



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

January 3, 2024

OEA

New

Happy New Year

Welcome to 2024! Thank you for all of the thoughtful questions and feedback around implementing assessments and accountability in the last year. OEA looks forward to continuing our collaborative work with all of you in the new year.

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 25.

Assessment

Reminder:

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Confidentiality Agreement

DACs from districts administering the ACCESS for ELLs who have not already completed the 2023-24 [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 the appropriate options on the ACT agreement prior to signing. The entire document needs to be submitted to OEA once signed. If your district is not administering the ACCESS for ELLs for 2023-24, be sure to submit your form by March 1. All other confidentiality forms (SACs, DTCs, STCs, etc.) remain individual forms, but may be completed electronically, and once completed are to be retained at the school/district level.

ACCESS for ELLs

Reminders:

Student Transfers

If you have a student transfer into your district from another Wisconsin district, please complete the [Student Transfer Request for ACCESS for ELLs form](#). We will transfer their registration to your district, and the student will not need to be administered any domains they have already completed.



Materials

Additional materials may be ordered through the WIDA AMS portal, and they will be delivered in about two business days.

WIDA AMS Updates

For help navigating, click the question mark icon at the top right, or from the My Applications menu at the top select DRC Customer Service > WIDA AMS Knowledge Articles. WIDA and DRC also offer webinars on a variety of topics, with a full list of upcoming and recorded webinars located on the [Webinars webpage](#) in the WIDA Secure Portal.

ACT

New:

Training Webinar

On Wednesday, January 10 at 11:00 am, ACT will host this year's [ACT Online Site Readiness training webinar](#). DPI strongly encourages all schools testing online to attend this webinar **with their School Technology Coordinator**. Visit the [DPI ACT Training webpage](#) for a list of all 2024 ACT training opportunities and recordings.

Reminders:

Online Testing Site Readiness Service

This year, ACT will provide Wisconsin schools with an optional Online Testing Site Readiness Service. This helpful service will allow districts to connect directly with an ACT Customer Support Specialist trained in the technical requirements and support of online administration. This service is optional and interested districts will need to opt-in with ACT by **Tuesday, January 8**. Additional information and instructions on how to participate was sent to DACs on Monday, December 18. DPI encourages districts to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure they are ready for online testing.

Accommodation Requests Reminder

The deadline to submit requests for spring 2024 testing is **January 19**. DPI strongly encourages schools to **enter requests into the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) now** to avoid delays and allow time for reconsideration if needed.

- Submit requests early - well before the **January 19 deadline**.
- Refer to [Step 3: Accommodation, on the Wisconsin ACT Webpage](#) for accommodation and EL support resources and training.
- Log into the TAA to view status and decisions on accommodations/EL support requests.
 - If a request is not approved, you can submit again for reconsideration.
 - [Reach out to OSA](#) as soon as possible if you are experiencing difficulty receiving an approval for an accommodation.

Video American Sign Language - Available Spring 2024

ACT is currently working to develop Video American Sign Language (VASL) for all content areas as an authorized accommodation for students with hearing impairments. VASL will be available for spring 2024 testing for both paper and online testing. More information on how VASL will be administered to students will be available early next year. Please review the revised [ACT Accessibility Supports Guide](#) for additional information on VASL.

PreACT Secure

New:

2024 Testing Resources

The following PreACT Secure testing resources have now been posted to the [Wisconsin PreACT Secure webpage](#). Please disseminate this information out to all testing staff.

- Schedule of Events - Important Dates
- PearsonAccess^{next} User Guide for PreACT Secure - Step 1
- Online testing technical resources - Step 2
- Accessibility Supports Guide for PreACT Secure - Step 4
- All test administration manuals, forms and administration supplement - Step 5

Reminder:

Accommodation Supports Guide and Video American Sign Language

The 2024 PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide is now available and has been posted to the [Wisconsin PreACT Secure webpage, Step 3](#). Video American Sign Language (VASL) will also be available for the PreACT Secure spring administration for online testing only.

As a reminder, PreACT Secure accommodations do not need prior approval from ACT and staff will enter student accommodations directly into the [PearsonAccess^{next} portal](#). Testing staff can begin entering accommodations for students on January 29, 2024. Additional information will be disseminated in January.

DLM

New:

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](#).

DLM Recruitment

DLM is recruiting for an external review of new Science Essential Element Learning Maps. Recruitment will begin in early 2024, and DLM is seeking panels to cover a broad range of experience and expertise across science domains, grade bands, and special education. If interested, complete a profile on the [ATLAS recruitment site](#). If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to reach out to [Mike Peacy](#).

Instruction and Assessment Planner

The Instruction and Assessment Planner is open and can be used to assess the students with the most significant cognitive disabilities throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding the Instruction and Assessment Planner, please contact [Mike Peacy](#) or [Iris Jacobson](#).

Forward Exam

New:

2024 Forward Exam Resources

The DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide and the Test Administration Manual will be available January 8 on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).

New Forward Exam Practice Test

The new Forward Exam Practice Test, for each tested grade and content level, is now available on the [Forward Exam Practice Test webpage](#). All students should be given the opportunity to practice with the online Forward Exam Practice test as new tools and functionality have been included (e.g., Text-to-Speech Universal Tool for all students). [Updated Student Tutorials](#) are also now available and should be used in conjunction with the practice test.

2024 Forward Exam Trainings

The Forward Exam pre-recorded trainings for District and School Assessment Coordinators (DACs/SACs) and Test Administrators (TAs) will be available January 8 on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#).

- **DAC/SAC Training** - This is a full training required for all DACs/SACs that did not attend the in-person training sessions in November.
- **Test Administrator (TA) Training** - This training is required for all TAs and covers all information TAs need to prepare for and administer the Forward Exam. DACs should ensure that all TAs view this training.

Forward Exam Q&A webinar

On January 10 at 12:30 pm, the first of three optional Q&A webinar sessions will take place (see the [Forward Exam Calendar webpage](#) for additional dates). 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. 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 January 10, please use this [Forward Exam Q&A webinar session Zoom link](#).

Reminders:

Educator Involvement Opportunities

DPI is currently recruiting a diverse group of Wisconsin educators from all over Wisconsin (including English learner and special education teachers) to participate in three separate Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunities. These events are all important steps in the development and scoring of the Forward Exam. This is a great opportunity to be a part of the Forward Exam development and scoring, have detailed input on the exam, and take knowledge back to your district about the processes.

- Rangefinding
- Standard Setting
- New Item Review

More information about each opportunity, including how to apply, is available on the [Forward Exam Educators Involvement webpage](#). Educators interested in one or more events need to submit only one application. There is a question in the application which asks the applicant to select the educator involvement opportunities they would like to participate in and may select all that apply. **Please share this information with the educators in your district.**

NAEP and International Assessments

(for schools selected to participate in 2023-24 assessments only)

Reminders:

NAEP Assessment Planning Tasks Now Open

NAEP School Coordinators can now access the Assessment Planning Tasks in the [NAEP Assessment Management System \(AMS\)](#). Registered School Coordinators should have received an email from westatstudies.com the morning of December 4 notifying them of the tasks that include:

- Schedule the Assessment Planning Meeting
- Provide Student Information
- Assessment Logistics
- Notify Parent/Guardians
- Manage Questionnaires

NAEP High School Transcript Study Open Through January 31

The NAEP High School Transcript Study (HSTS) data collection is now open in the [NAEP Assessment Management System \(AMS\)](#). HSTS Coordinators will complete the course catalog submission and the transcript information survey, which are open through the **end of January**. The last step of the HSTS is the student transcript submission which will open in the summer of 2024.

See the [NAEP webpage](#) for grade levels and content areas assessed, dates, additional information, and resources; and contact [Angela Dugas](#) with any questions. If there are issues with the [NAEP AMS](#), please contact the NAEP Help Desk at NAEPHelp@westat.com or (800) 283-6237. To reset your password for the NAEP AMS, click "Learn more about how to log in" and then click "Forgot password".

Reading Readiness

Reminder:

For detailed information about requirements for screening go to the [Assessment of Reading Readiness Overview webpage](#).

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 |
|---|--|---------------|
| ACT Accessibility Supports Guide (revised) | Guide to all accommodations and supports offered on ACT. | ACT |
| PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide | Guide to all accommodations and supports offered on PreACT Secure. | PreACT Secure |
| Student Transfer Request for ACCESS for ELLs form | Request transfer of students into your district. | ACCESS |

Important Dates to Remember

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

| Date | Event | Program |
|----------------|--|---------------|
| December 29 | New Forward Exam Practice Tests available | Forward |
| January 8 | DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide and Test Administration Manual available | Forward |
| January 8 | DAC and Test Administrator training videos available | Forward |
| January 8 | Updated Student and Administrator Tutorials available | Forward |
| January 8 | Deadline: Opt-in to ACT's Online Testing Site Readiness Service | ACT |
| January 10 | First of three DAC, SAC, and DTC Q&A Webinars (see Forward Exam Calendar webpage for additional two webinar dates) | Forward |
| January 10 | Attend ACT online testing/Technology Readiness training | ACT |
| January 17 | Attend Wisconsin Specific ACT Office Hour | ACT |
| January 19 | Deadline to submit accommodations/supports in TAA | ACT |
| January 22 | PearsonAccess ^{next} (PAnext) opens for 2024 | PreACT Secure |
| January 26 | Additional Materials window closes | ACCESS |
| January 29 | NAEP testing window opens (for selected schools only) | NAEP |
| January 29 -31 | Verify ACT Student Rosters in PAnext | ACT |
| January 29 | Student Rosters available in PAnext | PreACT Secure |
| January 30 | Attend PreACT Secure Test Administration #1 training | PreACT Secure |
| February 2 | Test window closes | ACCESS |
| February 13 | All materials must be received by DRC for scoring | ACCESS |



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(608) 267-1072

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

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