



ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

Newsletter - Issue XXXIX, September 2016

OEA/OSA Updates...

Note from the Assessment Director

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. As you may know, this school year brings some stability to the statewide assessment requirements for districts and schools. The Forward Exam, ACT suite, and DLM assessments will be administered during Spring 2017. ACCESS for ELLs will be administered during this winter.

I would like to thank the Wisconsin educators who participated in the Forward Exam Item Review and Standard settings meetings. Educator involvement in these important steps certainly helps improve the quality of our assessments.

This school year has also brought some staff changes on the OSA team. Lauren Zellmer joined the OSA team as the Formative Practices Consultant. Lauren's work will focus on professional development related to strategic assessment and formative practices. Also joining the OSA team is Jennifer Cox Bell who will be the new program coordinator for the ACT Aspire, ACT, and WorkKeys.

With Troy's departure, I have taken the role of the Assessment Director. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to collaborate with many of you in my previous roles here at DPI, and I am looking forward to continuing our journey together, providing the best education for the children of Wisconsin.

Thanks,

Viji Somasundaram

Director, Office of Student Assessment (OSA)

OEA/OSA Calendar...

Important Dates

Table with 2 columns: Date and Event. It lists important dates from 2016 to 2017, including events like DLM Student Individual Profile Reports Available, NAEP Informational Packets Sent to Schools, and various testing windows for ACT Aspire, ACT, and WorkKeys.

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



Student results and summary reports for the Forward Exam were released to districts via eDIRECT at the end of July. Hard copies of individual student reports (ISRs) for the exam were mailed

to districts on August 16, 2016. ISRs should be shared with parents once the ISRs are received by schools. A sample parent letter is available on the [Forward Exam Data and Reporting webpage](#). Reporting of all assessment results regarding student data must meet FERPA requirements. However, please be aware of the embargo on Forward Exam data until further notice.

The Forward Exam New Item Review was held August 22-25, 2016, for English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Social Studies. Wisconsin educators, selected from an application pool, reviewed possible test items for the 2017 Forward Exam in committees organized by content area and grade level. The purpose of the review was to ensure that each item aligned to the Wisconsin Academic Standards, as well as measured 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. An Item Review for Science will be held October 17-19, 2016.

In order to ensure the upload of the most current District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) information into the eDIRECT portal, it is important that Districts, that have not done so already, submit updated [DAC forms](#) and District Technology Coordinator ([DTC forms](#)) to OSA by September 16, 2016.

ACT High School Assessments Update



For the 2016-17 school year, grade 11 students will again be required to complete the ACT and ACT WorkKeys in the spring while grade 9 and 10 students will be required to complete ACT Aspire in the spring. The assessment dates and windows can be found on the [ACT Calendar webpage](#).

Results from the 2015-16 administrations of all three assessments should have been received in districts in late spring/early summer and distributed to parents/students.

A number of steps have been taken for the 2016-17 assessments to improve the service that districts will receive. These include:

- The ACT establishment window is being modified for this coming year. Schools will only need to indicate participation status during the January ordering window. The October establishment deadline has been eliminated.
- The Test Accessibility and Accommodations system (TAA) is now being used for both National and State programs. A request for accommodations will only need to be submitted once on behalf of a student who tests on the state testing date and also on one of the national testing dates.
- DPI will provide a student data upload file to ACT for loading into PANext. Districts will have the ability to load any additional students into the portal.
- An automatically scored ACT practice test will be available in the online platform. More information on this feature will be available in the next couple of months.

For ACT Aspire, DACs should be accessing the [Aspire portal](#) to verify the accuracy of the permission status for district and school users. DACs should remove access for individuals who are no longer employed by the district and to adjust permission roles for staff in new positions.





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Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



DLM hosted a formal standard setting for science over the summer months and

has been busy preparing materials for public dissemination. DACs will be sent electronic Individual Student Reports for the spring 2016 administration mid-September through Educator Portal. Please distribute these reports to students and families as soon as possible.

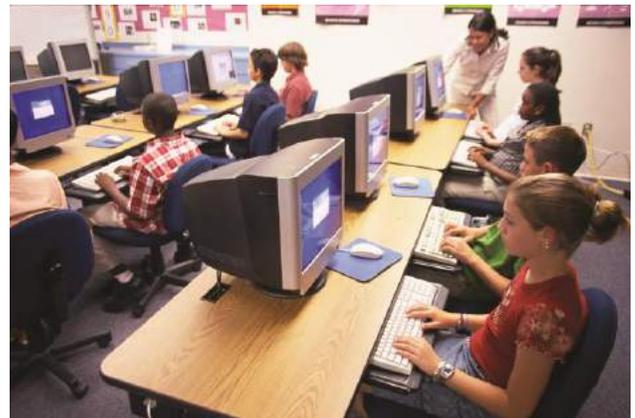
All DLM user accounts remain active in the portal. If a user has changed his/her name, email, or moved districts, do not create an additional account for this user. Please contact DPI for additional information on how to update this information.

Student demographics and rosters from 2015-16 have been removed from the DLM Educator Portal. Districts will be required to re-upload this information based upon 2016-17 school year enrollments. DLM has added some new features that will make finding and updating returning student demographics easier. Please see the Data Management Manual for more information on this process. It is imperative that districts pay careful attention to the data uploaded into the portal as reports and accountability may be impacted.

The required training modules have again been redesigned over the summer. All test administrators must complete the required training and test security agreements prior to administering the DLM assessment, including the optional instructional assessments (Instructional Tools Interface or ITI). These trainings will be accessed through Moodle (an online training website). All test administrators will be required to complete a training module for the content area of science. Returning test administrators will be required to complete one module and quiz (approximately half-hour). New test administrators within the DLM system will be expected to complete four required modules and quizzes (approximately three and a half-hours total).

The training modules will be available early September. We encourage test administrators to complete their training as early as possible and to not wait until the test window to complete the modules.

Contact Kristen Burton for additional information regarding the DLM assessment at (608) 267-3164 or kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov.



ACCESS for ELLs® Update



DPI has worked closely with WIDA and DRC to improve most aspects of ACCESS for

ELLs testing for 2016-17. New software and training will be released this fall. We are hopeful that these changes will significantly improve the testing experience this year. WIDA will begin releasing updated training materials in early September, and will at that time post a calendar of dates for webinars designed to help schools and districts navigate the changes from last year.

Over the summer, ISES was replaced by WISEdata, and this new system will not automatically reclassify (exit) students the way ISES did. Ensure that your local Student Information System (SIS - Infinite Campus, Skyward, etc.) is up-to-date and accurate for the third Friday count in September with your students' correct English Language Proficiency (ELP) codes. If a student's ELP code is different than the

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ACCESS Update (Continued from page 3)

Overall Composite ELP code from the last administration of ACCESS for ELLs, you will need to ensure that it is captured in your SIS and uploaded as part of your third Friday count. (4th grade and up students exited at 5.0+ Overall Composite and Literacy Subscore, e.g. need to be set to 6 to indicate that they are no longer English learners.)

DPI will pull the public school roster from WISEdata in late October and send it to WIDA/DRC. Districts may upload non-public school rosters into the WIDA AMS throughout the month of October. If completed prior to November 1, Pre-ID labels for these students will be generated and shipped with testing materials.

AMAOs are no longer required by the Department of Education, and thus DPI will not be producing AMAOs for 2015-16. Throughout the fall and winter, states will be negotiating with the U.S. Department of Education on how accountability will be handled in 2016-17, and what the final accountability format will be for 2017-18 onward.

Don't Forget to Update DAC and DTC Contact Information

In order to ensure that we maintain our lines of communication with each district across the state, it is important that we receive your district's updated District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) and District Technology Coordinator (DTC) forms to our office by September 16 at the latest. Whether or not there has been a change in personnel, please submit DAC and DTC update forms so that we can verify and maintain the most up-to-date information in our records. You can access the DAC update form.

Assessment of Reading Readiness Update (formerly PALS)



Wis. Stats. 118.016 requires each pupil enrolled in 4-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.

In addition to the requirement to administer a literacy screener, the following conditions apply:

- The department shall pay to the school board or operator the per pupil cost of the selected assessment. If the appropriation in any fiscal year is insufficient to pay the full amount of aid, the state superintendent shall prorate state aid payments among the school boards and operators of charter schools entitled to the aid.
The school board or operator of the charter school shall report the results of a pupil's assessment to the pupil's parent or guardian.
The school board of the school district or operator of the charter school 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).

For more information on reading readiness requirements see the Reading Readiness Overview. A Reading Readiness FAQ with reimbursement information is also available.





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NAEP Update



Districts and schools selected for NAEP 2017 have been notified. Principals in selected schools will receive packets with more information about preparing for NAEP in their schools in September. At that time,

DACs will receive an email with login information to the secure MyNAEP website so DACs may assist with schools' completion of pre-assessment tasks. Thanks in advance for participating!

Stay tuned for results from the NAEP 2015 Science assessment. We will receive state-level results for grades 4 and 8 later this fall.

Accountability Update



The Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) is actively working to produce 2015-16

accountability report cards. You can expect a secure release of report cards in late September. The secure release will initiate a two-week inquiry process which allows schools and districts to review their report cards prior to the public release. The public release will likely be in late October or early November.

As they become available, timeline details will be posted to the Report Cards webpage. Feel free to send any questions to oemail@dpi.wi.gov.

WISEdash Update

The following WISEdash for Districts dashboards have been updated with 2015-16 data:

- Forward and DLM
- Grade 11 ACT Plus Writing (ACT Statewide) and DLM
- ACT Aspire and DLM grades 9 and 10
- ACCESS for ELLs
- Spring 2016 MAP
- Spring 2016 PALS

Additionally, ACT WorkKeys dashboards containing results from both 2014-15 and 2015-16 are now available.

Forward data includes the following new dashboards:

- A summary level dashboard that allows for the disaggregation of overall Forward performance and proficiency level results with a comparison to state results; and
- A similar comparison of Forward tested topic results which includes a graph comparing average scale score results against the state.

As assessment reports become available in the secure portals, please be aware that DPI will notify districts when results may be shared publicly. In the meantime, the ACT, Forward Exam, and DLM

Assessment results remain under embargo. Until the embargo is lifted, public release of the data from these assessments is not permissible. This embargo usually lasts until the DPI press release date.



Data from the ACT ASPIRE and WorkKeys assessments are not embargoed but the data in the WISEdash secure portal contain personally identifiable student information. They should not be shared outside of a school or district setting without ensuring that FERPA data security requirements are met.

Data for DLM only include ELA and mathematics at this time, DLM science and social studies results will be forthcoming.





I am a new DAC. Where do I start? Where do I find the information I need?

OSA has an entire section of the webpage devoted to DACs called the [DAC Corner](#). One subheading under this page is the [Information for new DACs](#) page which is designed to aid DACs in the transition to their new role by offering a New DAC Orientation Training. This training walks DACs through the Assessment webpages, explains the role of the DAC, and the responsibilities that come with the job. The walk through of the webpages is very informative and points you to the tools you will refer to and utilize frequently in your role as the DAC. The training covers the formats in which OSA communicates with the DAC, and how the DAC is responsible for ensuring that communication to district and school staff. Other pages under the DAC Corner include DAC Responsibilities (month-to-month higher level overview of assessment responsibilities all in one place), DAC Resources and Trainings, DAC Contact Update, and Student Demographic and Data Collection and Reporting.

## FAQ...

**Q. Will students who were marked “ALT” count as not tested in the eDIRECT Portal?**

The “ALT” designation in eDIRECT means the student was not tested on the Forward Exam, however, in WISEdash, students who were tested on DLM will count as tested students and will have their performance level included in the summary reports.

**Q. Where can a parent/guardian find information about the state assessments?**

There is a web page on the OSA website dedicate the [Assessment Information for Families](#).

**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. Do I need to test foreign exchange students?**

Yes. You must test all students enrolled in tested grades.

**Q. What will be the mode of delivery for ACT and WorkKeys during spring 2017?**

ACT and WorkKeys will continue to be administered as paper/pencil assessment during the spring of 2017.



**Building Assessment Literacy...  
Understanding Assessment Results for 2015-2016**

In spring 2016, public school students took the Wisconsin Forward Exam at grades 3 – 8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, grades 4 and 8 in Science, and grades 4, 8, and 10 in Social Studies. Student results for the exam were mailed to districts on August 16, 2016.

This was the first administration of the Forward Exam for Wisconsin students and users should take caution when interpreting these results and comparing them to the results of the Badger Exam and WKCE from years past. In June, a standard setting study was conducted for each subject area of the Forward Exam. Educators from across the state reviewed the performance of students and made recommendations for the benchmark scores needed for students to reach the basic, proficient and advanced performance levels. One goal of the standard setting study was to more closely align performance levels for all subject areas to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) performance levels. This was a part of our effort to raise expectations for all students. The Wisconsin Forward Exam results will likely show a decline in the number of students considered to be “proficient” or “advanced” when compared to previous administrations of the Badger Exam and WKCE. This decline does not indicate a drop in student performance, but rather is an outcome of extending the increased rigor expectation to all tested content areas.

For more information on Individual Student Reports for this year, please review the following resources:

- [User's Guide to Interpreting Reports](#)
- [What is an Individual Student Report?](#)

Please feel free to contact [Tahira Chaudary](#) in the Office of Student Assessment at (608) 266-5187 for further information.



**DAC Digest**

The weekly DAC Digest is OSA's main communication tool and DACs should review information within and forward to district and school staff as appropriate. This weekly email will be sent every Wednesday afternoon to all DACs. The contents of the DAC Digest will provide a note from the Director, assessment updates, calendar, and action items. While content will vary week-to-week, the general format will remain constant.



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“TO DO” List From This Issue:

- Ensure 2016-17 DAC and DTC forms are submitted to OSA by September 16
• Send Forward Exam ISRs home to parents/guardians if you have not already done so
• Begin DLM trainings
• Ensure that your Student Information System is up-to-date and accurate for upload on third Friday count in September, Including your ELP codes

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 oemail@dpi.wi.gov.

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