



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

January 14, 2026

Assessment

Reminders:

Verify Student Data

DPI will load student data from WISEdata into the DRC INSIGHT Portal (Forward) and PearsonAccess^{next} (ACT with writing and PreACT Secure). To ensure that you have the correct roster of students for testing, please make certain that your student enrollment and demographic data are correct in WISEdata before the end of the day on January 22 for the ACT and PreACT Secure, and before the end of the day on January 30 for the Forward Exam. Please keep enrollment and demographic information up to date.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Confidentiality Agreement

DACs from districts administering the WIDA ACCESS who have not already completed the 2025-26 [DAC Confidentiality Agreement](#) should do so now and submit to OEA as soon as possible. The form may be completed electronically and signed electronically using Acrobat Reader. Be sure to read the terms for each assessment and **select only the boxes that apply to your district** on the ACT/PreACT Secure agreement prior to signing. The entire document needs to be submitted to OEA once signed. If your district is not administering the WIDA ACCESS for 2025-26, be sure to submit your form by March 1. All other confidentiality forms (SACs, DTCs, STCs, etc.) may be completed electronically and once completed are to be retained at the school/district level.

WIDA ACCESS

New:

Materials

If the bulk of your ACCESS testing is done, you can begin shipping materials back to DRC at any time. You may wish to retain a few blank booklets in case any students transfer into your district in the last two weeks of the test window.

All materials are due back to DRC by February 10. Under Reporting Services > Published Reports, you may access a secure material tracking spreadsheet showing what DRC has sent you and what they have received back. They update this on a regular basis as material returns come in.

Reminders:

Testing Update

Thank you for your timely administration of the WIDA ACCESS. Testing continues to go smoothly with more than 80% of the online tests already completed. The 2025-26 WIDA ACCESS test window ends January 30.

In-State Transfers

If a student transfers in from another Wisconsin district, please use the [Student Transfer Request form](#).

ACT

New:

Office Hours - Verifying Enrollment

ACT and DPI will be hosting an Office Hour webinar on verifying your student roster on January 20, from 10-11 am. Visit the [DPI ACT Trainings webpage](#) to register for this event and additional training opportunities. All trainings and office hours are recorded.

PreACT Secure

New:

Test Administration #1 Training Webinar

ACT and DPI will hold the first PreACT Secure Test Administration training webinar on Tuesday, January 27 from 10-11 am. Visit the [DPI PreACT Secure Training webpage](#) to register for this event and all future training opportunities.

Reminder:

PreACT Secure Practice Test

The new enhanced PreACT Secure practice test has been posted in TestNav. Please visit the [PreACT Secure Practice Test webpage](#) for a link to the practice test and additional test preparation resources.

DLM

New:

Training

In order for a teacher to be able to administer the DLM, they need to complete the required teacher training. Teachers who are new to DLM or who did not complete training last year need to complete the new teacher training. Returning teachers who completed the training last year need to complete the returning teacher training this year. Please encourage teachers to complete the training as soon as possible.



Rosters and Users

Please make sure that all Test Administrators and students have been added and updated in Educator Portal. In order for teachers to complete the first contact surveys, students need to be rostered to the teachers. Please also confirm users are up to date and that any users that do not require access are removed. If you have any questions about rosters and users, please contact [Mike Peacy](#).

Forward Exam

Reminder:

2025-26 Forward Exam Resources and Trainings

- The DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide and the Test Administration Manual are now available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).
 - The District and School Assessment Coordinator (DAC/SAC) Training Video is now available on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#). This training covers all aspects of Forward Exam administration. DACs/SACs who were unable to attend the in-person training in November are required to view the video training.
 - The Test Administrator (TA) Training Video is now available on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#). This training is required for all TAs and covers all information TAs need to prepare for and administer the Forward Exam. DACs/SACs should ensure that all TAs view this training.
 - New Administrator Tutorials - Due to the changes in the DRC INSIGHT Portal, several of the administrator tutorials have been updated. The tutorials are available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).
 - Updated Checklists - "To-Do" checklists for Test Administrators, Assessment Coordinators, and Technology Coordinators have all been revised for the 2025-26 administration and are available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).
-

NAEP

(for selected districts and schools only)

Reminder:

Preassessment Tasks Open in the NAEP AMS

All preassessment tasks are now open in the [NAEP AMS](#). Tasks include scheduling a planning meeting with field staff, reviewing the student list and providing updates to student information including accommodations, determining assessment logistics, and managing questionnaires. Beginning in the first week of January, the *Add New Students* process is open for schools to update their enrollment. Additional

instructions are available for each task on the NAEP AMS, and field staff will support School Coordinators in completing tasks.

See the [NAEP webpage](#) for information and resources. Please contact [Angela Dugas](#) with any questions.

Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

New:

Set 'Student Not Tested' (SNT) Status by February 13 for Mid-Year Act 20 Screening

Pearson has created an indicator within the aimswebPlus platform that allows users to indicate when a student has not tested on an Act 20 screener as well as the reason why (for example, absent, advanced to diagnostic, etc.). Indicating an SNT reason will be required beginning with the 2025 – 2026 mid-year administration. **Districts should plan to indicate the SNT reason for students who did not screen in the mid-year window by February 13.** Release Notes and accompanying screenshots can be found on the [aimswebPlus Help Site](#).

Reminders:

Updated Act 20 Rostering Guide Released

An updated [Act 20 Rostering Guide](#) has been posted on the [Wisconsin Act 20 website](#). It can be found by navigating to the Rostering and Data Management section. A change log has been included to indicate where updates were made.

WISE-Only Rostering Districts: Homeroom Indicator for Classes

Districts who are rostering for Act 20 using only WISE (not multi-source) should begin using the Homeroom Indicator in the district's Student Information System (SIS) to indicate which classes should be imported into aimswebPlus for Act 20 screening. Pearson will soon begin importing only the classes that have the Homeroom Indicator marked, which will help reduce the number of unnecessary classes imported into the aimswebPlus platform from WISE. For assistance in how to mark the Homeroom Indicator in your Student Information System, please contact your SIS vendor.

Mid-Year Testing Has Begun

As a reminder, the mid-year administration for Act 20 screening window began December 1 and will end January 30. Even if your district plans to begin testing in January, this is a great time to review rostering data in aimswebPlus and ensure your district is set up for success. Information about administering aimswebPlus assessments and additional resources can be found on the [Wisconsin aimswebPlus Act 20 website](#) as well as the [aimswebPlus Help Site](#).

Braille Test Material Orders for Act 20 Mid-Year Screener

Districts may now order materials for the mid-year administration using [Wisconsin Act 20 Mid-Year 2025 Braille Order Form](#). Please note districts may also choose to order a printed copy of the Braille

Administration and Scoring Guide, or it can be accessed electronically in the [Administrations and Scoring Guide: Braille Administrations resource](#).

On-Demand Replay of Key Webinars Available

As a reminder, districts can access the on-demand replay of the [Optimizing Classroom Decisions through Data-Driven Insights](#) and [Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis](#) webinars. As we have concluded the fall administration and are moving toward mid-year, schools may find this information especially useful.

Pearson Office Hours Available

Pearson hosts Office Hours every other Tuesday from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm CT. Please see the [Wisconsin Office Hours list of dates](#) and use this [Zoom link](#) to join each session. This offering is specific to Wisconsin, and districts may use the time to ask questions about the aimswebPlus platform, how to access materials and screen in aimswebPlus, how to access score results, viewing reports, and more.

'Student Not Tested' (SNT) Indicator for Mid-Year Act 20 Screening

Pearson has created an indicator within the aimswebPlus platform that allows users to indicate when a student has not tested on an Act 20 screener as well as the reason why (for example, absent, advanced to diagnostic, etc.). Indicating an SNT reason will be required beginning with the 2025-26 mid-year administration. Release Notes and accompanying screenshots can be found on the [aimswebPlus Help Site](#).

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
Test Administrator Training Video	Training that is required for all TAs and covers all information TAs need to prepare for and administer the Forward Exam.	Forward
DAC/SAC Training Video	Training for DACs/SACs that covers all aspects of Forward Exam administration.	Forward
Test Administration Manual	This manual provides Forward Exam TAs with information about policies and procedures, student and classroom preparation,	Forward

Resource	Description	Assessment
	troubleshooting, and the test administration script for TAs.	
DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide	Guide to help DRC INSIGHT Portal users manage user permissions, student information, and testing responsibilities.	Forward
ACCESS Transfer Request	Form to request an In-State Transfer.	ACCESS
Domain Waiver Request	Webpage with the process to Waive Domain (half-way down the page).	ACCESS

Important Dates to Remember

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

Date	Event	Program
January 20	ACT Office Hour - Verify student roster	ACT
January 23	DPI uploads student rosters in PAnext	ACT/PreACT Secure
January 26	NAEP assessment window opens	NAEP
January 26	PAnext opens for PreACT Secure	PreACT Secure
January 26-30	Verify ACT student rosters in PAnext	ACT
January 27	PreACT Secure Test Admin #1 Training Webinar	PreACT Secure
January 28	Deadline to enter accommodations in TAA for ACT	ACT
January 30	Test Window Closes	ACCESS
February 4	DAC, SAC, DTC Q&A Webinar	Forward
February 9	Test set up opens - access to DRC INSIGHT Portal Test Sessions, Accessibility Features, Test Tickets	Forward

Date	Event	Program
February 10	All materials due back to DRC for scoring	ACCESS



This publication is available from:
 Division of Student and School Success
 Office of Educational Accountability
 (608) 267-1072

<https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/correspondence>

January 2026 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.