



What's New This Year for 2019–2020

Montana Science Assessments and Alternate Montana Science Assessments

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has partnered with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to deliver high-quality online assessments. This year, the Montana Science Assessments (MSA) and Alternate Montana Science Assessments (AMSA) will now be offered through the AIR Test Delivery System. We look forward to sharing more information on the upcoming administration for 2019-2020. Check the [Montana Comprehensive Assessment Portal](#) for updates.

AI Scoring for Smarter Balanced Interim Assessments

Beginning in October, short answer questions that previously required teachers and administrators to handscore within AIRways, will now be machine scored with AIR's automated scoring engines. These scoring engines have been trained and validated at the highest standard and are widely used across several states' assessments. This application should remove some of the administration burden from teachers and allow them to continue to utilize the interim assessments as a learning and instructional tool. If a machine score is identified by the engine as having a lower confidence score assignment, educators can re-evaluate the student response and score within AIRways. To learn more about the Scoring, Reporting, and the Interim Assessments, review the [AIRways User Guide](#) and [Smarter Balanced materials](#) provided on the portal.

Updated TA Interface for Online Test Administration

Improvements have been made to the TA Interface used for creating and monitoring test sessions for online test administrations. The system will detect and prompt TAs to check in on students that may need TA action, such as approving print requests, or that have been idle for an extended period of time. A progress bar has also been added to the interface, to easily demonstrate to the TA how far each student is within the test. Review the [TA User Guide](#) and complete the TA Certification Course to become familiar with the TA Interface and administering an online test.

Operational Test Session

0 students awaiting approval 1 print requests 2 active tests

Mathematics ELA

Tests with potential issues

Student Information	Opp #	Test	Progress	Test Status	Test Settings	Actions
DemoA, StudentA SSID: 999999001	1	Grade 5 Mathematics	23%	Started more info	Custom	

Tests without issue

Student Information	Opp #	Test	Progress	Test Status	Test Settings	Actions
DemoB, StudentB SSID: 999999002	1	Grade 5 ELA	100%	Completed	Standard	
DemoC, StudentC SSID: 999999003	1	Grade 5 Mathematics	24%	Paused, 2 min more info	Standard	



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Updates to the Student Interface for Online Testing

Updates have been made to the student interface to better support student navigability. Visual cues, such as scrolling notifications, flags for marked items, tabbed item sets, and expansion of the navigation drop-down menu have been implemented to improve the student testing experience. Review the [TA User Guide](#), [Student Interface Module](#), and [Practice and Training Tests](#) to become familiar with the online testing system.