

# Wisconsin Statewide Assessments

## Things to Know

### Statewide Assessments

The Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) is designed to provide information about student knowledge and skills in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Assessment results are also used for state and federal accountability and school improvement. The WSAS includes the following state assessments:

- [Forward Exam](#) at grades 3-8 and 10
- [PreACT Secure](#) at grades 9 and 10
- [The ACT with writing](#) at grade 11 (also provides an ACT score for college applicants), and
- [Dynamic Learning Maps \(DLM\)](#) the alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities at grades 3-11



### Statewide Assessment Reporting

- Student achievement is reported using performance levels that indicate the degree to which students are meeting the grade level expectations of the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Performance levels are determined through a standard setting process involving educators.
- Reporting and performance level resources are included on the Data and Results page for each assessment on the [Assessment in Wisconsin webpage](#). Information for families about the statewide assessments is also available on this website.
- Information about standards is available on the [Wisconsin Academic Standards webpage](#).
- Test participation is included as a part of achievement scores in the ESSA Accountability Reports.
- Assessment results are available on [WISEdash Public](#).

### Data Considerations

- State summative assessment results are a snapshot of student performance and should be used in conjunction with other measures such as interim and formative assessment data, classroom observations, and student grades to gauge student learning.
- Use caution when making cross-year comparisons using the 2020-21 statewide data. The tested population of students in the 2020-21 school year was not representative of the population of students in the state due to reduced test participation in that year.
- For more specific information on interpreting assessment data, please see the *Assessment Data 2022-23 Interpretation Guide*.

