



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

January 21, 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 tomorrow, 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

Reminders:

Test Window Closing

The 2025-26 WIDA ACCESS test window ends January 30.

Materials

You may begin shipping materials back to DRC at any time. 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.

In-State Transfers

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

ACT

New:

Verify Student Rosters in PearsonAccess^{next} - January 26-30

On January 26, schools will have access to their ACT student rosters in [PearsonAccess^{next}](#). Testing staff will have until **Friday, January 30** to verify student enrollment. Instructions on how to complete this task are outlined in the [January 15 DPI ACT Program](#) email and resources can also be found under [Step 2, Configuration: Verify Enrollment Counts on the Wisconsin ACT webpage](#).

IMPORTANT: ACT Accommodations - Due January 28

The last day to request ACT Accommodations and EL Supports for Test Window One is January 28.

Resources on how to enter accommodations can be found on the [Wisconsin ACT Website, Step 3 - Accommodation](#). Please reach out to [Nikki Braconier](#) immediately if you are having difficulties with an approval.

PreACT Secure

New:

PearsonAccess^{next} Opens January 26

On January 26, the PreACT Secure portal will open within [PearsonAccess^{next}](#) (PAnext) for the spring 2026 administration. Once the portal is open, DACs will automatically 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 [PersonAccess^{next} User Guide for the PreACT Secure](#).

Student Roster Upload

PreACT Secure student rosters will be available in PAnext on January 26. Schools can then begin verifying rosters and entering 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.

Reminder:

Test Administration #1 Training Webinar

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



DLM

Reminders:

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

New:

Ed-Fi API Student Data Exchange System

New this year, DPI and DRC (Forward Exam Vendor) have set up a data exchange system, or API, to share student roster information regularly before and during the test window. DPI already uses this type of data system to receive information from all school districts in the state, through the Student Information Systems (SIS). The districts' SIS send data about student enrollment nightly to DPI WISEdata. Now that the secure information exchange is in place with DRC, districts just need to ensure that their SIS is up to date throughout the testing window. Any changes to student information and enrollment made in a district's SIS will be automatically updated in the DRC INSIGHT Portal each night. Districts will no longer need to request student transfers through the DRC Help Desk. Districts should still review data in the DRC INSIGHT Portal to ensure accuracy. If errors are found, updates should be made in the district SIS. If data are not updating in the portal, districts should fill out a [DPI helpdesk ticket](#).

Forward Exam Test Set-up and Accessibility Assignment

Beginning February 9, districts will have access to their student data and test set-up features (i.e., accessibility, registrations, and test tickets) in the DRC INSIGHT Portal. At that time, District and School Assessment Coordinators will be able to begin entering designated supports and accommodations for students. This may be done using import management or entering them on an individual student basis. As a reminder, Text-to-Speech is a Universal Support for all students and does not need to be assigned in the Portal. Instructions are available in the [DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide](#).



Forward Exam Q&A Webinar

On February 4 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. Participants may pose questions live or submit questions ahead of time by completing the [Forward Q&A webinar Form](#). 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 4, 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 2025-26 Forward Exam. Districts may 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.

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)

New:

The NAEP Assessment Window Opens Next Week

NAEP begins testing in schools around Wisconsin and the country beginning January 26. Schools should be in the final stages of completing their preassessment tasks in the [NAEP AMS](#). Additional instructions are available for each task on the NAEP AMS, and field staff will support School Coordinators in completing tasks, although they will have less availability once the test window opens as they will be in the field conducting the assessments.

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

Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

New:

Mid-Year Testing Window Closing Jan. 30

The mid-year administration for Act 20 screening will end January 30. Support resources and contact information can be found on the [Wisconsin aimswebPlus Act 20 website](#) as well as the [aimswebPlus Help website](#). Please reach out to Pearson or DPI for any questions as we wrap up this screening window.

Wisconsin WISE Help Desk

- (608) 267-9115
- <https://dpi.wi.gov/wisedata/help/request>

Pearson aimswebPlus Support

- (866) 313-6194
- aimswsupport@pearson.com

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.). Release Notes and accompanying screenshots can be found on the [aimswebPlus Help Site](#).

Indicating an SNT reason will be required beginning with the 2025-26 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.** A district should mark an SNT status if a student did not complete and receive a score for any of the measures required for that administration. If a student completed and received a score for some measures but not all, plan to indicate a not tested status.



WISE-Only Rostering Districts: Homeroom Indicator for Classes Beginning March 16

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 to indicate which classes should be imported into aimswebPlus for Act 20 screening. Beginning March 16, Pearson will import 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.

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.

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.

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, troubleshooting, and the test administration script for TAs.	Forward
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 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

Date	Event	Program
January 28	Deadline to enter accommodations in TAA for ACT	ACT
January 30	Test Window Closes	ACCESS
January 30	Mid-year Testing Window closes	aimswEBPlus
February 3	Test Administration #2 Webinar	ACT
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
February 10	All materials due back to DRC for scoring	ACCESS
February 10	Online Technical Readiness Training	PreACT Secure
February 17	Office Hours - Testing virtual students	ACT



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 Office of Educational Accountability
 (608) 267-1072

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

January 2026 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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