



OEA/OSA Updates...

OEA/OSA Calendar...

Note from the Assessment Director

Year two of online statewide assessments is going relatively smoothly because of the great collaboration between your staff and the OSA Team. We are very appreciative of your patience and communication with us when there are issues locally. We have been collecting input from you on all of our assessments and will work to improve them each year based on your comments.

This summer's standard setting and item reviews for the Forward Exam will be another opportunity for input. We are collecting names of people willing to work on either or both and will follow up as soon as possible to notify those selected. If individuals do not get selected this year, know that we will keep their names for other events in which we need educator input. We try to balance regions of the state, types of districts, and expertise to fill the rosters of these events.

Finally, I want to thank you all again for your support over the years. I've been impressed with the thoughtful, caring educators with whom I've been fortunate to work. As I move on to pursue other challenges in Minnesota, know that I will take Wisconsin with me in all I do.

Troy Couillard

Director, Office of Student Assessment (OSA)

Forward Exam Update

The Forward exam was launched in Wisconsin on March 28 and will be administered through May 20th. Student reports and summary reports will be posted to a secure web-based report delivery system, accessed through eDIRECT in late July. The system's reporting tools will allow users to extract data in an Excel or .csv file. Thank you to all the schools and districts for your valuable work to administer the Forward Exam.

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Important Dates

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. It lists important dates for 2016 and 2017, including exam windows, report releases, and testing accommodations.

Dates may be subject to change so be sure to check the OSA calendar web pages for the most current dates throughout the year.



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Forward Exam Update (Continued from page 1)



Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunities

DPI and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) are recruiting Wisconsin educators to participate in Standard Setting and New Item Review meetings for the Forward Exam. For each event, we will be recruiting 5-6 individuals (including Special Education and English Language educators) in each of the content areas and grade levels listed. An application is now available on our Educator Involvement webpage. Please pass this information along to school and district staff. All applications should be submitted to osamail@dpi.wi.gov no later than May 20.

STANDARD SETTING			
Committee	Grade Span	Meeting Dates	Meeting Duration
All Subjects: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies	All grades: 3-8, 10	June 14-17	4 days

ITEM REVIEW			
Committee	Grade Span	Meeting Dates	Meeting Duration
ELA	3-4, 5-6, 7-8	Aug. 22 - 25	4 days
Mathematics	3-4, 5-6, 7-8	Aug. 22 - 24	3 days
Science	4, 8	Aug. 22 - 24	3 days
Social Studies	4, 8, 10	Aug. 22	1 day

Demographic Data Clean-up

We are now approximately three-quarters of the way through the Forward Exam testing window. Please use the remainder of the test window to double check all student demographic data for completeness and accuracy. All students should be enrolled in test sessions, including those who were not/will not be tested. All students in grades 3-8 and 10 should be administered the appropriate Forward Exams, or given the proper "Reason Not Tested" codes. Students who are not enrolled in test sessions will be counted as not tested. The data collected for the Forward Exam will be used for online reporting and accountability determinations. To help districts check for incomplete or inaccurate data, DRC will post a data file to their eDIRECT portal on Wednesday, May 11, containing the demographic information in eDIRECT. Thank you for helping us produce complete and accurate reports.

ACT High School Assessments Update



Thank you to everyone who helped to administer the ACT suite of assessments. Students will receive a printed ACT Student Report approximately three to eight weeks after testing, mailed to their home address. Most, if not all, reports have been delivered. Students with ACT-Approved accommodations received their reports a little later than those students who took the standard time test. These are typically processed by ACT after the accommodations windows close. During the same time frame, schools received a shipment of the ACT High School Check List Report, the ACT High School Report, and ACT Student Score Labels for placement on permanent records.

Schools will receive two printed letters for each student tested using non-college reportable accommodations by July 11. The ACT Profile Report-High School, a paper document, and the ACT Profile Report-District CD that includes aggregate

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data for the high school and district, including students tested using non-college reportable accommodations, are scheduled to arrive by July 11. The standard ACT reports are sent to the attention of the Director of Counseling. The ACT Profile Reports and ACT Score Notification Letters for students tested with non-college reportable accommodations (if applicable) are printed and sent via FedEx to the attention of the ACT test coordinators. Data CDs are sent to the districts via FedEx and will be addressed to the DAC.

The ACT WorkKeys Memo to Examinee and ACT WorkKeys Summary for Examinees were mailed to the high school ACT test coordinators for distribution to students. If your school has not received WorkKeys reports, please contact ACT directly. Schools will also receive the ACT WorkKeys Examinee Roster report in paper format. The state will receive an electronic data file of all student testing data. DPI staff will work towards making the WorkKeys data available online and to produce National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC). The NCRCs will be distributed electronically to schools. Although ACT recommends delivering both the ACT WorkKeys Summary and ACT WorkKeys Memo to Examinee to the student, DPI suggests sending the ACT WorkKeys Memo to Examinee home to the student and retaining and filing the ACT WorkKeys Summary at the school. If a student specifically requests both copies, the school can make a copy of the ACT WorkKeys Summary for the individual student. This is a recommendation and not a requirement. Schools should distribute the reports in whatever way they typically share sensitive student data with parents and students. For more information about the ACT high school assessments, please contact visalakshi.somandaram@dpi.wi.gov.



Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



The DLM assessment window will close May 20.

Thank you for all of your efforts in administering the DLM assessment. DLM will be holding a standard setting for the content area of science early this summer. This is one of the final steps in the test development process and will establish cut scores for each of the performance levels in science. Wisconsin educators will be participating in this multistate event. Once DLM has established cut scores, they will be able to generate student, school, and district-level reports. We expect student-level reports to be made available to districts in early September. Please stay tuned for additional details as to how these reports will be electronically delivered. For more information about the DLM assessment, please contact kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update



We wish to thank everyone for their time and effort in administering ACCESS for ELLs

this year. Individual, school, and district reports are available in the WIDA AMS, and Individual Student Reports (ISR) can be downloaded in many different languages. The WIDA Website has informative materials for parents in a multitude of languages to support their understanding of ACCESS for ELLs results.

For the 2016-17 school year, Individual Student Enrollment System (ISES), will no longer be used for the statewide data system, and the new system – WISEdata – will not automatically reclassify students the way ISES did. You will need to ensure that your local Student Information System (SIS – Infinite Campus, Skyward, etc.) is up-to-date and accurate for the third Friday count in September with your students’ correct English Language Proficiency (ELP_ codes). If a student’s ELP code is

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ACCESS Update (Continued from page 3)

different than the Overall Composite ELP code from this administration of ACCESS for ELLs, you will need to ensure that it is captured in your SIS and uploaded as part of your third Friday count. (Fourth grade and up students exited at 5.0+ overall composite and literacy sub-score, e.g., need to be set to 6.0 to indicate they have exited.)

Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) are no longer required by the U.S. Department of Education as we begin work on a new accountability system under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). AMAOs for 2014-15 are now available in SAFE, although these are for informative purposes only, and will not be used for accountability. DPI will investigate producing AMAOs for 2015-16 for informative purposes as well, although there is no current timeline for producing these non-mandatory reports at this time.

PALS Update

The spring administration window for PALS is now open. The window runs from April 25-May 20, 2016, with the score entry deadline set for June 3, 2016.



Teachers will need to choose two weeks within the window to administer the

screeener to their students. The spring administration is required for all four-year-old kindergarten through second grade students; however, second grade students who have achieved the high benchmark designation in the fall may be opted out of the spring screening ([high-benchmark policy](#)).

For the 2016-17 school year, the literacy screening requirements will change and each school district or charter school will be responsible for choosing the literacy screener of their choice. All four-year-old kindergarten to second grade students in the school district or in the charter school will need to be screened annually for reading readiness using an

appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals. Each school board or operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge. In addition, the Department shall pay to the school board or operator, from the appropriation under Wis. Stats. 20.255 (1) (f), the per pupil cost of the selected assessment. If the appropriation under Wis. Stats. 20.255 (1) (f) in any fiscal year is insufficient to pay the full amount of aid under this paragraph, the state superintendent shall prorate state aid payments among the school boards and operators of charter schools entitled to the aid.

Please note that districts planning to continue using PALS during the 2016-17 school year and beyond should either collect the Form A kits from teachers or remind teachers to store the Form A kits as it is anticipated that these kits will be used again in the 2017-18 school year.

More information on the literacy screening requirement can be found at

[Assessment of Reading Readiness 2016-17](#).

[The PALS Wisconsin Resource Center](#) serves as the portal for information on required training, policy issues, and other information relevant to the administration of the PALS screener. Please utilize the portal as your first stop if you have any questions about PALS. If you need additional assistance, contact Duane Dorn of DPI at duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-1069. For questions about the online training and the online score entry and reporting system, district assessment coordinators may contact PALS at (888) 728-7257, while teachers should contact PALS at support@palshelp.com.





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NAEP Update



NAEP 2015 grade 12 reading and mathematics results were released April 27, 2016. Although these are national results only, some high schools in Wisconsin participated and contributed to the results. View the release on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Nation's Report Card website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

NAEP 2016 test administration is all wrapped up. Thanks again to schools and districts that participated.

NAEP 2017 is around the corner already! Districts should be notified in late May if they have schools selected to participate in the 2016-17 school year.

For more information about NAEP, please contact angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov.

Accountability Update



School and district report cards for the 2015-16 school year will be released in Fall 2016. The 2015-16 school year was another transition year for state assessments, and likewise, a transition year for school accountability. Some aspects of the report cards will change and some aspects are new to the accountability system. Some changes include value-added measures of school growth replacing student growth percentiles (SGP), a new weighting scheme based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in the school and district, and a five-star rating designation.

For more information see [10 Things You Need to Know about 2015-16 Accountability](#)



Growth

OEA is planning to provide student growth percentile (SGP) data to support local planning and enrich data collaboration conversations. Due to data load and dashboard schedules, we anticipate SGP data to be available in WISEdash for districts later this fall.

WISEdash



Results for the ACT Statewide and Badger Assessments are now available on WISEdash Public. Badger results include 2014-15 student performance for grades three through eight in both ELA and mathematics subject areas while ACT statewide results include 2014-15 student performance for grade 11 in ELA, mathematics, and science. Both sets of results also include student results from the 2014-15 alternate assessment: Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). For more information about each assessment, visit [ACT About the Data](#), [Badger About the Data](#) and [DLM About the Data](#).

DPI has completed the load of the ISES collections, including count date, child count, and year-end. Data from those collections are now incorporated into WISEdash for districts and the WISEdash Public Portal. Enrollment and attendance dashboards are primarily affected.

We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. As the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) and Office of Student Assessment (OSA) work to improve and refine this communication tool, we appreciate feedback and suggestions on the layout and content. Please contact Assessment at osamail@dpi.wi.gov and Accountability at oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.



How do schools with no tested grades participate in the accountability process?

About 10% of public schools participate in the alternate accountability process. Schools that are required to participate in alternate accountability are those without tested grades (like a K-2 school), or those that have insufficient test data (less than 20 students in tested grades) or alternative program schools that exclusively serve at-risk students (like a dropout prevention school). OEA will begin notifying schools that fall into the alternate accountability process by the end of May. We provide assistance in completing the required form(s). DACs and accountability trainers can also help. More information is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/alternate-accountability>. Let us know if you have any questions about Alternate Accountability. Email us at oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.

FAQ ...

- Q. I have completed all Forward Exam testing in my school/district and a new student moves in. Do I have to test this student?**
Yes, you are required to test or complete the testing of any student who enrolls in your school/district during the testing window.
- Q. How should we identify students that will be completing the DLM test in place of the ACT Aspire in the Aspire portal?**
Students who are taught with alternate standards must participate in the DLM assessments. These students should be left in the Aspire portal and should not be placed in the Aspire testing sessions.
- Q. How should we identify students that will be completing the DLM test in place of the Forward Exam within the eDIRECT system?**
Enter the non-participation code of "Alternate Assessment" in eDIRECT which will indicate that the student took DLM instead of the Forward Exam.
- Q. When is parent/guardian opt-out allowed?**
When a parent or guardian requests that the student be excused from participating in the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS), this request must be honored at grades 4, 8, and 9-11, per Wis. Stats. 118.30(2)(b)3. This request may come at any time during the testing window. All students excused by parent opt-out are marked as "not tested" students in school and district reporting determinations.
- Q. Is our district responsible for testing home-schooled students?**
No. Your district is neither required nor permitted to test home-schooled students.
- Q. Is my school accountable for testing a student housed in a juvenile facility (adjudicated student)?**
Yes. All students enrolled at the time of testing must be assessed. The student can be tested via a district owned device in a secure setting by a trained proctor with an internet connection. If the student is not tested, the student counts as a non-test participant.



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Building Assessment Literacy... Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

Testing and PII

During testing the need to communicate with DPI regarding specific students is high. However, we must be sure that student privacy is kept at the forefront of all we do. Please restrict the use of personally identifiable information (PII) about students sent via email. For example, you may send a student's name OR a student's Wisconsin Student Number (WSN) via email, but NEVER send both together. In the rare circumstance where you need to share additional student PII with DPI staff, you may send an email request, and we can arrange to have you transfer the information through a secure file transfer.



There are different processes which must be followed for DLM. Please see the DLM "Data Lockdown Updates" in the DAC Digest for specific information regarding roster/demographic changes via secure file transfer.

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