

## Forward Exam, ACT, and DLM 2018 Assessment Data Release

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

#### Big Picture Summary

- Annual state assessments help all stakeholders – parents, teachers, districts, school boards – see a clear picture of how well they are preparing students to be college and career ready. The WSAS exams accounted for in this release of annual statewide assessment data include:
  - a. Wisconsin Forward Exam:
    - i. Grades 3-8; measures performance in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
    - ii. Grades 4 and 8; measures performance in Science
    - iii. Grades 4, 8, and 10; measures performance in Social Studies
  - b. ACT: grade 11; measures performance in ELA (English, Reading, and Writing), mathematics, and science (same college admissions exam taken by students nationwide)
  - c. Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM): grades 3-11 - alternate assessment in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies for students with severe cognitive disabilities
- Forward Exam:
  - a. Approximate number of students included in the Forward Exam:
    1. 389,000 students (373,100 public and 15,900 choice) statewide in grades 3-8 in ELA and mathematics,
    2. 130,100 students (125,000 public and 5,100 choice) in grades 4 and 8 in science
    3. 196,100 students (189,000 public and 7,100 choice) in grades 4, 8 and 10 in social studies.
  - b. 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:
  - a. Approximately 66,300 grade 11 students (64,600 public and 1,700 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.
  - b. 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 Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessment:
  - a. Approximately 4,300 students were included statewide in grades 3-8 and 11 ELA and mathematics, grades 4, 8, and 11 in science, and grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies DLM assessments.
  - b. As Wisconsin’s alternate assessment taken by students with 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 are rigorous.
  - a. Aligned to ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks
  - b. Proficiency signals readiness for credit-bearing college-level coursework
  - c. Resources:
    - i. [ACT Data and Results](#)
    - ii. [ACT Data Proficiency](#)
- Forward Exam cut scores are also rigorous.
  - a. Resources:
    - i. [Forward Exam Data & Results](#)
    - ii. [User's Guide to Interpreting Reports](#)

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