



Assessment Update for Parental Choice Schools

January 30, 2025

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

Assessment

Reminder:

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Confidentiality Agreement

The [District Assessment Coordinator \(DAC\) Confidentiality Agreement](#) from all DACs is due March 1. All DACs who have not yet submitted the 2024-25 DAC Confidentiality Agreement should do so no later than March 1. The form may be completed and signed electronically using Acrobat Reader. Be sure to select the appropriate options on the ACT/PreACT Secure agreement prior to signing. The entire seven-page document needs to be submitted to [Duane Dorn](#) once signed. All other confidentiality forms (SACs, DTCs, STCs, etc.) remain individual forms, may be completed electronically, and once completed are to be retained at the school/district level.

ACT

New:

Verify Student Rosters in PearsonAccess^{next} - Due January 31

On January 24, DPI loaded school ACT student rosters into [PearsonAccess^{next}](#). Testing staff will have until **January 31** to verify student enrollment is correct and indicate testing mode for each student (paper or online). Instructions on how to complete this task are outlined in the [January 24 DPI ACT Program email](#) and resources can also be found under [Step 2, Configuration: Verify Enrollment Counts on the Wisconsin ACT webpage](#).

Accommodations Reconsideration Deadline – January 31

The reconsideration deadline for accommodations and English learner supports is January 31. **This deadline applies to reconsideration requests only.** If you have an initial request submitted where ACT has issued a decision notification that requires further review, please submit the request for reconsideration no later than January 31. For assistance, please see the [Requesting Reconsideration \(TAA User Guide\)](#).

Online Testing Site Readiness Service

ACT will provide Wisconsin schools with an optional Online Testing Site Readiness Service. This helpful service will allow districts to connect directly with an ACT Customer Support Specialist trained in the technical requirements and support of online administration. This service is optional and interested districts will need to opt-in to it. ACT will send DACs an email (onlinetestsupport@act.org) on January 29 with additional information and instructions on how to participate. DPI encourages districts to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure they are ready for online testing.

Upcoming ACT Trainings

Visit the [DPI ACT Training webpage](#) to register for these upcoming ACT trainings:

- Test Administration #2 webinar - February 11, 10-11am.
- Office Hours - Testing Virtual Students - February 18, 10-11am.

Student Preparation and Sample Tests

Free ACT practice tests and preparation materials can be found on the [DPI ACT Practice Tests and Sample Items webpage](#).

PreACT Secure

New:

Student Roster Upload

DPI loaded PreACT Secure student rosters into PAnext on January 24. Schools can now begin verifying rosters and assigning accommodations. Instructions and resources on how to complete these tasks can be found on the [Wisconsin PreACT Secure webpage](#) under Step 2, Configuration: Verify Enrollment Counts and Step 3, Accommodations: Set Up Accommodations and EL Supports.

Schools that need to upload any non-choice students should use the same instructions they were provided when uploading students for the ACT. For the test code column, use "PACTS" to indicate that the student will be taking PreACT Secure. For the "delivery format" column, use "O" to indicate that the students will be testing online.

Student Preparation and Sample Tests

Free PreACT Secure practice tests and preparation materials can be found on the [DPI PreACT Secure Practice Tests and Sample Items webpage](#).

Reminders:

PearsonAccess^{next} Now Open

The PreACT Secure portal in [PearsonAccess^{next}](#) (PAnext) is now open. DACs have access through the assessment drop down menu using their existing PAnext account credentials. DACs will need to create accounts and grant user access to the PreACT Secure portal for all testing staff.

Instructions on how to create accounts and/or update existing accounts can be found in the [PearsonAccess^{next} User Guide for the PreACT Secure](#).

Office Hours

ACT and DPI will hold the first of two PreACT Secure Office Hours on Tuesday, February 4, 10am. Visit the [DPI PreACT Secure Training webpage](#) to register for this event and all future training opportunities.

Forward Exam

New:

Important Set-up Information for Districts Using iPads

District and School technology staff should take the time to review the [Tech Bulletin: Cross-Website and Device Supervision Update for DRC INSIGHT on iPads](#). Sites using iPadOS 16.2 and higher no longer need to enable Cross-Website Tracking as long as the device is supervised and the domains are relaxed following the instructions in this tech bulletin. The tech bulletin includes an additional step to relax an app id when enabling device supervision. This step was only recently identified and therefore was not included in the [Technology User Guide](#) (Volume III pages 34-35).

The new option to relax domains/app id is optional for districts that have Mobile Device Management (MDM) software compatible with this new functionality, but it is not required if

things worked well for you last year. If you choose not to use this new functionality, or if you are using iPadOS 16.1.2 and below, you need to continue to enable Cross-Website tracking on iPads individually.

The required iPad settings apply to any site that administers both WIDA and Wisconsin Forward testing (if you have both WIDA and Wisconsin listed as locations in your Central Office Services configuration).

Optional Add Accessibility Features Window Begins February 10

During this **optional** window (February 10-21), districts may use the Multiple Student Upload process to upload designated supports and accommodations for multiple students at one time into the DRC INSIGHT Portal. This two-week optional window is the only time this method of uploading accessibility features is available. As a reminder, Text-to-Speech is now a Universal Support for all students and does not need to be assigned in the Portal. If you choose not to take advantage of the window, you may still enter supports and accommodations into the DRC INSIGHT Portal on an individual student or “mass assign” basis as needed, beginning March 3. Instructions for all three processes are available in the [DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide](#).

Read Aloud (Human Reader) Accommodation Prior Approval

The Read Aloud **accommodation** is different from the Read Aloud designated support. The accommodation is only available to a student with a visual impairment who is receiving instruction in contracted braille but not yet proficient, and whose need is documented in an IEP or 504 plan. The student must meet all five criteria on the [Request for Read Aloud Accommodation Form for the Forward Exam](#). If a student requires the Read Aloud accommodation and meets the criteria stated on the form, the DAC must submit a Request for Read Aloud Accommodation Form to the Office of Educational Accountability. DPI will review the request, and if approved, activate the process. After receiving DPI approval, the DAC must assign the accommodation in the DRC INSIGHT Portal for the student prior to printing test tickets. Students who do not meet all criteria but require Read Aloud (a human reader) should use the Read Aloud designated support.

Reminders:

Educator Involvement Opportunities

DPI is still recruiting a diverse group of educators from all over Wisconsin (including English learner and special education teachers) to participate in the Forward Exam **Alignment Study (deadline to apply is February 7)** and New Item Review (deadline to apply is May 2). These events are important steps in the development of the Forward Exam. This is a great opportunity to be a part of the Forward Exam development and have detailed input on the exam and take knowledge back to your district about the processes. More information, including how to apply, is available on the [Forward Exam Educators Involvement webpage](#). Please share this information with your educators.

Forward Exam Q&A Webinar

On February 5 at 1pm, a Q&A webinar session will take place. This webinar is an opportunity for District and School Assessment Coordinators (DACs/SACs) and District and School Technology Coordinators (DTCs/STCs) to ask DPI and DRC staff questions about Forward Exam test set-up, administration, or technology that may have come up after reviewing the training videos and other resources. Please share this information with your DTCs, SACs, and STCs. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#) for those who cannot attend the live session. To join the webinar on February 5, please use this [Forward Exam Q&A webinar session Zoom link](#).

Extended Testing Hours

Forward Exam testing is accessible from 7am - 5pm, Monday through Friday. DPI is offering optional extended testing hours for the 2024-25 Forward Exam. Districts may now opt to test students, in-person, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings until 8pm, and on Saturdays from 8am to 4pm during the testing window. Districts should be aware that no help desk or technical support will be available from DRC or DPI for testing during extended hours. DACs must complete and submit the [Forward Exam - Extended Testing Hours Request Form](#) for their district. The request form must be submitted a minimum of one week prior to the planned extended hour testing day. Upon approval from DPI, DRC will open the testing application for the extended hours requested by the district.

Forward Exam for Non-Choice Students

Non-Choice students will again be able to take the Forward Exam with the cost of the exam remaining at \$35 per student. The order form can be found at [Forward Exam Order Form](#).

New Resources

As new resources are posted to our website, we will include them here for your convenience for a few weeks. This is NOT an exhaustive list but meant to highlight resources with significant relevance to our upcoming test windows.

Resource	Description	Assessment
Educator Involvement Application	Educators may apply for Alignment Study and/or New Item Review.	Forward

Important Dates to Remember

Be sure to refer to each specific assessment calendar for a complete list of key dates.

Date	Event	Program
January 27-31	Verify ACT Student Rosters in PAnext	ACT
January 31	Mid-year assessment window closes	Early Literacy
February 4	PreACT Secure Office Hours	PreACT Secure
February 5	Forward Exam QA Webinar for DACs, SACs, DTCs	Forward
February 10-21	Optional Add Accessibility Features window	Forward
February 10	Begin creating test sessions for online testing: Test Window 1	ACT
February 11	Test Administration #2 Training Webinar	ACT

February 17	ACT begins shipping Test Window 1 test materials	ACT
February 17	Paper accommodated test material ordering window opens	PreACT Secure
February 25	PreACT Secure Technical Readiness Webinar	PreACT Secure
February 28	Deadline to order additional paper test materials: Test Window 1	ACT
March 3	Access to DRC INSIGHT Portal test sessions, student information, and ability to assign individual student accessibility features	Forward



Division of Student and School Success
Office of Educational Accountability
(608) 267-1072

January 2025 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or ability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.