



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XXXVI, November 2015

OEA/OSA Updates...

Note from the Assessment Director

We are quickly moving into late fall and much is anticipated in the assessment world. ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will be launching in December. It is on the same platform as the Forward Exam. Those of you who will be administering the ACCESS test will have an opportunity to view the new platform. Trainings for the Forward Exam will be announced in the weekly DAC Digest.

Thank you to all of you for completing the establishment process for the ACT on time. A March test administration seems a long way off, but the more timelines are followed with ACT, the smoother the process when the test date arrives. With new assessments this year in Social Studies and Science as well with the Forward Exam look for more information will be shared from DLM as we move ahead with the alternative assessment. We are working with DLM to finalize these tests and will have more information in the coming months.

Finally, I would like to extend a big thank you to those who are participating in National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). I know there is much discussion about the amount of testing nationwide but NAEP provides a consistent measure from all states. Wisconsin school participation adds important data into how our students are doing relative to the nation.

Troy Couillard

Director, Office of Student Assessment

Forward Exam Update



In September 2015, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), a Midwestern company with offices in Wisconsin, was selected to administer and report

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OEA/OSA Calendar...

Important Dates

Table with 2 columns: Date, Event. Rows include 2015 dates (Nov 20 to Dec 7) and 2016 dates (Jan 11 to May 20).

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)**

results on the new Forward Exam. The testing window has been set for March 28 - May 20, 2016.

The Forward exam will test students in the following areas:

- Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- Grades 4 and 8 Science
- Grades 4, 8, and 10 Social Studies

Our team is working on releasing the following items within the upcoming weeks:

- Technology and System Requirements
- Technology Training Information
- Accommodations Information
- Test blue prints

Any new information will be posted to the [Wisconsin Forward Exam web pages](#) as it becomes available.

If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact the DPI Forward Assessment Coordinator, Tahira Chaudary at [tahira.chaudary@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:tahira.chaudary@dpi.wi.gov).

**ACT High School Assessments Update**

 Thanks to all high schools for successfully participating in the ACT establishment process. This is the process by which a Test Coordinator is assigned and a school established to participate in the Spring 2016 ACT. The Test Coordinator will be the primary contact for ACT communications and will be responsible for coordinating ACT related activities within their building. It will be necessary for them to be in close communication with a number of individuals within their district including the district assessment coordinator (DAC) and high school principal as well as others such as special education directors, special education case managers and teachers, ELL staff, technology coordinators, and teachers.

The ACT Accommodations process is currently underway. The deadline to submit requests for ACT-approved accommodations in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) is **November 20**. The [DPI ACT High school Assessments Accommodations and Supports web page](#) is updated with accessibility related manuals, guides and informational videos. Webinars on ACT Accommodations are available during the first and second week of November. These webinars include an overview of the TAA system, and a demo of how to request accommodations through the online accommodations process. School and district staff should contact ACT at [ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org) or by calling (800) 553-6244 ext. 1788 with accommodations-specific questions. A webinar on test administration will be available during the first week of December.

The ACT and WorkKeys Test Administration Manuals are shipped to the high schools during the first two weeks of November. Electronic versions of these manuals are available in the DPI ACT Resources webpage. Please stay tuned to the resources on the DPI ACT webpage, the communications from ACT State testing and the biweekly mails from DPI for updated information. If you do not receive the manuals please contact ACT at (800) 553-6244 Ext. 2800.

**Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update**

DPI will be incorporating science and social studies this year into the DLM testing window (March 28-May 20). Science will be administered in grades 4 and 8-11 and based upon the [Wisconsin Essential Elements](#). The format of the testlets will look very similar to those in ELA and mathematics. DLM has released [Practice Activities and Released Testlets](#) now available at multiple grade levels for science items. Social Studies will be administered through the DPI Social Studies Rater Forms (as used in past years) to students in grades 4, 8 and 10. Teachers

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DLM Update (Continued from page 2)

will submit the student's performance level through KITE Client and scores will be reported along with ELA, mathematics, and science on the Individual Student Report (ISR) for applicable grades.



ISRs for the 2014-15 spring administration were sent to all districts at the end of September. Reports should

have been downloaded, reviewed, and distributed to parents. District level data and reports will be loaded into WISEdash as soon as possible and are considered embargoed until that time. There is not an electronic (excel) version currently available for districts to download, only PDFs. Please contact DLM if you did not receive these reports at [dlm\\_support@ku.edu](mailto:dlm_support@ku.edu).

Test administrators should be working on the completion of the Required Test Administration Training available in Moodle. Returning test administrators have one required training module, while new test administrators must complete three training modules. There is a quiz for each module that educators must pass in order to administer the DLM assessment this spring. An optional module exists for test administrators giving the science assessment in grades 4 and 8-11.

DPI will be hosting several webinars in January on how to manage DLM data within The educator portal as well as test administration. Stay tuned for more details. If you have questions or concerns about the DLM assessment, please contact Kristen Burton at [kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov) or (608) 267-3164.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update



The 2015-16 roll-out of ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is well under way! Throughout the month of November, schools and districts should have been working on training for administration

and installing the testing software. Sample tests are available for students and test administrators to familiarize them with the new platform and test the hardware it will be run on.

The ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 testing window is December 7, 2015, through February 5, 2016. Extra testing materials may be ordered from December 3, 2015, through January 29, 2016.



ACCESS trainings are housed on [WIDA's main website](#). Testing software is located on the [WIDA-AMS website](#).

Both websites require separate logins. We are asking DACs to manage these logins for staff involved in test administration in their districts.

For more information on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 testing, see the above websites as well as the DPI [ACCESS for ELLs web pages](#).

AMAOs and EL Accountability Update

As Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) are tied to the content area assessment results, the release of the Fall 2015 AMAOs have been delayed. These results will be pushed to SAFE some time after the full academic content assessment data are made publicly available. We understand the importance of these results to your schools and district, and will work to get them to you as soon as we can. Thank you for your continued patience.

The Departments of Education and Justice recently released an [EL Toolkit](#). This toolkit explains in clear language the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requirements for serving ELs, and provides information, sample tools, and resources to help you meet these obligations. Please share with district and school staff who could make use of this resource.



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PALS Update

The PALS fall administration windows for 4K through 2nd grade have recently closed and the school and district-level downloadable files are available on the PALS Online Score Entry and Reporting System. Thank you to the administrators, teachers, and other staff from all of the schools across the state that contributed to this fall's administration.



The optional PALS mid-year administration window for 4K through 2nd grade is scheduled to open January 11, 2016, and remain open until February 19, 2016, with the score entry deadline also set for February 19, 2016. For more information about the mid-year administration see the PALS Wisconsin website.

The required PALS spring administration window for 4K through 2nd grade is 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 assessment to their students.

2015 Wisconsin Act 55 modified the requirements for assessments of reading readiness for future years. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, districts can continue to use PALS or select a different assessment of reading readiness for use with each child enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten to second grade. The assessment of reading readiness, which could be computer adaptive, still must be administered at least annually, evaluate whether a child possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge, and be an appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals.

School districts will be responsible for the cost of administering the assessment of reading readiness chosen by the district in 2016-17 (whether it is PALS or a different assessment). School districts will be

eligible to seek reimbursement from DPI for these costs provided the assessment meets the criteria established in state law (Wis. Stats. 118.016). These state aid payments will be prorated if the total reimbursement claims submitted by school districts exceed the amount appropriated for this purpose. For more information, see the Department Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on this issue at: http://dpi.wi.gov/reading/statutory-requirements.

For more information on PALS, see the PALS Wisconsin Resource Center, contact PALS directly at support@palshelp.com or (888) 728-7257, or contact Duane Dorn at duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-1069.



Reminder to Submit District Technology Coordinator (DTC) Contact Information

In early October, DACs received an email regarding a new list serve for District Technology Coordinators (DTC). As part of our efforts to continuously improve communication, OSA has created a list serve for District Technology Coordinators (DTCs). As we continue to move into this era of online testing, it is important to keep technology staff informed about assessment and how their work has a direct impact on successful administration.



Therefore, districts have been asked to identify one DTC from each district to receive these communications directly from the OSA and forward it along to School Technology Coordinators (STC) and educators as appropriate. The DTC form was due October 30.

If your district has not yet submitted the DTC form, please do so as soon as possible. The DTC form is available at http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dac/dtc-update. Please email the completed forms to osamail@dpi.wi.gov.



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District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Corner

The New DAC Orientation PowerPoint is now available on the [Information for New DACs web page](#).

We are excited about the upcoming expansion of the [DAC Corner](#). As part of our effort to assist DACs in their role we are working on expanding the DAC corner to include resources and trainings specific to DACs in order to assist them in managing their many responsibilities around assessment. This includes the new DTC Contact Information web page, a Resources and Trainings web page, and making the [DAC responsibilities](#) web page (a monthly calendar of milestones by assessment) more interactive.

As we move forward we welcome any suggestions you may have, or ideas for resources you may find useful. Please send suggestions to [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov).

NAEP Update

Reading and mathematics results from NAEP 2015 were released October 28, 2015. Science will be released in spring 2016. Wisconsin's overall mathematics and reading results at grades 4 and 8 remained stable, while the nation's scores dropped in mathematics and across both subjects at grade 8. State scores were statistically above the national average in both grades for mathematics and for 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading. There was a positive upward movement at both grade levels in Wisconsin for reading, although considered not statistically different than 2013 scores. State mathematics results from 2015 were the same as 2013 in eighth grade and down slightly in fourth grade, although again not statistically different. Both grades were higher than for 2003 NAEP mathematics results. See the official news release: [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015\\_106.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2015_106.pdf).



There are several data tools for exploring NAEP results:

- To dig deeper into NAEP data, the [NAEP Data Explorer](#) is a tool that allows for lots of exploration.
- To look at an overview of how Wisconsin or any other state performed, check out the [State Profile Tool](#).
- To quickly compare states, use the [State Comparison Tool](#).

To view released questions and their performance data (including states and subgroups), use the [NAEP Questions Tool](#).

WISEdash Update

WISEdash for Districts:

- The Advanced Placement (AP) Exam data for the 2014-15 school year are available in WISEdash for Districts.
- The ACT Statewide data Grade 11 for the 2014-15 school year are available in WISEdash for Districts. These results are embargoed and should not be shared or used outside the district until publicly released by DPI in the WISEdash Public Portal.
- The Badger Exam data for the 2014-15 school year are now available in WISEdash for Districts. These results are embargoed and should not be shared or used outside the district until publicly released by DPI in the WISEdash Public Portal.

WISEdash Public Portal:

- The Advanced Placement (AP) Exam data for 2014-15 are now available in WISEdash Public Portal.





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**Are districts required to use PALS next year?**

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, districts are not required to use PALS next year. Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, districts may continue to use PALS or select a different assessment of reading readiness for use with each child enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten to second grade. The assessment of reading readiness, which could be computer adaptive, still must be administered at least annually, evaluate whether a child possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge, and be an appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals.

School districts will be responsible for the cost of administering the assessment of reading readiness chosen by the district in 2016-17 (whether it is PALS or a different assessment). School districts will be eligible to seek reimbursement from DPI for these costs provided the assessment meets the criteria established in state law (see [Wis. Stats. 118.016](#)). These state aid payments will be prorated if the total reimbursement claims submitted by school districts exceed the amount appropriated for this purpose. The specific process for this will be determined in the next few months. For more information, see the Department FAQ on this issue at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/reading/statutory-requirements>

**FAQ...****Q. How will the Writing domain in ACCESS for ELLs® work for students who can't keyboard?**

- Grades 1-3 will still take the Writing domain in a paper booklet, as many of these students aren't fluent keyboarders. Booklets will be automatically sent when you order online tests.
- Grades 4-12 will take all of the domains online, unless they fall into one of the categories that need to test on paper. (Alternate ACCESS, Braille, large print, IEP/504 accommodation that can't be met on a computer.)
- Paper writing booklets will be available for students in grades 4-12 who are not fluent keyboarders. If a student in these grades needs to handwrite the Writing domain, they will read the prompts off the screen and write in the booklet. DRC will ship a small number of paper writing booklets for grades 4-12, and more can be ordered as of December 3.

**Q. How will the Speaking domain work now that ACCESS for ELLs® is online?**

Students will wear headsets, and hear virtual teachers and students speaking. They will respond when prompted, after a virtual student models the length and complexity of the speech expected of them. Their responses will be digitized and sent to a central location for scoring. Three to five students can now take the Speaking domain at once, where it was previously one-on-one, and scored by the test administrator as the student spoke.

**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.



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Building Assessment Literacy...

What is a Strategic Assessment System?



Balanced assessment systems have played a key role in schools across Wisconsin for many years. Schools use a variety of assessments: formative, interim, and summative, in order to drive the teaching and learning process, making effective decisions about what comes next for learning, program effectiveness, and closing achievement gaps.

In Wisconsin, more than simply balancing the types of assessments to provide a variety of data, educators recognize the need to strategically choose high quality assessment tools and practices, and then coherently and purposefully use that information to directly impact student achievement.

Strategic assessment systems emphasize:

- The very purposeful alignment of assessments and their use to the data inquiry process
• The critical and primary role that formative practices play in driving the teaching and learning process and
• The importance of identifying high quality assessments to produce effective and efficient information about students' readiness for college and career

Why does assessment matter to our students' college and career readiness?

What purpose does assessment serve? To whom is it important? Why does it factor so prominently into our discussions about teaching and learning? In this 2-minute introductory video, meet Andre, and learn about how schools use strategic assessment systems to ensure he and his classmates graduate college and career ready.

For more information on Strategic Assessment go to http://dpi.wi.gov/strategic-assessment.

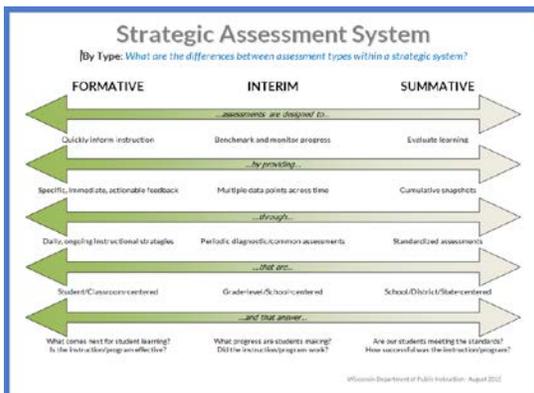


Table with 4 columns: Purpose, Formative, Interim, Summative. Rows include: To PLAN learning PRIOR to instruction, To SUPPORT learning DURING instruction, To MONITOR learning BETWEEN instruction, To VERIFY learning AFTER instruction.



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DACs To-Do List from this Issue:

- Submit requests for ACT-approved accommodations in the Test Accessibility and Accommodation System (TAA) by November 20, 2015
Complete required test administration training by February 10, 2016
Complete and submit the District Technology Coordinator form to OSA

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 and Accountability at osamail@dpi.wi.gov.



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