



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XXXVII, February 2016

OEA/OSA Updates...

OEA/OSA Calendar...

Note from the Assessment Director

By the time you receive this, we should be approaching the end of the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 testing window. ACT and ACT WorkKeys on the near horizon. Thank you for your preparation and ongoing commitment to creating a positive testing experience for students. We are working hard to ensure the Forward Exam will go smoothly this first year. It will be important to follow all the trainings and information we post in the next few weeks. Many resources have been added. We will, as always, keep you up-to-date in the weekly District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Digest.

One other area to especially note is the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Required Test Administrator Training. It is critical that teachers who will be administering the test complete their trainings through Moodle and open their certificates. Opening the certificate will ensure teachers receive credit for their training and not delay the delivery of student test tickets.

Troy Couillard

Director, Office of Student Assessment (OSA)

Forward Exam Update



In January, the OSA team updated and released a number of helpful documents on the Forward Exam web page. The documents can be found on the following pages:

- Calendar: This is the timeline for the forward exam and has the most up-to-date information regarding key events and document release dates.
Resources: The resources page includes materials such as the DAC Guide, TAM, test times, Information brochure for families, sample parent letters, proctor guidelines, and more.

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Important Dates

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. Header: 2016. Rows include dates from February 10 to April 25, listing events like DLM Deadline, ACT Aspire window, and NAEP Assessment.

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)

- [Accommodations and Supports](#): This page includes guidance regarding accommodations and designated supports. It will include the following materials: Accessibility Guide, Guidelines for Read Aloud, Guidelines for Scribes, Guidelines for Interpreters, List of Bilingual word-for-word dictionaries.
- [Practice Test and Sample Items](#): The Online Tools Training (OTT), the Forward Exam Practice Test, will be released on this webpage on February 29, 2016.
- [Test Security](#): Includes the following materials: Test Security Manual, Test Security Training, Incident Report Form, and Confidentiality Forms.
- [Technology Requirements](#): Includes the following materials: System Requirements, Technology Coordinator Checklist, and Technology User Guide.

Emails for access to eDIRECT, the interface for the administrative functions of the DRC INSIGHT Online Learning System, were sent to all DACs on January 26. If you did not receive an email, please contact [Tahira Chaudary](#).

### Commercial Products and Workshops Promoting Test Preparation

We know there are vendors marketing their products to our assessments, including the Forward Exam. DPI does not endorse commercial testing companies, their products, or workshops. We recommend schools limit the amount of instructional time spent on specific test preparation activities. Time is better spent on solid instructional activities that prepare students to demonstrate proficiency on grade level expectations. Please ensure that your district administrator and the building principals are aware of this information.

## ACT High School Assessments Update



The ACT, ACT ASPIRE and WorkKeys assessments will be administered this spring as planned. The specific test dates, make up dates, test window for accommodated tests for ACT and WorkKeys are available in the [DPI ACT Calendar webpage](#). The ACT Aspire test window is April 25-May 27, 2016. The ACT and ACT WorkKeys establishment process, ordering test materials, offsite test request and accommodation request submissions have completed. Thanks for your participation in the ACT and ACT ASPIRE Q & A sessions. Recorded presentations for both these sessions will be made available in the [DPI Trainings webpage](#).

Registration is now open for the [Wisconsin ACT State Organization 2016 Annual Conference](#) which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at the Madison Marriott West. The event is an opportunity to bring education and career-readiness professionals to learn about and discuss a broad range of topics around the needs of preparing students for college- and career-success. Please contact Rose Babington, District Manager – State Operations at [rose.babington@act.org](mailto:rose.babington@act.org) or (319) 512-9720 for questions regarding the conference.

The ACT and ACT ASPIRE checklists with information on shipment dates for test materials, and timeline to review and update ASPIRE student data and accessibility information, and deadline for returning completed tests to vendor are available in the [DPI ACT webpage](#). A complete practice test booklet with full-length practice test, information about writing test, test preparation strategies, and what to expect on the test day is available. Schools may order free alternate format practice tests by [completing and mailing the form](#).

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ACT Update (Continued from page 2)

As we have specially requested ACT ASPIRE, a Wisconsin specific webpage has been launched where manuals specific to the Statewide Spring assessment are housed to avoid any confusion with the periodical assessment. This will be very useful to access the manuals, trainings and technology information for the spring testing. The district-wide ACT scores are available in the Secure Access File Exchange (SAFE) under the 'Badger-DLM-ACT Student Data'. The press release for the state-level data is available on the DPI web page.

The new WISEdash public dashboards that will include Badger and DLM data and ACT and DLM data are currently under development and will be ready in a few months.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



The Dynamic Learning Maps assessment window is from March 28-May 20, 2016.

The following grades and content areas must be assessed during this time:

- ELA/Math-grades 3-11
• Science-grades 4 and 8-11
• Social Studies-grades 4, 8, and 10

DLM will be locking all data beginning March 14, 2016, through the end of the test window in order to prevent possible data changes that could result in invalidations, partial testing or misadministration of the DLM assessment. All student data and rosters MUST be validated prior to March 14, 2016. If changes are necessary during the lockdown, they must be submitted to the DLM Helpdesk. Please note that this may delay testing. Further details on this process will be provided in the DAC Digest when available.

As a reminder, DLM test administrators must complete required training through Moodle by mid-February. Test Administrators must open their certificates of completion in order for them to

receive credit for their training in the Educator Portal. Please contact Kristen Burton for more information at (608) 267-3604.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update



Online ACCESS for ELLs testing has gone well for most students. However, the test window has been extended by two weeks, to February 19, 2016, to allow districts that have experienced delays with WIDA-DRC helpdesk responses to resolve outstanding issues and finish testing. All materials must arrive at DRC by February 23, 2016, to ensure timely scoring and reporting.

WIDA and DRC remain confident that these issues and this window extension will not impact the scoring and reporting of the assessment. There will be a window in late March for Districts to update demographic info in the WIDA AMS, and we expect that paper score reports and data files will be made available to districts on April 11, 2016. There will be a two week window to correct any issues with the reported data following this data release.

In April, WIDA will begin rolling out professional development materials for the WIDA Screener. This new Screener will eventually replace the W-APT, and look and feel more similar to the new ACCESS for ELLs assessment. A paper version of the screener will be available in early summer, and the online version will be released in late summer.





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PALS Update

The optional PALS-K mid-year administration window is currently open through February 19, 2016. The spring administration window for PALS is scheduled for April 25-May 20, with the score entry deadline set for June 3, 2016. The spring



administration is a required administration for all 4-year old kindergarten through 1st grade students and is also required for all 2nd grade

students who did not achieve the high benchmark designation in the fall. Teachers will need to choose two weeks within the window to administer the assessment to their students.

For the 2016-17 school year, the literacy screening requirements will change and each school district or charter school will be responsible for choosing the literacy screener of their choice. All 4-year-old kindergarten to 2nd grade students in the school district or in the charter school will need to be screened annually for reading readiness using an appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals. Each school board or operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge. In addition, the department shall pay to the school board or operator, from the appropriation under Wis. Stats. Sec. 20.255 (1) (f), the per pupil cost of the selected assessment. If the appropriation under Wis. Stats. Sec. 20.255 (1) (f) in any fiscal year is insufficient to pay the full amount of aid under this paragraph, the state superintendent shall prorate state aid payments among the school boards and operators of charter schools entitled to the aid.

Information about requirement is available at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/common-core/pdf/Assessment%20of%20Reading%20Readiness%2016-17%2010%2027%2015pdf.pdf>

The [PALS Wisconsin Resource Center](#) serves as the portal for information on required training, policy issues, and other information relevant to the administration of the PALS screener. Please utilize the portal as your first stop if you have any questions about PALS. If you need additional assistance or if you need to request Braille or Deaf/Hard of Hearing PALS materials, contact [Duane Dorn](#) at (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](mailto:support@palshelp.com).



NAEP Update

The NAEP 2016 assessment window is underway. There are pilot tablet-based tests in reading, mathematics, and writing. Additionally, there is a grade 8 music and visual arts assessment, which will yield national-level results.



Stay tuned for NAEP 2015 science results. We expect these to be released later this winter or early spring.

Thanks as always to the schools that participated in NAEP 2015 and are currently participating in NAEP 2016.



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**Accountability Update**

The big news is that NCLB is officially gone. President Obama signed the reauthorized federal education law (Elementary and Secondary Education Act - ESEA) on December 10, 2015. The reauthorized ESEA is known as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

As part of the transition to ESSA, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced they will no longer require states to calculate and submit revised Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for Title 1 schools. The ED clarified that states do not need to report on AMO performance for either the 2014-15 school year or the 2015-16 school year. Further, states are no longer required to report performance on the Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) (annual goals for English learners) under Title III accountability.

While we transition from waiver requirements—which remain in place until August 2016, to the requirements in ESSA, states are still required to publicly report on school and district performance for the 2014-15 and the 2015-16 school years. In Wisconsin, we publish those performance reports in WISEdash.

As a reminder, due to state law, there will be no 2014-15 school report cards. And due to the [state budget](#), future report cards will look a little different (five-star rating system, value-added growth calculations, etc).

This is all good news, allowing us to focus on our Wisconsin-designed accountability system, and how we can better reflect our priority that every child graduates from Wisconsin schools ready for college and career

Please contact [oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov) if you have any questions or require any clarification during this transition.

**Please Note** - Though we are not mandated to do so, OEA is planning to provide the following data to support local planning and enrich data collaboration conversations:

- AMAO 1 and AMAO 2 data to districts
- Student Growth Percentile data to schools and districts

Timelines To Be Determined.

**Further Reading** - For more details on the reauthorization of ESEA and what it means for schools, please visit:

- [The DPI Elementary and Secondary Education Act web page](#)
- [Alliance for Excellent Education web page](#)
- [Education Week's blogs - Politics K-12](#)
- [ESEA Conference Summary Report](#)





**What do I do if a student does not use an accommodation allowed to them during an assessment?**

Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) or 504 plans must be offered the accommodations in their plans. The student has the right to not use the accommodation. In that case, allow the student to test without the accommodation and submit the test.

**FAQ ...**

**Q. I have completed all Forward Exam testing in my school/district and a new student moves in. Do I have to test this student?**

Yes, you are required to test or complete the testing of any student who enrolls in your school/district during the testing window.

**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 in your school.

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

No. Your district may not test private school students.

Private schools have the opportunity to purchase the Forward Exam directly from DRC. For additional information regarding testing of Non-Public Schools go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/private-schools>.

**Q. For students that will be completing the DLM test in place of the Forward Exam, how do we notify that within the system?**

Enter the non-participation code of "Alternate Assessment" in eDIRECT which will indicate that the student took DLM instead of the Forward Exam.



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**Building Assessment Literacy...**

**Where do assessment demographics come from?**

The Office of Student Assessment (OSA) creates student level data files based on information submitted to The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) by local school districts. Since 2003, school districts have mainly submitted student data to DPI via the Wisconsin Student Number Locator System (WSLS) and the Individual Student Enrollment System (ISES). OSA combines data from both of these collections to create a basic data profile, or roster, for each public school student participating in statewide assessment. These rosters are then loaded by OSA into the statewide assessment test engines or used to create pre-ID labels.

**Wisconsin Student Number Locator System (WSLS)**

The WSLS is used to assign new Wisconsin Student Numbers (WSNs) to students entering Wisconsin Public Schools, and to help ensure that the WSNs stay with students as they move from school to school and district to district. The WSLS can be updated by school districts throughout the year. WSLS is the primary source for student IDs (WSN), student names, and student enrollment information such as school and district. Districts should keep WSLS up-to-date to ensure that OSA includes the correct students in the correct schools and districts when populating test engines or creating pre-ID files.

**Individual Student Enrollment System (ISES)**

The ISES is a “point-in-time” data collection, and includes a wide range of demographic and outcome data needed to meet the ESEA accountability and reporting requirements at the state, district, and school levels. To protect student privacy, districts submit sensitive ISES data such as economic status, disability status, ELL level, and others using the WSN rather than the student names. Districts submit ISES data for two collection dates: the end of the school year (known as YE, or year-end); and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September Count Date (known as 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, TFS, or CD). Both YE and CD data are submitted by districts to DPI in the fall, validated by DPI, and locked.



**Creating Assessment Rosters**

Assessment rosters are created by DPI using WSLS (updateable) and ISES (locked) data. These rosters are loaded into the online test engine, or, in the case of ACT and WorkKeys, used to create pre-ID labels. DPI starts by selecting the ISES records of all of the students in the tested grade(s). These data are joined to the up-to-date WSLS records to ensure accurate student placement. The rosters are then loaded to the test engine(s), and districts are given an opportunity to verify and correct student demographic and enrollment data. OSA recognizes that some ISES demographics may have changed since the count date, but timely completion of ISES, and regular updates to WSLS help reduce the amount of work schools and districts need to do to edit student data after the rosters are loaded.



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**DACs To-Do List From This Issue:**

- Complete required DLM test administration training by February 10, 2016
- DLM student data and rosters must be validated by March 14, 2016
- PALS score entry deadline is June 3, 2016

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](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov) and Accountability at [oeamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeamail@dpi.wi.gov).



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