate measurement for
    - Students who are English Language Learners (ELLs)
    - Students with Disabilities (IEP and 504)
    - Students with special assessment needs



# Smarter: 3 Types of Supports

## Universal Tools

### Embedded

Breaks, Calculator, Digital Notepad, English Dictionary, English Glossary, Expandable Passages, Global Notes, Highlighter, Keyboard Navigation, Mark for Review, Math Tools, Spell Check, Strikethrough, Writing Tools, Zoom

### Non-embedded

Breaks, English Dictionary, Scratch Paper, Thesaurus

## Designated Supports

### Embedded

Color Contrast, Masking, Text-to-speech, Translated Test Directions, Translations (Glossary), Translations (Stacked), Turn off Any Universal Tools

### Non-embedded

Bilingual Dictionary, Color Contrast, Color Overlay, Magnification, Read Aloud, Scribe, Separate Setting, Translation (Glossary)

## Accommodations

### Embedded

American Sign Language, Braille, Closed Captioning, Text-to-speech

### Non-embedded

Abacus, Alternate Response Options, Calculator, Multiplication Table, Print on Demand, Read Aloud, Scribe, Speech-to-text

# Smarter Accommodations

- What is the difference between embedded and non-embedded approaches?
  - Embedded versions of the universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations are **provided digitally** through the test delivery system while non-embedded versions are **provided at the local level** through means other than the test delivery system.
  - The choice between embedded and non-embedded universal tools and designated supports should be **based on the individual student's needs**. The decision should reflect the student's prior use of, and experience with, both embedded and non-embedded universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations.

# Smarter: Universal Tools

- Universal tools are available to all students based on student preference and selection

Embedded Tools		Non-Embedded Tools
Breaks	Calculator	Breaks
Digital Notepad	English Dictionary	English Dictionary
English Glossary	Expandable Passages	Scratch Paper
Global Notes	Highlighter	Thesaurus
Keyboard Navigation	Mark for Review	
Math Tools	Spell Check	
Strikethrough	Writing Tools	
Zoom		

A teacher may determine that the embedded tools need to be turned off within the assessment as they might cause distractions for particular students



# Smarter: Designated Supports

- For use by **ANY** student for whom the need has been indicated by a teacher or school team
- Needs to be identified prior to assessment administration

Consistent district training for staff recommended

- Use the *Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile*

Embedded Tools		Non-Embedded Tools	
Color Contrast	Masking	Bilingual Dictionary	Color Contrast
Text-to-Speech	Translated Test	Color Overlay	Magnification
Directions	Translations: Glossary	Read Aloud	Scribe
Translations: Stacked	Turn of Universal Tools	Separate Setting	Translation: Glossary

# Smarter Accommodations

- Changes in procedures or materials that increase equitable access for students with IEP's or 504 plans.
  - Need to be identified prior to assessment administration
  - Parent/Guardian Report must be created

<b>Embedded</b> American Sign Language, Braille, Closed Captioning, Text-to-speech	<b>Non-embedded</b> Abacus, Alternate Response Options, Calculator, Multiplication Table, Print on Demand, Read Aloud, Scribe, Speech-to-text
--	---

- There must be documentation within the IEP or the 504 plan with evidence that shows a need.

# Smarter: ISAAP

- Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profile
- Universal tools will be available by default for all students
  - Documentation required only if they need to be turned off
- Students requiring one or more accessibility tools or accommodations or support will have this documented prior to test administration through the ISAAP.
  - Digital delivery system will activate the specified options when the student logs in to an assessment.
  - For paper-based administration the ISAAP will allow the assessment program to deliver the appropriate materials to each school.
  - Provides information to the school regarding any special settings or conditions

# Smarter: Technology

- Common technology issues in 2014 Field Test
  - Bandwidth
  - Number of computers
  - Macintosh computers, Chromebooks, iPads
  - Text-to-speech
  - Tests freezing



# Smarter: Technology

- Bandwidth and Number of computers
  - A lot of systems were worried about their bandwidth as well as the number of computers, especially in the more rural areas of Montana.
  - According to META, most schools with this were able to test with smaller groups of students. If you are from a system that has low bandwidth, it is a good idea to plan for a longer test window, so you can test smaller groups of students.



# Smarter: Technology

- Types of computers and devices
  - Full list of requirements can be found here:
    - <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/test-taking-devices-approved-secure-browsers/>
    - Most Windows (XP and up),
    - Macs (OS X 10.4 and up),
    - Full sized iPads (iOS 7.1; iPad 2 and up)
    - select Android tablets (Android OS 4.04-4.2)
    - Chromebooks (Chrome OS 31-34)

# Technology: Smarter

- Text to Speech (TTS)
  - There were some problems with the text-to-speech accommodation.
    - The majority of the issues were resolved by adjusting the computer's volume **before** launching the secure browser.
    - Once in the Secure Browser a student can then right click next to a question number to call a pull down menu which has an option for turning on the text-to-speech option.
- Tests Freezing
  - Smarter Balanced has fixed the issues with freezing questions after they were reported.
  - Should you encounter any issues, you can be assured that student's responses are captured every 30 seconds
    - If a computer freezes, the computer can be reset, a test session restarted and a student can resume where they left off

# NCSC Alternate Assessment Features and Accommodations

# NCSC Assessment Features

- Available to all students who participate in the NCSC Alternate Assessment
- Some are embedded in the online system.
  - Students and teachers can try embedded features using the sample items. (NCSC Assessment System site)
- Some assessment features are provided by the Test Administrator (TA)
- Some features are available via the browser or operating system.
- Some are embedded in the design of the test.



# Features

## Embedded

- Answer masking
- Audio player
- Alternate color themes
- Line reader tool
- *Magnification\**

## Test Administrator Provided

- Answer masking (paper versions)
- Read aloud
- Rereading item directions, response options, passages

## Browser

- Increase size of text and graphics
- Increase volume

## Operating System

- Alternate color themes
- Increase size of text and graphics
- Increase volume

# NCSC Accommodations

- Accommodations for the NCSC Alternate that need to be included in the IEP:
  - Assistive Technology for presentation of items to students
  - Assistive Technology for student response to items
  - Paper version of items
  - Scribe/Transcription
  - Sign Language (e.g. ASL, PSE, SEE)



# Assistive Technology (AT)

- Students may use a variety of AT devices to input responses for both:
  - Selected responses
  - Text based open responses
- Compatible AT Types
  - Text-to speech
  - Alternate keyboards
  - Switch-based navigation and answer selection
  - Eye-gaze
- Testing AT Devices
  - Test devices using the sample items to determine if a device will function properly with the assessment.

# Technology: NCSC

**Test Delivery Workstation Hardware and Software:** The test delivery system should align with the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) recommendations. The following represents the minimum hardware and software requirements of the test delivery workstation.

<b>Operating System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Windows Vista SP2, Windows 7, Windows 8</li><li>• OS X 10.4.4 (Tiger), 10.5 (Leopard), 10.6 (Snow Leopard), 10.7 (Lion), 10.8 (Mountain Lion), 10.9</li><li>• Linux is not supported</li></ul>
<b>Browser</b>	IE 9 or better; Firefox 24 or later; Chrome 26 or better; Opera 12 or better Safari 6 or better
<b>Monitor</b>	Screen resolution: 1024 x 768 or higher; screen size 9.5: inches or larger, color depth: high color, 16 bit millions;
<b>Other workstation requirements</b>	32 bit and 64 bit processors supported; disk space: 100 MB or more; Chromebook version 18 or better; any media will be played through native browser capabilities
<b>Evidence Collection</b>	Document scanner or Webcam (640 x 480 or better)
<b>Bandwidth</b>	1.5 Mbps dedicated or faster
<b>Flash</b>	Not required.

# Technology: NCSC Evidence Collection

- Evidence is collected for writing items when the student uses a paper version of the test and writes items themselves. (not required when the student has a scribe or when the student types directly into the computer).
- A webcam can be used to take a picture which is saved in the system, attached to the applicable item
- A scanner can also be used, a document is scanned and saved on the computer, then is uploaded to the online system.



# CRT Accommodations

## Info about CRT Accommodations

- Memo online with specifics
- Tables
  - Accommodation Use

Table of Accommodation Use		
Student Population	Parameters for use of Standard Accommodations	Parameters for Use of Nonstandard Accommodations

- Standard Accommodations Description and Guidance
  - \* and \*\* standard accommodations
    - LEP students
    - IEP students
    - General education students
  - Non-Standard Accommodations Description and Guidance
- Requesting \*\*standard accommodations for general education students

# CRT Alternate

- Window to register students is October 6-December 1, 2014.
- Go to: <http://iservices.measuredprogress.org/Default.aspx> and click Montana Alternate Assessment from the dropdown menu. Click “Enter”.
- Select CRT Alternate Student Registration

# ELP Accommodations

- IEPs for students with disabilities who are also English Language Learners must address accommodations for the ACCESS for ELLs if any are needed.
  - Special Education Teacher and the ELL specialist (if there is one) should work together to determine if accommodations are needed.
- The Accommodations for the ACCESS for ELLs are different from those for Smarter and the CRT as some of those accommodations would affect the validity of the test and are thus not allowed for the ACCESS for ELLs.
- Accommodations are determined for each domain.
  - Listening, speaking, reading, writing
- Details can be found in the ACCESS for ELLs Accommodations document: <http://www.wida.us/get.aspx?id=289>

# ELP: Accommodations

- Additional Information about Braille
  - WIDA does not recommend assessment be given in Braille
    - Student's Braille proficiency can interfere with assessment of English Language Proficiency
    - Test relies heavily on graphics -not easily translated to Braille
- Not allowed:
  - Translation or responses in native language
  - Translation of test into sign language
  - Oral reading of test in English (writing domain only)
  - Oral reading of test in native language
  - Use of bilingual dictionary

# Alternate Access for ELLs

- For students who qualify or would qualify to participate in the NCSC Alternate Assessment and CRT Alt-Science
- Criteria:
  - Student is an ELL
  - Student has a significant cognitive disability and receives services under IDEA
  - Student requires substantial adjustments to the general curriculum
  - Student is or will be participating in the CRT-Alternate
- Registration:
  - Contact Yvonne Field [yfield@mt.gov](mailto:yfield@mt.gov) 406-444-0748

# ACT Accommodations

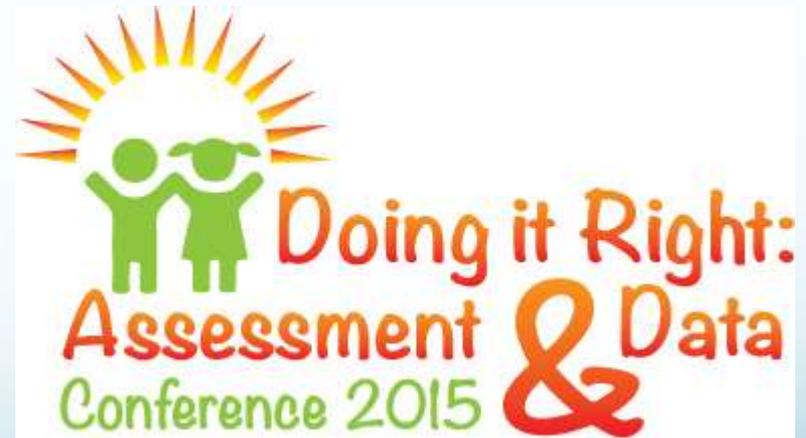
- ACT Accommodations Application
  - Online Application
    - Requesting ACT-Approved Accommodations training:  
<http://www.act.org/aap/video/RequestingACT-ApprovedAccommodationsUsingTAA/story.html>
  - Deadline: January 23, 2015
- ACT Accommodations Webinar
  - <http://www.act.org/aap/video/GuidingPrinciplesforACT-ApprovedAccommodations/>

# OPI Resources

- New website
- JUMP Newsletter
- Webinars
- Assessment & Data Conference



MontCAS  
Montana Comprehensive Assessment System



# MontCAS Contacts

Ashley Makowski, Assessment Assistant

406-444-3511 [amakowski@mt.gov](mailto:amakowski@mt.gov)

Yvonne Field, Assessment Specialist

406-444-0748, [yfield@mt.gov](mailto:yfield@mt.gov)

Pam Birkeland, Special Projects

[pbirkeland@mt.gov](mailto:pbirkeland@mt.gov)

Paula Schultz, Smarter Accommodations

[pschultz2@mt.gov](mailto:pschultz2@mt.gov)

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director

406-444-3656, [jsnow@mt.gov](mailto:jsnow@mt.gov)