



Assessment Data

2022-23 Interpretation Guide

Statewide assessment results provide valuable data and can be used to modify improvement plans, deploy resources, and establish professional development planning. These large-scale assessments are only one measure of student achievement and should be used in conjunction with multiple measures such as interim and formative assessment data, classroom observations, and student grades to gauge student learning.

Considerations When Interpreting Statewide Assessment Data

Use caution when comparing assessment data for groups of students across years. Differences between years in the makeup of student groups or in test participation rates can be important to consider when interpreting proficiency rates. Please note that the tested population of students in the 2020-21 school year was not representative of the population of students in the state due to reduced test participation in that year.

Example of How Participation Can Affect Proficiency Rates

The proficiency rate will go up or down as a result of differences in test participation. Each scenario below shows how participation can determine proficiency rates. Proficiency rates in WISEdash are based on the number of students enrolled.

Hypothetical School	Students Enrolled in Tested Grades	Students Participated in Testing	Proficient Students	Not Proficient Students	Proficiency Rate in WISEdash
Scenario A	100	100	70	30	70%
Scenario B	100	80	70	10	70%
Scenario C	100	80	56	24	56%

Appropriate Use of Statewide Assessment Data

When used with multiple measures of student performance, statewide assessment data may be used for:

- evaluating the effectiveness of programs
- school improvement planning and goal setting
- establishing professional development
- alignment of curriculum and deployment of resources

Avoid using assessment results as the sole data point in high-stakes decision making such as teacher/administrator effectiveness and grade level advancement.

Questions to Consider When Interpreting Data

- What were my participation rates?
- Were the tested students representative of my school/district population as a whole?
- Can I make valid inferences when comparing current results with other administrations, other districts, or the state?

Accessing Wisconsin State Assessment System (WSAS) Data

- **Where can I access data for my district, school, and students?**
[WISEdash for Districts](#) is a secure platform that provides dashboards for district-wide use of student data including specific detail inquiry, topic-specific current and trend data, and advanced analysis dashboards to compare data and demographics over time.
- **How do I get a WISEdash for Districts login?**
Log into [WISEhome](#) with a personal WAMS ID or an approved district email account and request to have your agency's administrator grant you access to an application through the WISEsecure system.
- **How do I navigate WISEdash for Districts?**
Several [learning resources](#) are available including: WISEdash for Districts guides, videos, and other resources.
- **Where can I access data about Wisconsin schools and districts?**
[WISEdash Public](#) is a data portal that uses dashboards, or visual collections of graphs and tables, to provide multi-year education data about Wisconsin schools. Data on the portal are redacted and available by school, district, or state. Users can disaggregate data by student subgroups and make district or school side-by-side comparisons.
- **Where can I find support in analyzing student assessment data?**
The [WISExplore](#) group builds capacity with educators to engage in data inquiry processes and culturally responsive continuous improvement practices utilizing WISEdash portals and many other data sources. The [Using Assessment Dashboards](#) presentation created by the WISExplore team in collaboration with the Office of Educational Accountability, is a guide to interacting with various dashboards and useful tools to analyze assessment data.