



PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XXIII, September 2012

OEA Updates...

2012 WSAS Testing Window

The Fall 2012 testing window for the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) and the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) is October 22 – November 23. Testing may only begin on or after October 22, 2012. For future testing dates go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/calendar.html>.

DPI recommends that schools try to complete the majority of testing within the first two weeks of the window, leaving the remaining time for make-up sessions.

Smarter Balanced Update

Smarter Balanced is on track to deliver a fully functional assessment system by the 2014-15 school year. Working with the 27 member states, assessment claims and content specifications for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, and an information technology architecture have been established. Smarter is developing a common accessibility and accommodations policy, and the first set of assessment items and performance tasks aligned with the Common Core State Standards. Fifteen of the 21 anticipated contracts to conduct the work of Smarter Balanced are in progress.

Teachers from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Governing States (including Wisconsin educators) have been participating in item and task development in support of the Spring 2013 Pilot Test. During the summer and fall, these teachers were and will be trained to write and review 10,000 items and performance tasks. The Consortium has also performed cognitive lab studies on how students approach and interact with different types of computer-administered items. The Consortium will be conducting Small Scale Trials of innovative test items from October 15 to November 2, 2012, in selected school districts across the governing states. The selected school districts from Wisconsin will receive notification from the Smarter Consortium in early September. Item specifications and online item writing training materials to support this development effort are now available on the public website: www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/item-writing-and-review/.

(continued on page 2)

OEA Calendar...

Assessment Windows for 2012-13

2012	
October 15 - November 9	PALS Testing Window
October 22 - November 23	WSAS Testing Window (WKCE and WAA-SwD)
December 3	ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window Opens
2013	
February 8	ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window Closes
January 28 - March 8	NAEP Assessment Window

Important Dates

2012	
September	Preliminary notification to districts missing 2011-12 ELL accountability AMAOs
September 14	Braille and Large Print edition of WKCE and WAA-SwD orders due
September 26	Pre-Recorded 2011 WSAS pre-test workshop available online via Mediasite
September 29 4:00 PM	Deadline to update ALL WSLs records and ISES "Grade Level Placement" fields for WSAS test labels
October	AMAO reports available for download for districts with English language learners
October 1 - 20	Window for ordering ACCESS Testing Materials
October 15	Deadline for schools participating in NAEP to provide/update school information on MySchool
October 29 8:00 AM	Final day to update WSLs records; ISES Year-End collection closed for data pull for WSAS Pre-ID labels and ELL Exiting Accountability AMAO determinations
November 1	Deadline for schools participating in NAEP to submit their student e-file
November 28 8:00 AM	Deadline to review and revise all ISES records before lockdown



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(Smarter Balanced Update continued from page 1)

States submitted the first round of baseline data through the Technology Readiness Tool. These data are currently being distilled into a report that will help Governing States determine the minimum technology specifications for the Consortium. These minimum specifications, along with the existing new hardware guidelines, will be used by district and state policymakers to determine their gaps in technology and to prioritize their readiness strategies.

Governing States approved the Formative Assessment Master Work Plan. Key activities in the Master Work Plan include the creation of a digital library of curricular resources, providing assessment literacy training, and development of instructional modules. Efforts have begun to procure a contractor(s) to support this exciting work which is scheduled to begin in December 2012.

Two key committees were launched—the English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities Advisory Committees—to provide guidance on development of an accessible assessment for all students. The Consortium also engaged five highly experienced and respected higher education leaders to work with the Governing States on a regional basis. These regional senior advisors are assisting the states in crafting and implementing plans to engage college faculty and administrators in understanding the Common Core, responding to the standards' implications for higher education, and contributing to the development of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System.

Important Reminder

DPI would like to stress the importance of ensuring each student is working in their own WKCE test book. Please have proctors and students check the label on the front of the test book prior to beginning each new testing session. Be particularly attentive of students with the same names (i.e., twins/siblings) to be sure each student has the correct book.

The Assessment Accommodations Matrix

The assessment accommodation matrices are available for the 2012-13 school year at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/accommtrx.html>. Please keep in mind all assessment accommodations for students with disabilities, students on 504 plans, and English language learners (ELL) should be documented and consistent with day-to-day instruction. Please contact Kristen Burton, kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov, with any questions.

Commercial Products and Workshops Promoting Test Prep

The Office of Educational Accountability has received a number of phone calls from districts asking about the validity of commercial test prep products or workshops designed to enhance student performance on the WKCE. DPI does not endorse these products or workshops. It is recommended that schools limit the amount of instructional time spent on specific test preparation activities; instead, time is better spent on solid instructional activities that prepare students to demonstrate proficiency on grade level expectations. Suggestions for test preparation are available at the OEA website "DAC Corner" <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/dacnwltrs.html>.

Reminder to Update WSLS Data

The Department of Public Instruction creates student demographic pre-ID labels for WSAS test booklets. The labels are created using the Wisconsin Student Number Locator System (WSLS) and the Individual Student Enrollment System (ISES) databases and will be shipped to districts before the Fall 2012 test window. To make this process as easy as possible during the busy testing window, please do the following:

1. Update ALL WSLS records and ISES "Grade Level Placement" fields **before 4:00 PM on September 29, 2012**.
2. Update all WSLS records again **before 8:00 AM on October 29, 2012** (3rd Friday of September, Child Count, and Year End Submission Period Ends).
3. Verify and lock all ISES records **before 8:00 AM on November 28, 2012** (Review and Revision period ends).



Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) Update

The Office of Educational Accountability has developed an online ordering system for the WAA-SwD test materials. District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) were sent an email from "DPI Forms Management" with a link to the online ordering form on August 28, 2012. This form allows the DAC to identify the final number of WAA-SwD test books, including WAA-SwD picture description and WAA-SwD Braille books, required for the Fall 2012 test administration. Districts with no students taking the WAA-SwD should still open the order form and enter 'zero.' This process will provide districts with a more accurate initial shipment of test materials, reducing the need for additional orders. The deadline for this electronic order is September 14, 2012, and will be used for packing and shipping the WAA-SwD test materials.

After September 14, all additional orders will need to be placed through DPI at 608-267-1072 and will arrive as a separate shipment from your other test materials. DACs should work with the Special Education Director in their district to identify an accurate count of students expected to take the WAA-SwD at each grade level.

Please note that the test book order form cannot be forwarded to others for completion. It must be completed by the DAC.

Reminder:

- Participation in the WAA-SwD is an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team decision using the Participation Checklist available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/doc/form-i7a.doc>. Students whose instruction is based on the Extended Grade Band Standards should be taking the WAA-SwD, with or without accommodations. Students whose instruction is based on the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards should be taking the WKCE, with or without accommodations.
- Test administrators for the WAA-SwD need to be trained, licensed professionals. Test administrators should review the PowerPoint presentation and materials posted at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/waa.html#testad> prior to the test window.
- Teachers for students in grades 4, 8, and 10 should download rater forms for Language Arts/Writing and Social Studies. Student performance levels must be reported on the back of the WAA-SwD Answer Document. These forms can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/waa.html#testad>.

New District Assessment Coordinators

Each year, many Wisconsin districts designate a new District Assessment Coordinator, or DAC, who serves as the central point of contact and the coordinator for statewide testing in their district. If you have been designated as the new DAC for your district, there are several things that you should do:

- ✓ Complete the "DAC Update Form" located at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/daccontact.html>. This form provides us with your email address which is important in receiving timely information related to testing and accountability.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with OEA's website (located at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea>), specifically information posted in the DAC Corner. A master calendar of activities is posted under "DAC Responsibilities."
- ✓ Obtain access to the Online Reporting System (ORS), which is a secure, password-protected site where you can view Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) results. If you need assistance (username and/or password), contact OEA at (608) 267-1072 or oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov.

Delivery of Testing Materials

WSAS testing materials will be delivered October 1-5, 2012. WKCE and WAA-SwD materials will be delivered the same week in separate shipments. Boxes containing WAA-SwD materials will be differentiated by a three-inch blue dot on the outside of the package. The DAC is responsible for sorting and distributing all test materials to schools as soon as possible. The DAC must inventory all materials and report any WKCE shortages to CTB/McGraw-Hill, and WAA-SwD shortages to DPI.





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ESEA Waiver Update

Wisconsin's waiver request from portions of NCLB was approved in July 2012. As a result of the waiver, DPI will produce annual report cards for all Wisconsin schools. Sample report cards are posted online (<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.html>). OEA staff are working to finalize the report card design based on feedback received this summer.

School Report Cards will be released securely to district administrators in late September through SAFE (see secure home <http://dpi.wi.gov/lids/>). OEA recommends all districts and schools assign access to SAFE as soon as possible so that schools may download their report card once posted. The September release is embargoed. Report cards will be posted publicly in early October. The School Report Card represents the accountability reporting for the 2011-12 school year.

Accountability Trainers from each CESA and the five largest districts have been trained on the new accountability system, including the School Report Card. Please connect with your district/CESA's accountability trainer to understand the upcoming changes.

DPI Webpage Update

Sometime in late September or early October DPI will be updating the look and feel of the webpage. This is in an effort to make the site more user-friendly and compatible with today's electronic devices. Along with the new look, all of the pages (with the exception of the home page, <http://dpi.wi.gov>, which will remain the same) will have a slightly different URL. For example: the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) homepage which is currently <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/index.html> will be <http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/> after the transition. Most links will be redirected for your convenience until everyone is used to the new URLs.

All OEA content should still be easily accessible. There are three major changes to the pages:

1. The DAC corner is now on the Left navigation bar just below the OEA logo.
2. The main sections of the OEA pages are in a top green navigation bar with drop-down menus.
3. The OEA logo has a new look.

Accountability for the Progress and Attainment of English Language Proficiency (ELP) for 2011-12

Districts with English language learners (ELLs) must meet three accountability objectives called Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs). This year:

- AMAO 1 (progress in English proficiency) is based on the percent of ELLs meeting a growth target of 0.4 ELP level gain. AMAO 1 is met if 37% of ELLs made 0.4 or greater ELP level progress on the 2011-12 ACCESS for ELLs overall proficiency level scores.
- AMAO 2 (attainment of English proficiency) is met if 8.0% of ELL students scored a 5.0 or higher overall proficiency level on the 2011-12 ACCESS for ELLs.
- AMAO 3 is determined by the WSAS results on the WKCE/WAA exams. Performance of ELLs in districts and consortia are compared to the Annual Measurable Objectives approved under the ESEA waiver.

Districts that miss an AMAO will receive preliminary notification by October 1, 2012. AMAO District Profile Reports will be available by October 8 for all districts with ELL students in the Secure Access File Exchange (SAFE). These reports are available to district personnel who are authorized to use LDS Secure Tools. Please see the Accountability for ELLs webpage at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/ellamao.html> for more information.





ACCESS for ELLs® Updates

In September, MetriTech will send district assessment coordinators an email regarding ordering ACCESS for ELLs® test materials. The window to order test materials is October 1-20, 2012. DPI will again provide MetriTech student demographic data for creating Pre-ID labels.

Testing begins on December 3, 2012, and will continue through February 8, 2013. As a reminder, it is highly recommended by both DPI and WIDA that test administrators are re-trained on an annual basis, as the ACCESS for ELLs® undergoes changes every year. If you do not receive the email from MetriTech, please contact them at 800-747-4868.



ASSETS Update

This fall marks the first anniversary of the ASSETS (Assessment Services Supporting ELLs through Technology Systems) grant. Wisconsin, in collaboration with the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), is leading a 29-state consortium charged with developing the next generation online English language proficiency test for K-12 students. This new assessment system, planned for implementation in 2015-16, will include not only a new summative assessment, but also a technology-based on-demand screener, interim assessments, and training resources. These assessments will help schools better measure students' acquisition of the academic language needed to succeed in the classroom and ultimately in college or in a career.

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™

This year, English learners with significant cognitive disabilities will take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ during the ACCESS testing window. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) team is responsible for deciding whether a student who is classified as EL with a significant cognitive disability will participate in the ACCESS for ELLs® or the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ and if accommodations will be used. IEP teams should address each of the criteria outlined in the IEP: Participation in the Statewide Language Assessment Checklist and Accommodations worksheet 1-7-C found at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/forms06.html>.

It is recommended that this test administrator be the licensed professional who works most closely with the student. Special Educators or ELL teachers may administer the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™. Test administrators must complete the Alternate ACCESS training found on the WIDA website at www.WIDA.us. To access the training modules, a username and password are required. District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) have access to these codes. For more information DACs may contact Audrey Lesondak at 608-267-5153 or audrey.lesondak@dpi.wi.gov.

ELL Update

DPI has amended its guidelines for when a student is reclassified as Fully English Proficient, or no longer identified as ELL/LEP in the statewide Individual Student Enrollment System (ISES). These guidelines provide flexibility to districts to maintain or reclassify students in LEP status with ELP levels of five or higher. These amended guidelines are described in Bulletin 07.02 Procedures for Existing English Language Learners Fully Proficient http://dpi.wi.gov/esea/pdf/bul_0702.pdf. For more information please contact Audrey Lesondak at 608-267-5153 or audrey.lesondak@dpi.wi.gov.





Common Core Essential Elements (CCEE)

In June 2012, Wisconsin adopted the Common Core Essential Elements (CCEE) in English language arts and mathematics. These alternate academic achievement standards describe challenging, grade-level expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities and increase access to the general education curricula based upon the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The CCEE were developed by a consortium of 13 states called Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). These new standards will be used as the basis for the new DLM assessment, to be implemented in 2014-15. The CCEE can be found at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/assmt-ccee.html>.

NAEP Update

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2013 will include assessments in reading and mathematics at grades 4, 8, and 12. In addition, there will be a computer-based Technology and Engineering Literacy pilot assessment in grade 8. District administrators, DACs, and principals were notified in May or June if they were selected for NAEP 2013. In mid-September, principals will receive another mailing which includes a packet for their designated NAEP school coordinator. DACs will receive an email summarizing the information mailed to schools.

Please note the following important dates for schools selected to participate in NAEP 2013.

- ASAP: Register on MySchool (www.mynaep.com) using the registration ID and instructions in the September school coordinator packet
- October 15, 2012: Deadline to complete the Provide School Information page on MySchool
- November 1, 2012: Deadline to submit student list via e-filing on MySchool
- January 2013: NAEP field staff will schedule a pre-assessment visit at each school
- January 28 - March 8, 2013: NAEP assessment window

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Dugas, angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov, NAEP State Coordinator for Wisconsin, or visit the following NAEP websites: <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/naep.html> and <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.



We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. As the Office of Educational Accountability works to improve and refine this communication tool, we would appreciate feedback and/or suggestions on the layout and content. Please contact OEA at: oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov.





“Where can I find more information about the new performance standards for the WKCE?”

The Department of Public Instruction has established performance standards (cut scores) for the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) Reading and Mathematics content areas to more closely align with national and international expectations of what is required to be college and career ready. The higher cut scores are comparable to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) cut scores. The performance level descriptors that accompany the college and career ready cut scores have been revised to reflect the higher expectations required with these higher performance benchmarks. For more information and to view the new performance standards for reading and mathematics go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/wkce-crtcuts.html>.

FAQ... WSAS Test Participation

Q. Do I need to test a foreign exchange student?

Yes. You must test all students enrolled. Because the student is probably not a Full Academic Year student, the student counts only as a test participant and will not affect the school and district accountability.

Q. Do I need to test a student who was expelled or suspended from school for the duration of the testing window?

Yes. The district/school is responsible for testing any expelled or suspended student who remains enrolled in the district during the testing window. They should be considered the same as any other student enrolled in your school.

Q. Do I have to test students who participated in the WKCE last year and are still enrolled in the same grade this year?

Yes. The WKCE must be administered to all students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 10, no matter how many times a particular student has participated in the past. Some students will take the WKCE at the same grade level for consecutive years.

Q. When is parent opt-out allowable?

When a parent or guardian requests that the student be excused from participating in the WKCE, this request must be honored at grades 4, 8, and 10, per Wis. Stats. 118.30 (1r) 2.3. This request may come at anytime during the testing window. While not directly addressed by state statutes, districts may choose to honor parent requests to excuse their child from WKCE testing at grades 3, 5, 6, and 7, or the WAA-SwD at grades 3-8, and 10, at their discretion on an individual basis. All students excused by parent opt-out count as “not tested” students for determining school and district accountability.

Q. Is our district responsible for testing private school students?

No. Your district may not test private school students. Every year private schools have the opportunity to purchase the WKCE directly from CTB/McGraw-Hill. Private schools receive Individual Profile Reports (IPRs) for students but do not receive comparative information to public school students. For additional information regarding testing of private schools go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/privatesch.html>.

Q. Is the school or district responsible for testing a home-schooled student if the parent requests that?

No. You are neither required nor permitted to include home-schooled students in the WKCE, including those enrolled in your district for two or fewer classes per day.



Building Assessment Literacy...

Phonological Awareness Literacy Screener (PALS)

In April 2012, Wisconsin Act 166 became law requiring that an early literacy screener be administered to all 5K students enrolled in a school district or charter school in Wisconsin. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) was given the task to identify a screener that is valid and reliable; assesses phonemic awareness; and will begin with the 2012-2013 school year. The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening for kindergarten (PALS-K) was selected not only to meet the legislative needs, but also because of its ability to provide educators with helpful information to guide instruction.

PALS-K, developed by the University of Virginia, is a measure of children's knowledge of several important literacy fundamentals: phonological awareness, alphabet recognition, concept of word, knowledge of letter sounds, and spelling. PALS-K provides a direct means of matching literacy instruction to specific literacy needs and provides a means of identifying those children who are relatively behind in their acquisition of these fundamental literacy skills, as well as students who are excelling.

PALS-K will be required to be administered in the fall and spring of each school year. In addition, an optional winter administration is available. The fall administration window is October 15 to November 9. Kindergarten (5K) teachers need to choose two weeks within this window to administer the assessment to their students. DPI is committed to providing the assessment at no cost to schools and districts; however, districts may incur costs with the actual administration.

Information on required training, frequently asked questions, a parent information one-pager, and access to professional development modules are available online at the PALS Wisconsin Resource Center (<http://www.palswisconsin.info>). Specific details of note are:

- All kindergarten (5K) students are required to be administered the English language version of PALS-K.
- A Spanish language version of PALS-K is currently being piloted. Schools are allowed to administer the Spanish language version to any students that they feel would benefit from being assessed in Spanish; however, they are still required to administer the English language version. DPI recommends that schools limit use of this additional Spanish option to students enrolled in a Spanish Dual-language Immersion program. For schools that elect to also use the Spanish language version, contact PALS at pals-esp@virginia.edu.
- Teacher training modules are available. Kindergarten teachers should have access to their PALS Teacher Kits when viewing the required training modules. The series of six 15-minute modules and the accompanying certification assessment need to be completed by October 1, 2012.



For general questions about the administration requirements and to request Braille or Deaf/Hard of Hearing PALS-K materials, contact Duane Dorn at 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.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF

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