



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016

OEA/OSA Updates...

Note from the Assessment Director

As you may know, we are strolling into one of the busy periods of the yearly assessment cycle. The test window for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will begin in December followed by the ACT testing date in late February and the Forward Exam, DLM assessment and ACT ASPIRE in March and April. Trainings and manuals will become available on a rolling basis and will be announced through the weekly DAC Digest and the specific assessments' calendar webpages.

Many thanks to the Wisconsin educators for reviewing the Forward Exam science test questions. Educators reviewed the test questions for quality, alignment, difficulty, complexity, and grade- and language-level appropriateness, as well as to ensure that questions are free of bias and sensitivity. Statewide educator involvement in the development of Forward Exam helps to shape the continued progress of a high quality Wisconsin assessment.

As you have been hearing from us about the WISEdata transition, a large number of districts have already begun pushing data from their Student Information System (SIS) to WISEdata. If your district has not yet implemented this feature, please work with your District Technology Coordinator (DTC) and SIS vendor to enable data flow to WISEdata.

Thanks, to all of you, for your careful attention to the information in the DAC Digests and your engagement through the OSA Office Hours. I wish you all a very happy holiday season.

Viji Somasundaram

Director, Office of Student Assessment (OSA)

OEA/OSA Calendar...

Important Dates

Table with columns for dates and events, organized by year (2016 and 2017). Events include DLM Moodle Required Test Administration Training, Public Release of School and District Accountability Report Cards, ACCESS for ELLs WIDA AMS Test Setup Window, ACT Deadline for Districts to Ensure SIS is Up-to-Date for Grade 11, and ACT WorkKeys Grade 11 Testing Date.

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



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016

Forward Exam Update



The Forward Exam Science Item Review was held October 17-19, 2016.

Wisconsin educators from across the state reviewed possible test items to ensure alignment to the Wisconsin

Academic Standards, grade-level appropriateness, difficulty, and depth of knowledge. The review committees also evaluated the cognitive complexity and linguistic accessibility of the items, and addressed sensitivity issues.

Emails granting eDIRECT permissions for the 2017 administration of the Wisconsin Forward Exam were sent to District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) on October 11, 2016. The emails were sent to existing and returning DACs. If you did not receive this communication, please first check your spam for an email address from the @datarecognitioncorp.com domain.

Please contact the DRC helpdesk for further assistance: email -

WIHelpDesk@datarecognitioncorp.com;

Phone - (800) 459-6530.

DRC will be hosting three Online Technology Q & A Sessions to ensure that districts are ready for the

2017 administration of the Forward Exam. The dates and times are listed below. More information regarding registration will be emailed to DTCs in the coming months.



- January 18, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- February 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- March 15, 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A DTC training was also held in early October. The event was recorded and is now available on the [Forward Exam Technology Readiness website](#).

ACT High School Assessments Update



There have been some changes to test administration for 2017 which we would like to cover.

These changes are also summarized in the [Welcome to your Testing Program Letter](#) found on either the [DPI ACT web page](#) or the [ACT WI web page](#).

Two online systems will be used this year for ACT statewide test management and are available for use now:

1. PearsonAccessnext™ for test participation management and confirming test coordinator roles, and
2. Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) for accommodations requests.

The deadline for test coordinators to submit requests for ACT-approved accommodations in the Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) System for the ACT statewide exam is January 20, 2017, which is later than last year.

Late requests for accommodations will be considered if the examinee is newly enrolled, has a newly identified disability, has a previously ACT-approved accommodation, or a has a medical emergency. As was the case last year, accommodations and arrangements for Aspire will be decided locally by the school and recorded in the Aspire portal.

Secure and nonsecure ACT materials will be shipped together to school test coordinators two weeks before the initial test date. If schools would prefer an extra week for students to complete the noncognitive sections of the answer document, test coordinators can select to receive materials the week of February 6, 2017 instead of the standard week of February 13, 2017. This selection can be made in the “manage participation” window in PearsonAccessNext.

(Continued on page 3)



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016

ACT High School Assessments Update

(Continued from page 2)

There are two changes for the statewide Aspire test administration for grades 9 and 10 that are worth noting. First, please note that the standard [Aspire test times](#) have been modified.

Second, the timeline for administering the statewide Aspire assessment for grades 9 and 10 starts later than in previous years. This year, DPI will upload student data to Aspire on March 10, 2017. Test coordinators will have until April 14, 2017, to set up online test sessions for students. However, students requiring Large Print, Braille, or American Sign Language are eligible for paper-based tests, and the window for ordering paper-based tests is March 14-24, 2017. We are aware this timeframe overlaps with many schools' spring breaks, so DPI will be communicating early and frequently to test coordinators to ensure paper test orders are submitted on time.

Upcoming training webinars:

- January 12, 2017, 10:00 a.m. session #1 ACT Test Administration Q & A training [register here](#)
- February 2, 2017, 10:00 a.m. session #2 ACT Test Administration Q & A training [register here](#)
- February 22, 2017, 2:00 p.m. Aspire Technology Readiness Q & A Training Webinar
- March 30, 2017, 10:00 a.m. Aspire Test Administration Q & A Training Webinar

Webinars will be recorded and linked to the [DPI ACT training website](#).

The checklists of dates and deadlines for the ACT/WorkKeys and ACT Aspire statewide test

administrations are now posted to the [DPI ACT calendar webpage](#). Timely information related to the ACT suite of assessments will be communicated both by ACT directly to test coordinators and in the DAC Digest. Additionally, the biweekly ACT email to Test Coordinators, High School Principals, and DACs will resume in late November.



Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



Individual Student Reports (ISR) for the 2015-16 spring administration were sent to

all districts at the end of September and are available in KITE Educator Portal. Reports should have been downloaded, reviewed, and distributed to parents. Detailed information regarding student performance relative to each assessed standard is available in WISEdash secure under a student's profile. This information is helpful to teachers when evaluating curriculum and instructional practices. DPI will provide an electronic download file for districts through SAFE later this fall and will provide an update in the DAC Digest once the files are available.

DLM has assured states that there will not be a data lockdown period during the test window this spring. However, it is imperative that districts manage student data properly in the portal in order to prevent test administration issues. With this in mind, DLM developed a [series of short tutorials](#) for DACs focused on a variety of topics/processes. DACs can also find frequently asked questions and answers.

(Continued on page 4)



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016

DLM Update (Continued from page 3)



Test administrators should be working on the completion of the Required Test Administration Training available in Moodle. New test administrators must successfully complete four modules with a passing score on each module's post-test.

Returning test administrators must successfully complete one module with a passing score on all four parts of the post-test as well as a supplemental science training video for users (without a quiz).

If you have questions or concerns about the DLM assessment, please contact Kristen Burton at kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267- 3164.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update



This summer WIDA held a standard setting where dozens of ESL teachers, language experts, and other EL staff from over

30 states sat down and looked at student responses on this year's ACCESS for ELLs. They compared these responses to the current standards, and set new benchmarks for what proficiency looks like.

This standard setting was needed because the last one was prior to the new CCSS/CCRS, which set higher expectations for students. The result of this standard setting is that the bar for proficiency is now higher than it was last year. For example, last year a student might have received an ELP 6.0 for obtaining 400 Scale Score points in a domain, while this year they would need 430 Scale Score points to receive a 6.0. (This example is not based on the actual values, as we do not have those yet.)

Due to this standard setting, districts should expect students to show less growth than expected this year, as measured towards proficiency with ELP scores. The test content, scoring, and difficulty haven't changed, and we expect that Scale Score growth will not change much either. We're working to determine the impact on ELP scores and its meaning for Wisconsin. We will be sharing the

updates with the state once they become available.



Looking forward, ESSA requires us to rework our EL entry, reclassification, and accountability system for 2017-18. More updates regarding the ESSA related changes will be communicated in the coming months.

For 2017-18, expect a new Home Language Survey, new Screener for grades 1-12, new accountability for ELs focused on growth towards proficiency in a set time frame, new criteria for reclassification, and more detailed post-reclassification monitoring. Over the next six months, we'll be working with stakeholders across Wisconsin to ensure that we're building systems that can better serve our ELs. A lot of changes are coming, but we're optimistic that they will make a profound difference for our students who are English learners.





ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016

Assessment of Reading Readiness Update (formerly PALS)



Wis. Stats. 118.016 requires each pupil enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten to second grade in a school district or in a charter school to be annually assessed for reading

readiness. Each school board and the operator of each charter school shall select the appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals to be used. The school board or operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge.

For districts that have administered a literacy screener in the fall of the school year, additional requirements that must be met are:

- The district shall report the results of a pupil's assessment to the pupil's parent or guardian.
• The district in which the pupil is enrolled shall provide a pupil whose assessment indicates that he or she is at risk of reading difficulty with interventions or remedial reading services, as described under Wis. Stats. 121.02(1)(c).



The department will be sending out reimbursement forms to the district assessment coordinator for each district in the next couple of months. Districts will be asked to indicate the screener or screeners used at each grade, the number of students screened and the amount the district is seeking for

reimbursement. Once all reimbursement requests have been received, department staff will determine whether the appropriation is sufficient to reimburse the full amount requested by each district. If the appropriation is sufficient, each district will be

reimbursed the full amount. If the appropriation is insufficient, payments to districts will be prorated. It is anticipated that all payments will be distributed prior to the end of the school year.

More information on the reading readiness requirements can be found at: Reading Readiness Overview. In addition, a FAQ section can be found at: Reading Readiness FAQ.

NAEP Update



NAEP 2015 state-level Science results for grades 4 and 8 were released on October 27. Visit the DPI newsroom and the NAEP State Profiles tool to learn more about how students in Wisconsin performed compared to their peers across the nation.

Thanks to districts and schools selected for NAEP 2017. Your work to get schools ready for these assessments will yield valuable state-level results in Reading and Mathematics; national-level results in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing; and will inform future NAEP testing in US History, Civics, and Geography.

Accountability Update



The 2015-16 accountability report cards will be released publicly on November 17. The report card app to access the public School and District Report Cards has a familiar look and feel but has been refreshed to account for the fact that both public and private schools participating in the choice program now receive accountability report cards.

If you are looking for report cards for those participating in the Parental Choice Program, you will click on the Private Schools button. The dropdown menu will include the list of choice schools organized by city.

(Continued on page 6)



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016

Accountability Update (Continued from page 5)

Please note that this year – due to limited data – the choice report cards do not include any scores, ratings, attendance, absenteeism or graduation rates. This is because all choice schools participated in WISEdata, the new data collection system, for the first time in the 2015-16 school year. As a result, DPI only has a single year of data for choice students, and the report cards require multiple years of data to produce scores.

All other report cards are available in the dropdown list after you select the Public Schools button. The schools are organized by district. As usual, two versions of the report card are produced for each school and district: a one-pager labeled “School Report Card” and lengthier, detailed version labeled, “School Report Card Detail.”



Because the public report cards have redacted data, they are safe to share widely – with parents, school boards, local media, and the community. In contrast, the secure report cards in SAFE contain unredacted data and are never to be shared publicly. They are to be used to

inform your continuous improvement process driving school and district improvement planning.

Key Links

Report Cards Home (public):
http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards

Report Card Resources:
http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/resources

About Wisconsin Accountability:
http://dpi.wi.gov/accountability

SAFE Report Cards (secure)
http://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/districts/safe

WISEdash Update

Now available in WISEdash Public:

- 2015-16 Current and Certified Views of Forward and DLM Exam data
• 2015-16 Current and Certified Views of ACT Statewide and DLM Exam data
• 2015-16 Current View of ACT Graduates data
• 2015-16 Current View of AP Exam data



WISEdash for Districts now contains 2016-17 data submitted via WISEdata. Current enrollment dashboards show public school enrollment data for districts that have enabled their Student information system

(SIS) to send data through WISEdata. SIS vendors are continuing to work to enable the flow of data through WISEdata. If your district has not completed a successful WISEdata submission, then the current enrollment will continue to show zero enrollees. Please note that district access to individual student data is controlled by the latest WISEdata enrollment record for enrollments after June 30, 2016. District access to student data for inactive students not returning in 2016-17 is controlled by the final enrollment for those students now that WSLS is retired.

Please feel free to contact us with questions using the WISEsupport request form.

The 2016-17 preliminary Dropout Early Warning System (DEWS) scores are now available in WISEdash for Districts. The new scores are dated October 14, 2016.

Please not that for DEWS, the addition of the Forward Exam to the calculations that already include WKCE and Badger results in larger margins of error around the predictions. This causes more

(Continued on page 7)



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016

WISEdash Update (Continued from page 6)

students to be identified as having moderate risk and fewer as low risk and high risk of not completing high school than previous calculations.

As a reminder, DEWS scores are one source of data about students and should be used in conjunction with local risk assessment data.

Advanced Placement (AP) Exam results for 2015-16 have been added to WISEdash for Districts. These results can be found under the AP menu under the WISEdash tab.

Strategic Assessment Systems



The Strategic Assessment Systems webpage was redesigned to emphasize the valuable resources available to support data and assessment needs in your district. The website was organized into

three categories of information: Foundational Resources, which includes assessment charts, terminology, and videos; Cycles of Assessment which includes information and resources for formative, interim, and summative assessment; and Professional Learning which will soon include information on Professional Learning Communities, assessment toolkits, and assessment inventories to use within your district.



Another area within the Strategic Assessment System that will be expanded is the formative assessment webpage. Look for additional resources including an FAQ, diagrams, and other useful resources for teachers to

effectively practice formative assessment within the classroom in the coming months. If you have specific questions in mind that you would like to see

highlighted or clarified regarding formative assessment, please share your ideas with us; we would love your input!

Please email Lauren Zellmer, Education Consultant - Formative Assessment, at lauren.zellmer@dpi.wi.gov with questions or areas of interest regarding formative assessment practices.

TO DO List From This Issue:
• Work with DTC and SIS vendor to enable data flow to WISEdata
• Send DLM ISRs home to parents/guardians if you have not already done so
• Complete DLM required trainings
• Complete Reading Readiness reimbursement forms



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.



Are there sample practice items available for the Forward Exam?

We do not have sample test questions available for the Forward Exam. What we do have available is the Online Tool Training (OTT), which provides students the opportunity to practice using the tools available on the Forward Exam and work in the testing environment. The questions on the OTT are not reflective of the content of the test and thus should not be used as a resource to practice content. The OTT is not available right now because we are working on a new version for 2017. You are encouraged to check back in the coming months. Once released, it can be found on this webpage:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward/sample-items/>.

OSA is also working on providing sample Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) questions, which is the writing exercise students perform on the exam. The TDA sampler will also be available on the webpage listed above in the coming months.

FAQ ...

- Q. Is there a sample letter available to notify parents about upcoming testing that the district may utilize?**
Yes, there is a generic sample parent letter that may be used for any of the upcoming assessments available on the [DAC training and resources webpage](#). The letter is also available in Spanish and Hmong.
- Q. Where can a district find additional information to send to a parent/guardian about the upcoming state assessments?**
On the OSA website there are informational brochures for families for each specific assessment. These brochures are found under each assessments resources page and also on the [Assessment Information for Families resources webpage](#).
- Q. Where can I find assessment timeline information?**
There are printable testing window timelines available on the [Assessment homepage](#). There are assessment specific calendars under each assessment in the left navigation bar.
- 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. How does a parent/guardian request an opt-out for their student?**
A parent must submit a written request for student opt-out to the principal or the school board. Per Wis. Stats. 118.30(2)(b)3., if the student is in grades 4, 8, and 9-11 the request must be granted. However, if the student is not in the above mentioned grade levels, the decision to grant the request is at the discretion of the school board.
- Q. Do I need to test foreign exchange students?**
Yes. You must test all students enrolled in tested grades.



Building Data Literacy...

What is WISEdata?

WISEdata is Wisconsin's mandated data collection system, replacing WSLs/ISES and a number of other data collections. DPI will use WISEdata to collect data from schools and districts, and in turn, use this data when reporting out on student outcomes. Private schools participating in the Parental Choice Program began using WISEdata in the 2015-16 school year, while public schools began using it this October. Districts' Student Information Systems (SIS) such as Skyward, Infinite Campus, and Powerschool connect to WISEdata, and the SIS pushes data to WISEdata when changes are made to student data in the local SIS. The data are then loaded to the WISEdash data warehouse to be used for various state and federal reporting requirements.



How will WISEdata impact 2016-17 assessment?

It is critical that districts and choice schools have accurate data in their SIS and review the data uploaded to WISEdata, as this is the ultimate data source for test rosters. The data warehouse team at DPI will pull the data from the data warehouse to create the rosters which drive everything from test ordering to assessment reports and accountability. Districts and choice schools need to carefully review the data in their local SIS to ensure that the data sent through WISEdata – and ultimately made available in WISEdash or other secure and/or public reporting – are as accurate as possible.

An assessment snapshot will be taken from the data warehouse at the end of test windows, negating the need for manual changes to student demographics in vendor portals. This means that districts will need to review their SIS information to ensure data quality prior to the end of the test windows, as student scores on assessments will be matched to demographics sourced from WISEdata.



How will WISEdata impact 2016-17 accountability?

Because WISEdata is an ongoing data collection system in which districts may review and correct their data on a daily basis, OEA anticipates that there will not be a need for the report card inquiry process in the future. In particular, schools and districts will need to ensure that their student demographics, enrollment, attendance and completion (graduation) data are accurate in their SIS, so that the accountability report cards are an accurate reflection of school performance.

To learn more, there are a variety of resources (videos, user guides, etc.) and groups (user groups, G+ communities, etc.) listed here to assist you with WISEdata: <http://dpi.wi.gov/wisedata/help>.



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ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XL, November 2016



Contact Information...

Office of Educational Accountability

Laura Pinsonneault, Director
laura.pinsonneault@dpi.wi.gov

Sam Bohrod, Accountability Policy
samuel.bohrod@dpi.wi.gov

Yeng Chang, Data/Statistics
yeng.chang@dpi.wi.gov

Emily Colo, Data/Statistics
emily.colo@dpi.wi.gov

Alison O'Hara, Data/Statistics
alison.o'hara@dpi.wi.gov

Amy Marsman, Communications
amy.marsman@dpi.wi.gov



Office of Student Assessment

Viji Somasundaram, Director
visalakshi.somasundaram@dpi.wi.gov

Phil Olsen, Assistant Director
philip.olsen@dpi.wi.gov

Kristen Burton, DLM
kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov

Tahira Chaudary, Forward Exam
tahira.chaudary@dpi.wi.gov

Jayson Chung, Statistics/Data
jayson.chung@dpi.wi.gov

Jennifer Cox Bell,
ACT/Aspire/WorkKeys
jennifer.bell@dpi.wi.gov

Phil Cranley, Assessment Data
philip.cranley@dpi.wi.gov

Duane Dorn, Assessment Data
duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov

Angela Dugas, NAEP
angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov

Jesse Roberts, Assessment for
ELL/ACCESS for ELLs 2.0
jesse.roberts@dpi.wi.gov

Jennifer Teasdale, Forward/Website
jennifer.teasdale@dpi.wi.gov

Lauren Zellmer, Formative
Assessment
lauren.zellmer@dpi.wi.gov

Tony Evers, State Superintendent

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