**Forward Exam, ACT, Aspire, and DLM 2018-19 Assessment   
Data Release**

***Suggested Talking Points for Schools and Districts***

# Big Picture Summary

* Annual state assessments help all stakeholders – parents, teachers, districts and school boards – see a clear picture of how well they are preparing students to be college and career ready. The Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) exams accounted for in this release of annual statewide assessment data include:
  1. Wisconsin Forward Exam:
     1. Grades 3-8; measures performance in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
     2. Grades 4 and 8; measures performance in science
     3. Grades 4, 8, and 10; measures performance in social studies
  2. ACT: grade 11; measures performance in ELA (English, Reading, and Writing), mathematics, and science (same college admissions exam taken by students nationwide)
  3. Aspire: grades 9 and 10; measures performance in ELA (English, Reading, and Writing), mathematics, and science and is predictive of ACT performance
  4. Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): grades 3-11 - alternate assessment in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies for students with severe cognitive disabilities
* Forward Exam and DLM:

1. Approximate number of students included:
2. 371,000 public and 17,000 choice statewide in grades 3-8 in ELA and mathematics
3. 123,500 public and 5,4 00 choice in grades 4 and 8 in science
4. 188,000 public and 7,600 choice in grades 4, 8 and 10 in social studies
5. As an online assessment, the Forward Exam incorporates innovative and better ways for students to demonstrate what they know and can do (technology enhanced items)

* The ACT assessment:

1. Approximately 65,300 grade 11 students (63,500 public and 1,800 choice) were included in the ACT (paper & pencil assessment.) Students can choose to send their scores to up to four colleges or universities at no cost.
2. By offering the ACT statewide, all grade 11 students, regardless of family circumstances, have the opportunity to participate in a college readiness assessment. Before the ACT was a required statewide assessment, only about 72% of WI graduates took the ACT. Evidence shows that when college readiness tests like ACT are given universally with fees paid for by the state or district, students who would not have taken the college readiness assessments may discover that they are “college material.” Improving access to post-secondary readiness options is one way to close our achievement gap and address equity issues in Wisconsin.

* The Aspire assessment:

1. Approximately 136,000 grade 9 and 10 students (131,000 public and 5,000 choice) were included in the Aspire.
2. ACT Aspire**™** Early High School scores are reported on a 3-digit scale. These scores predict future ACT scores.
3. ACT Aspire**™** Early High School cut scores are available at: [ACT Aspire Dashboards About the Data](https://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/districts/about-data/aspire).

* The Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment:

1. Approximately 5,400 students were included statewide in grades 3- 11 ELA and mathematics, grades 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in science, and grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies DLM assessments.
2. Wisconsin’s alternate assessment is taken by the 1% of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. DLM is an online assessment administered individually to students. It allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they relate to the Wisconsin Essential Elements.

# High Expectations for College and Career Readiness (CCR)

* ACT cut scores:
  1. Aligned to ACT’s College Readiness Benchmarks
  2. Proficiency signals readiness for credit-bearing college-level coursework
  3. Resources:

1. [ACT Data and Results](https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/ACT/data/act)
2. [ACT Data Proficiency](https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act/data/act-proficiency)

* Aspire cut scores:

1. Proficiency is aligned to Aspire’s Readiness Benchmarks
2. Proficiency signals student is on target for 50% or higher likelihood of college course success by grade 11
3. Resources:
4. [ACT Aspire Dashboards About the Data](https://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/districts/about-data/aspire)

* DLM cut scores:

1. Aligned to ACT’s College Readiness Benchmarks
2. Resources:
   1. [DLM Resources](https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dlm/resources)
   2. [Data and Results](https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/dlm/data)

* Forward Exam cut scores:
  1. Resources:

1. [Forward Exam Data & Results](http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward/data)
2. [User's Guide to Interpreting Reports](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/assessment/pdf/User%27s%20Guide%20to%20Interpreting%20Reports%202016-1.pdf)

# Please Note/Data Cautions

Use these results in conjunction with other data to drive school improvement. WSAS results are high profile, but only one of many data points that should be considered in a school improvement planning process.   
  
Differences between ACT statewide and ACT graduates releases:

* ACT **graduates** is the most recent score for students who reported as having graduated in that year.
* ACT **statewide** is the annual required administration of the ACT with writing for all grade 11 students (except those taking DLM).