



OEA Updates...

2011 WSAS Testing Window

The Fall 2011 testing window for the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) and the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) is October 24 – November 25. Testing may only begin on or after October 24, 2011. 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 Update

The work of the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is proceeding as scheduled. SBAC finalized the Master Work Plan for the summative assessment in July. This important document serves as a detailed roadmap for the Consortium through implementation of the assessment system in 2014-15 and beyond. This working document will include ongoing updates and is available here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/Resources.aspx>.

The procurement processes are rapidly accelerating. Highlights include selection of

- GMMB as the communications service provider
- The Center for Assessment as developers for the English language arts and mathematics content specifications
- Marty McCall, formerly of NWEA, as chief psychometrician
- A systems architect

The Consortium has also recently released additional requests for proposals (RFP) for

- A technology readiness tool to be available for districts to assess readiness and identify needs in preparation for transition to the online assessment platform
- An Item Specifications RFP for vendor(s) that will write specifications for critical elements in the SBAC assessment system: stimulus materials, items, tasks, a style guide, bias and sensitivity guidelines, and access and accommodations guidelines.

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OEA Calendar...

Assessment Windows for 2011-12

2011	
October 24-November 25	WSAS Testing Window (WKCE and WAA-SwD)
December 1	ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window Opens
2012	
February 10	ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window Closes
January 24-March 4	NAEP Assessment Window

Important Dates

2011	
September	Preliminary notification to districts missing 2010-11 ELL accountability AMAOs
September 16	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 27 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 3-21	Window for ordering ACCESS Testing Materials
October 15	Deadline for schools participating in NAEP to provide/update school information on MySchool
October 27 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 23 8:00 AM	Deadline to review and revise all ISES records before lockdown
2012	
January 9	Pre-Recorded Record Editing System (RES) training available via Mediasite
January 11-20	Record Editing System Window



(SMARTER Update continued from page 1)

The consortium will be working on developing an item development RFP shortly. Contract work involving development of test questions for small scale trials and pilot testing will occur during the spring of 2012. Field test items will be developed between August 2012 and August 2013. Educators from all SBAC member states will be involved in this stage of item development, in which the bulk of items will be developed for the assessment.

In other important news, SBAC recently released content specifications for both English language arts and mathematics. The Content Specifications work is led by Linda Darling-Hammond, the Consortium's senior research advisor, and Karin Hess, who is under a contract with the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, in consultation with the lead authors of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The content specifications include a description of the outcomes we should expect (i.e., "claims") when students are proficient in the knowledge and skills described in the CCSS, the types of evidence that would be necessary to support those claims, and the score reporting categories that the assessment could reliably provide for teachers and students. The Content Specifications also describe possible test item types and provide examples of item prototypes that will help educators better understand how we might connect this document with the operational assessment.

The ELA content specifications public review period ended on August 29. The review period for the mathematics content specifications ends on September 19. More information about the content specifications is available here: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/Resources.aspx>.

Students Moving During the Testing Window

The Office of Educational Accountability has created a document outlining how the mobility of students during the testing window impacts participation and accountability. This tool has been designed to assist districts and schools in following the appropriate protocol when students move between districts. This document is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/pdf/07stdsmov.pdf>.

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.

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 2010 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 27, 2011**.
2. Update all WSLS records again **before 8:00 AM on October 27, 2011** (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 23, 2011** (Review and Revision period ends).



The Assessment Accommodations Matrix

The assessment accommodation matrices are available for the 2011-12 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.



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.

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>.

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

Wisconsin has developed an online ordering system for the WAA-SwD test materials. District Assessment Coordinators will be sent an email from “DPI Forms Management” with a link to the online ordering form just prior to the beginning of 2011-12. This form allows the district assessment coordinator (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 2011 test administration. The deadline for this electronic order is **September 16, 2011**, and it will be used for packing and shipping the WAA-SwD test materials.

After September 16, all additional orders will need to be placed through Kristen Burton, kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov, 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 and must be completed by the DAC.

Reminder:

- Participation in the WAA-SwD is an IEP team decision using the Participation Checklist available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/waa.html>. 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 Mediasite presentation and materials posted at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/waa.html> 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>.



Delivery of Testing Materials

WSAS testing materials will be delivered October 3-7, 2011. 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.



Accountability for the Progress and Attainment of English Language Proficiency (ELP) for 2010-11

Districts with English Language Learners (ELLs) must meet three accountability objectives called Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs). Beginning this year:

- AMAO 1 (progress in English proficiency) will be based on the percent of ELLs meeting a growth target of 0.4 ELP level gain.
- Districts meet AMAO 1 if 35% of ELLs made 0.4 or greater ELP level progress on their 2010-11 ACCESS for ELLs overall composite scores. This change in Wisconsin's accountability plan was required in order to comply with Title III regulations.
- Districts meet AMAO 2 (attainment of English proficiency) if 6.5% of their ELL students scored a 5.0 or better on their 2010-11 ACCESS for ELLs overall composite scores.
- AMAO 3 (Adequate Yearly Progress for ELLs) is determined by the WSAS results on the WKCE/WAA exams.

Districts that miss an AMAO will receive preliminary notification by September 30. 2010-11 AMAO District Profile Reports will be available by October 17 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 web page at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/ellamao.html> for more information. If you have questions, contact Phil Olsen at philip.olsen@dpi.wi.gov.

English Language Learner (ELL) Update

Wisconsin is the lead state in the 29-state ASSETS Consortium (Assessment Services Supporting ELLs through Technology Systems) formed to create assessments that use technology and are more dynamic, informative, and innovative than current paper and pencil tests. The consortium is seeking \$10.7 million from the federal enhanced assessment grant (EAG) to develop an online English language proficiency test to better assess English language learners' acquisition of the academic language needed to succeed in the classroom and ultimately in college or a career.

The World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium (WIDA) will manage the development of materials under the Wisconsin grant for new ELL assessments.

WIDA, housed at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, produces ACCESS for ELLs. The English-language proficiency assessment is

taken annually by nearly a million students in more than 25 states, including Wisconsin. The new tests developed by WIDA are expected to cost about the same as the current assessments and would be ready by the 2014-15 school year.

The award notification is expected this fall. For more information refer to the Department of Public Instruction's press release: http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpinr2011_71.pdf





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 3 through October 21, 2011. DPI will again provide MetriTech student demographic data for creating Pre-ID labels. Testing begins on December 1 and will continue through February 10, 2012. 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.

Business Intelligence (BI) Tool Update

Development of dashboards on a variety of topics is underway in DPI's new statewide reporting system, called a business intelligence (BI) tool. Before the end of 2011, districts will have increased access to data and reports with information about a variety of student achievement indicators including WSAS, ACT, and AP assessment data as well as enrollment, attendance, and student growth percentiles. This initial release will be secure, which means that a log in and password will be required to access the dashboards. Information about access to secure tools is available on DPI's longitudinal data system webpage: <http://dpi.wi.gov/lids>.



The BI solution will eventually include data from the statewide student information system (SSIS), funded in the biennial budget, resulting in an interconnected data collection, management, and reporting system that provides easy-to-

use, almost real-time reports on myriad topics directly to district and school staff. The reporting system will also eventually provide public reports. These projects are aligned with a vision to move toward a single portal for access to data analysis and reporting resources.

Data warehouse and reporting staff, including people from content areas across DPI, are engaged in this process. Additionally, external advisory groups continue to provide important feedback throughout the process.

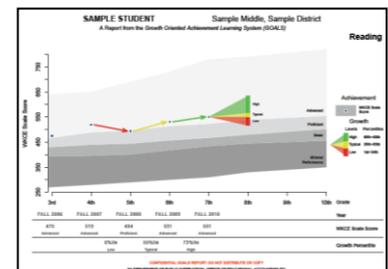
For more information: <http://dpi.wi.gov/lids/wk12bi.html>.



Growth Reports Available! Spread the Word!

Student growth reports are now available to all districts through the Secure Access File Exchange (SAFE). These student growth percentile reports cover multiple years of growth and include information on how each individual student's change in WKCE scale scores compares to students with a similar test score history. The growth data is presented in an easy-to-understand graph and table. Schools and districts may also access median growth reports, which show growth for groups of students.

Please inform others in your school and district of this important new data source. Growth data—analyzed alongside other forms of student data—creates a more comprehensive picture of student performance and can be used to guide back-to-school decision-making.



Information about how to access these reports is available here: <http://dpi.wi.gov/lids/pdf/safe-sqp-report-access-directions.pdf>.

For more information about student growth percentiles, please visit: <http://dpi.wi.gov/lids/projects.html#MSAG>.



Dynamic Learning Maps Update

The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) consortium has been collaborating with its 13 member states on the creation of the new Essential Elements aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Both special education and general education teachers from each consortia state met this past spring in Kansas City, MO, to develop Common Core Essential Elements for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Draft copies of the Essential Elements in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics will be made available to states for comment before their public release.

In addition, educators are working with content experts to develop learning maps for both ELA and Mathematics. A learning map is a network of sequenced learning targets. A dynamic learning map shows a learning landscape in which multiple skills are related to many other skills. Dynamic learning maps not only show the relationships between skills but also show multiple learning pathways.



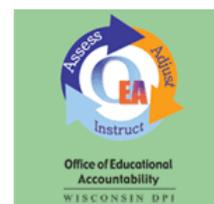
For more information about DLM go to:
<http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/>.



What Does a Learning Map Look Like?

Think of a learning map like a common road map. Although students may share the same destination, they all begin their journeys from different starting points on the map. For parents and educators who hope to guide students to their destination, that road map provides a wealth of information. First, it shows where a student is starting. It also shows the main route, which is the shortest, most direct way to get there. However, a good road map does more than show a single route. It also shows several alternate routes in case the main route can't be traveled. Finally, the map shows all the places students must travel through to get to their destination.

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.





“Is there a new task force on statewide accountability?”

Yes. On July 11, 2011, State Superintendent Evers and Governor Walker announced the creation of a design team to redesign Wisconsin’s school and district accountability system. The team is charged with drafting a framework for a new state accountability system by December 2011. The design team consists of elected officials, education leaders, business leaders, philanthropic representatives, parent organizations, and community groups. State Superintendent Evers and Governor Walker will co-chair the group, along with the chairs of the Assembly and Senate education committees.

State Superintendent Evers intends to seek a waiver from the United States Department of Education (USDOE) to implement this new accountability system in place of existing NCLB requirements. USDOE has said guidance on the federal waivers will be available mid-September. As there is no guarantee that Wisconsin will be granted a waiver, all existing accountability measures remain in place at this time. For more information go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/acct/accountability.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 is not calculated into reading and mathematics proficiency rates for AYP.

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 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

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.



PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

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Building Assessment Literacy...

Response to Intervention (RTI) and Assessment Data

Wisconsin's RTI framework is based on the belief that systems change comes in part from the systematic and effective use of data-based decisions to guide student success. Data from multiple sources, drawn from a balanced assessment system, should be used in data-based decision making.

A number of DPI teams have collaborated to provide guidance around these topics. On the following webpage, you will find the first two presentations in our RTI Using Data series, which outline how to balance assessment with data needs, and how to use data to inform instruction and intervention:

Wisconsin Focuses on a Balanced Assessment System

<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/balanced.html>

Stay tuned for the next presentations in the series: "Systematizing Data Use in an RTI System" and "Using Data in SLD Identifications."

Other resources to bookmark:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/pdf/balsystem.pdf>

<http://dpi.wi.gov/rti/index.html>

The Wisconsin RTI Center
(<http://www.wisconsinrticenter.org/>)

has a new resource available to schools—an Implementation Toolkit—which outlines the steps a school will take to get started with RTI, a school readiness checklist, and an action plan. On the site you will also find your regional technical assistance coordinator who can help implement and improve the RtI processes in your school.

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