



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

January 7, 2026

OEA

New:

Happy New Year

Welcome to 2026! 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.

Assessment

New:

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.

Reminder:

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:

Testing Update

WIDA ACCESS testing continues to go smoothly with more than 75% of the online tests already complete.

In-State Transfers

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

Materials

The Additional Materials ordering window is now open for any materials you may need beyond the initial order. Please consolidate Additional Materials orders under the 'District-Level Additional Orders' site rather than under individual schools. See the DRC broadcast email on November 14 for ordering instructions.

ACT

Reminders:

Verify Test Coordinator Contact Information

DACs should verify that the Test Coordinator's (TC) contact information has been updated in the **Manage Contacts** section of [PearsonAccess^{next}](#) (PANext). There can only be one TC listed and that person will be the primary contact for the ACT. ACT will only send communications to this TC and the DAC. It is the responsibility of the DAC and TC to disseminate information down to additional testing staff. Please see the [Managing Contacts Tutorial](#) or the [PearsonAccess^{next} User Guide](#) for instructions.

Accommodation Requests

The deadline to submit requests for test window 1 is **January 28**. **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 28 deadline.
- Refer to [Step 3: Accommodation, on the Wisconsin ACT Webpage](#) for accommodation and EL support resources and training.
- If you have questions or need support entering an accommodation request, contact the ACT Accommodation team directly at (800) 553-6244 x1788.
- 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 OEA](#) as soon as possible if you are experiencing difficulty receiving an approval for an accommodation.



PreACT Secure

New:

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

Reminder:

Please visit the [DLM webpage](#) for DLM information, resources and dates.

Forward Exam

New:

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](#).

Reminders:

Update for Adding 2026 Accessibility Features in the DRC INSIGHT Portal

For those who attended the in-person District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) trainings, DRC presented about adding accessibility features in the updated DRC INSIGHT Portal. After a considerable



amount of feedback from DPI and DACs, DRC has reinstated the ability to add accessibility features for an individual student through the accommodations tab under Participant Management in the Portal. This is great news and allows districts to add accessibility features for a single student to all content areas at one time, as it was done in past years. Directions for this will be in the DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide that will be available in January.

Technology Training Videos

The Forward Exam District Technology Training Videos are now available on the [Forward Exam Technology Requirements and Resources webpage](#). There are four short videos that cover all information District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) need to know about technology updates, requirements, Central Office Services installation/management, and the set-up of student testing devices.

Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunities

In the summer of 2026, DPI will bring Wisconsin educators together to review all new test questions created for the Forward Exam for content, grade level appropriateness, alignment to correct standard, cultural inclusivity, and bias/sensitivity issues prior to placement on the exam. DPI is now accepting applications from Wisconsin educators to participate in the 2026 in-person New Item Review meetings. DPI is looking for a diverse group of educators from all over Wisconsin (including EL and special education teachers). More information, including how to apply, is available on the [Forward Exam Educators Involvement webpage](#). Please share this information with your fellow educators.

NAEP

(for selected districts and schools only)

New:

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

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, 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
Technology Training Videos	Four short videos that cover all information District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) need to know.	Forward
Educator Involvement Opportunity Application	Application for Wisconsin educators to participate in the 2026 New Item Review.	Forward
ACT Practice Tests	Webpage with new (Enhanced) ACT practice tests and student prep resources.	ACT

Resource	Description	Assessment
PreACT Secure 2026 Test Administration Manuals	Link to all 2026 PreACT Secure administration manuals.	PreACT Secure
PreACT Secure What's New	Document outlining all new items or changes for 2026.	PreACT Secure
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
Act 20 Rostering Guide	Document outlining rostering students	aimswebPlus

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

Date	Event	Program
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



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 Office of Educational Accountability
 (608) 267-1072

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

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