

Bulletin No. 02.01

March 7, 2002

Topic: State Assessment Changes for 2002-2003

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This reauthorization contains major changes to the old law and will require the department and districts to modify current practices, particularly in the areas of assessment and accountability. This is the first in a series of bulletins from the department dealing with issues related to the ESEA reauthorization.

Several changes in Wisconsin's assessment program will be occurring as a result of the DPI's Federal Title 1 Timeline Waiver Agreement and the reauthorization of ESEA. This bulletin highlights key changes to the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) that will occur in the 2002-2003 school year.

Changes to WKCE

- ⇒ Statewide Standardized Assessments at grades 4, 8, and 10.
 - Additional test items will be added to the CTB/McGraw-Hill Shelf test in all subject areas to more fully assess Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards.
- ⇒ Local Assessments will be added at grades 4, 8, and 10.
 - A realignment study was conducted in December 2001 to identify Wisconsin Model Academic Standards that are better assessed at the local level. Not all of Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards are measured by the WKCE standardized test even when enhanced with new items. Districts and schools will be required to report student performance on standards not measured on WKCE tests and report the results for statewide Title 1 accountability purposes.
 - The department is currently working with school district staff and other partners to develop local assessment protocols, rubrics, and exemplars. Draft local assessment materials will be available mid- to late summer 2002.

WKCE testing window changes from spring semester to late fall

- ⇒ Reasons for changing the testing window to late fall:
 - By September 2002 test results are to be a part of local school board *No Social Promotion* policies. To provide statewide test results in time to allow districts to make promotion decisions, a testing window late in fall is needed.
 - The reauthorization of ESEA has increased school districts' responsibilities related to identifying schools in need of improvement. To assure that school districts have adequate time to plan for new ESEA requirements, a late fall testing window is needed.

- The Title 1 Timeline Waiver requires the state to include alternate assessment information for limited English proficient students and students with disabilities. A late fall testing window is needed to meet these expanded reporting requirements by spring.
- The addition of new test items to WKCE will require the state to conduct a standard setting session to reset state performance levels. To accomplish this task and provide all test results to schools by spring, a late fall testing window is needed.
- Local assessment reporting must be added to statewide accountability reporting. Additional time is needed to process the local assessment data and send it to schools along with WKCE test results in spring so a late fall testing window is needed.

Professional Development and Workshops on New State Assessments

⇒ Numerous pretest workshops are being planned for August and September 2002 to assist schools and districts in dealing with the changes in the state's assessment system. Workshop topics will include:

- Administration of the Enhanced WKCE at grades 4, 8, and 10.
- Professional development and training on implementing new local assessment requirements.
- Professional development and training on administering new alternate assessments for limited English proficient students and students with disabilities.
- Training and guidance of district staff on implementing new ESEA accountability requirements.

Contact and Website at the Department Related to ESEA Information Updates

General information related to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) can be found on the DPI website at: <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/esea/index.html>. This site will include this and all future bulletins and links to other Internet sites providing information related to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

For more information about educational assessment in Wisconsin, visit <http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/oea/assessmt.html>.

Specific questions related to this bulletin should be directed to:

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