

What Does It Mean to “Abide by the Embargo”?

Before statewide assessment and accountability results are released publicly, they are considered “embargoed.” While results can be used and discussed within the district and school before they are released publicly, there are specific rules around this use that are important for you to understand.

What is an “embargo”?

In terms of statewide assessment and accountability results, the term “embargo” means that results cannot be shared in any public forum (including social media), posted online (such as on the district website), or reflected in any public meeting minutes (such as for a school board meeting). They also cannot be shared or discussed with other staff members who should not have access to results.

What results are embargoed?

All preliminary or final statewide assessment or accountability results are considered embargoed, including:

- MCA and MTAS On-Demand Reports for individual students available during the testing window, including any data loaded into your Student Information System (SIS) or data warehouse.
- ACCESS and WIDA Alternate ACCESS early student-level results available in summer.
- Any final assessment or accountability data or reports for MCA/MTAS or ACCESS/WIDA Alternate ACCESS provided by the district during the summer or loaded into your SIS or data warehouse.

Who has access to embargoed results?

Each district determines how preliminary and final results will be shared within the district and schools, and with which staff members. However, even if you do not have direct access to the results, you may be part of meetings or discussions where embargoed results are shared.

Individual student results can be shared with parents/guardians and students for instructional purposes, depending on your district’s policy for providing these results. However, no summary results can be provided to parents/guardians or students while the results are embargoed.

How can results be used?

The following provide some examples of use that is and is not allowed during the embargo. Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) will provide you more information and can answer questions about how results are provided and shared in your district.

Example #1

Sharing results with staff who have a legitimate need to access the results.

- Allowed: Results are shared through internal district communications (such as via email, SIS/data warehouse, presentation).
- Not allowed: Results are shared on social media in any form, even in general terms (such as “Our students did so well this year!”)

Example #2

Using results for instructional and curriculum planning.

- Allowed: Results for a specific content area are shared with staff and discussed in planning meetings for the upcoming year.
- Not allowed: Results are discussed with another teacher in a neighboring district to see how their students performed.

Example #3

Answering questions about results.

- Allowed: Answering questions from staff who you know have access to the results. If you are not sure, verify with your DAC or building administrator first.
- Not allowed: Answering questions from parents/guardians about summary results (such as how their child did in comparison to their class).