

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

REMINDER - Accessibility and Accommodation Survey

You are invited to participate in an educator survey conducted by the Data Informed Accessibility – Making Optimal Needs-based Decisions (DIAMOND) Project. This project is a collaborative between the National Center on Educational Outcomes and nine states (including Wisconsin), and its goal is to develop professional resources for educators to help them with making optimal decisions related to accessibility and accommodations in the classroom.

Please forward the information and link to your teachers to complete by Friday, June 17, 2016.

The survey includes approximately 24 questions (the number depends on specific item responses) and should take no more than 30 minutes to complete. It may be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TP98X9S>

The final question of the survey asks about willingness to participate in future DIAMOND activities. If interested in participating in these activities, respondents should provide their contact information. This information will not be connected to any project publications, as all project findings will be reported anonymously. If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to contact Dr. Vitaliy Shyyan via email (shyya001@umn.edu) or by phone (612-624-8561).

Thank you in advance for your input. It will be instrumental in helping educators make optimal data-informed decisions about accessibility and accommodations!

~Troy

Troy Couillard, Director - Office of Student Assessment

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

FORWARD EXAM

- **NEW - 2017 Forward Exam Planning Meeting with DRC**
 - Last week, the OSA team spent two days meeting with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) regarding planning for the 2017 Forward Exam administration. The meeting was focused on the feedback we received from the District Survey. It was a very productive meeting, and we are working together to have an even more positive Forward Exam experience for you in 2017!
- **REMINDER - Student Reports**
 - Forward Exam student reports and summaries will be posted to a secure web-based report delivery system, accessed through eDIRECT, in late-July. The system reporting tools will allow users to extract data in an Excel or .csv file. Hardcopies of individual student reports will be mailed to districts in early August.

ACT HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS

ACT

- **Important shipments to be expected this summer:**
 - Printed individual reports for students assessed with State-allowed accommodations with scores that are non-college reportable will be mailed at the end of this month to your high school Test Coordinator.
 - ACT Profile Reports will be printed and sent during the second week of July via FedEx to your high school Test Coordinator.
 - Data CDs will be sent during the second week of July to districts via FedEx and to the attention of the DAC .

The deliverables above (CDs, ACT Profile reports) are shipped in a plain, white cardboard envelope with a FedEx shipping label and the return address in the top left corner as ACT, Inc.; 2727 Scott Boulevard. Please inform your employees who will be available at the school and district offices this summer that these shipments contain the ACT reporting information and that the information should be handled securely. Also, please make necessary plans to provide this information to the relevant staff for appropriate use of this data internally. **Note that the results are embargoed until the statewide press release this fall, and the data should not be shared publicly until then.**

ACT WorkKeys

- **REMINDER - ACT WorkKeys NCRCs:**
 - As mentioned in previous DAC Digests, DPI is working toward making WorkKeys data available in WISEdash, and producing NCRC certificates that will be distributed electronically to schools via SAFE. We are aware that individual reports from ACT indicate that students can go to MyWorkKeys.com to access their scores. However, we strongly advise against doing this, as this will result in creating duplicate student accounts. Since WI has a contract with ACT, we will be doing a statewide sweep through RegiStar to set up student accounts when creating the NCRCs; therefore, it is advised that students access their MyWorkKeys.com accounts **AFTER** DPI makes the certificates and login/password information available through SAFE in the coming weeks. Please share this information with your high school test coordinator(s) as needed.

ACT Aspire

- Individual student reports and summary reports will be available in the ASPIRE portal by late July.

ACCESS for ELLs

- **NEW - 2016 WIDA Board Meeting**
 - Last week, the OSA team spent three days meeting with WIDA and the other 37 states and territories that make up the WIDA Consortium. A thorough review of the recent ACCESS for ELLs administration was completed, with extensive feedback given by the states. WIDA and DRC are planning for numerous improvements to the technology, policies, and training for next year.
- **REMINDER - District Data is available in the WIDA AMS**
 - Refer to DAC Digests released in late April and early May for instructions on accessing your data.

PALS

- **REMINDER - 2016-17 Reading Readiness Assessment and CESA Purchasing Agreement:**
 - If you still have questions or need information about 2016-17 assessing reading readiness requirements and/or the CESA Purchasing agreement for PALS, please refer to any of the previous DAC Digests from the month of April.

NAEP

- Principals in schools selected for NAEP will receive notification letters by the end of June. The letters will include more information about the assessments in their school as well as their assessment date. If the assigned date does not work for a school, principals can work with Angela Dugas to reschedule. DACs will be emailed a list of testing dates after the letters go out.
- Here are some answers to frequently asked NAEP questions that have come up recently:
 - It's a common misconception that NAEP schools and districts are selected "randomly." The sampling method used by the National Center for Educational Statistics is a systematic sampling process, with probability of selection proportional to size. There is also some stratification used during the sampling procedure. It is true that some schools are selected more often than others; and this is a big NAEP year, so there are more schools selected in Wisconsin than in many previous years. Once a school is selected, the students within that school are selected randomly to fill a pre-determined sample size. Smaller schools, therefore, often end up having all students in a grade sampled. More information about NAEP sampling can be found [here](#); if you would like a fact sheet with this information emailed to you, please contact angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov.
 - NAEP was included in the reauthorization of ESEA, and the requirements for participation stay the same. Districts that receive Title I funds provide an assurance upon accepting those funds that their schools will participate in NAEP grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics assessments, if selected.
 - Student participation is voluntary. As part of the pre-assessment tasks that a school completes to prepare for NAEP testing, parents must be notified that participation is voluntary.
 - Total testing time for students is up to, but no more than 120 minutes, with an exception made for students with extended time accommodations. Most students will test on tablets, where they will work at their own pace through the assessments; many students finish in less than 120 minutes. Students sampled for the paper-pencil assessments will only test for about 90 minutes.

DAC DIGEST DIGESTIBLES (Dates/tasks that are newly added this week are in **bold**)

| Important Dates to Remember | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| June | 14-17: DRC Standard Setting meetings | Forward |
| | 15-17: DLM Standard Setting - Science | DLM |
| | 30: Alternate Accountability Determination Forms due to oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov | OEA |
| August | 22-25: DRC Item Review meetings | Forward |

Important Tasks to Remember

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|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Teachers complete DIAMOND Grant Accessibility and Accommodation Survey by June 17 | DIAMOND Grant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Update DAC contact information and submit to OSA | General |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Share Vendor-based Reporting Overview with relevant members of your team | General |

Online Resource Highlights*

As new resources are posted to our website, we will include them here for your convenience. This is NOT an exhaustive list, but meant to highlight resources with significant relevance to our upcoming test windows.

| Resource | Contains | Assessment |
|--|---|------------|
| 2016 Vendor-Based Reporting Overview | Outline of vendor-based reports from 2015-16 spring testing, including report descriptions, where/when/how to access, directions for use and distribution, etc. | General |