



# The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

October 2, 2025

## Accountability

### New:

#### 2024-25 Preliminary Secure Report Cards - Now Available in SAFE

Secure preliminary versions of the 2024-25 school and district report cards are available in [SAFE](#), the Secure Access File Exchange, as of today, **October 2nd**. As a preliminary and secure report, they contain potentially identifiable student information and have not been redacted. As such, and because the report cards are preliminary and subject to change, **the secure reports and any information on the preliminary report cards may not be shared** with your local media, parents, or members of the community.

To ensure reporting is as accurate as possible, the secure release opens the [report card inquiry period](#), which will take place between October 2-13. This inquiry period is an opportunity for schools and districts to review report card data and work with OEA to address possible data submission errors prior to the final release of report cards. The 'Secure Release Checklist' found on the [report card resources webpage](#) provides step-by-step guidance on how to review report card data. **The last day to OPEN a data inquiry is Monday, October 13.**

The public release of final school and district report cards is scheduled for **November 11**. These report cards will include redaction to protect student privacy. At that time the public school and district report cards results will be widely available.

As a reminder, we have posted [report card resources](#) to guide your review of the preliminary report cards and assist with local report card interpretation and messaging. If you have questions about report cards, please [contact OEA](#). An announcement of this preliminary secure release to administrators will be archived on the [report card timeline page](#).

#### Target Group Preview Dashboard Updated for 2025-26

This Target Group Preview Dashboard is now available for 2025-26, showing the likelihood of students appearing in the target group of the 2025-26 report cards, based on 2025 assessment results. Please note that this dashboard is a "forward facing" tool used to inform continuous improvement efforts, so it does not reflect target group students found in the 2024-25 report cards.

The Target Group Outcomes priority area of the report cards is designed to help schools see their own "gaps" between students scoring in the lowest quartile and the rest of their student body. To support schools and districts in identifying and serving their lowest-performing students, students who are *likely*



to be in the target group in future report cards at a district- and school-level are displayed securely on WISEdash for Districts.

This dashboard can be found in the 'Early Warning' area of WISEdash for Districts under 'Report Card'. The data will be updated weekly from now through the December Snapshot as enrollment numbers stabilize. For more information, please see the [WISEdash for Districts - Target Group Preview Dashboard webpage](#).

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## Assessment

### Reminder:

#### 2024-25 Assessment Data Public Release -September 25

Spring 2024-25 statewide assessment results for the Forward Exam, ACT, PreACT Secure, and DLM are now available in the [WISEdash public portal](#). A press release is available on the [DPI News Releases webpage](#). Several resources are available on the [Office of Educational Accountability webpage](#) and on each assessment's data and results webpage. If you have any questions, please contact the [Office of Educational Accountability](#).

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## WIDA ACCESS

### Reminder:

#### Rostering

On September 26, the non-public roster upload window opened. Most Choice participants will be included in the public school upload, so this window is just for non-Choice private schools who do not submit enrollment records to DPI.

On October 9, DPI will upload a preliminary roster for the 2025-26 ACCESS administration. This will reflect the EL statuses pushed to WISEdata from your SIS on the night of October 7. Please ensure that students' EL statuses are up-to-date and being synched to WISEdata prior to that time.

After the preliminary roster is uploaded, you'll have approximately two weeks to identify any missing students and correct their EL statuses before we do a final roster upload.

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## ACT

### Reminder:

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

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## PreACT Secure

### Reminder:

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

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## DLM

### Reminder:

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

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## Forward Exam

### Reminder:

#### Register Now - Forward Exam 2026 DAC Training

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) invite District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and up to three additional assessment staff members (e.g., School Assessment Coordinator, Assistant to DAC) to attend an **in-person training** event for the spring 2026 Forward Exam. Identical trainings will be held in different locations across the state November 3-7 and run from 9 am to 2:30 pm each day. **An email with registration information will be sent to all DACs on September 26.** Registration must be completed no later than October 24.

The in-person training will include:

- 2026 DRC New Portal changes and updates:
    - Accommodation and designated support upload/assignment
    - Test set-up availability
    - Student transfers
    - Updated administrator tutorials
    - Reports
  - New student rostering process (Ed-Fi API).
  - Forward Exam management from start to finish.
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## NAEP and International Assessments

(for selected districts and schools only)

### Reminder:

#### Communications to Principals and Next Steps

Angela Duags sent emails to school principals on September 26 with information about next steps to prepare for NAEP assessments. Principals were invited to register for the NAEP Assessment Management System ([NAEP AMS](#)) and designate a NAEP School Coordinator, who should register for the NAEP AMS and complete the *Provide School Characteristics* section **by October 15**. DACs can review testing modes (school devices or NAEP-provided devices) and monitor the progress of their schools in the NAEP AMS. Assessment dates will be sent to schools and posted on the NAEP AMS in November.

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

## Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

### Reminders:

#### 'Student Not Tested' Indicator Coming Soon

Pearson is in the process of developing 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.). There is no action on the part of districts at this time, more information and a guide will be shared in the coming weeks as it is available.

#### Training Webinar Posted: Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis

The [Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis webinar recording](#) has been posted online for on-demand playback. The [Overview for Administrators](#) and [Optimizing Classroom Decisions through Data-Driven Insights](#) webinars are also available for on-demand viewing.

#### Updated Act 20 aimswebPlus Rostering Guide Posted

An updated version of the [Wisconsin Act 20 aimswebPlus Rostering Guide](#) has been posted online. Changes are outlined in Appendix A and include the addition of field mapping for rostering between WISEdata and aimswebPlus as well as new information in the Enabling WISEdata Nightly Sync section.

#### New Guide for Understanding Student Percentile Changes for Families

A new document has been posted online titled [What Does a Change in a Student's Percentile Mean? How Updated Norms Impact Risk Status in Wisconsin](#). This guide is meant to be shared with families to help understand what changes in their student's percentile on Act 20 screeners may mean from year to year.



### Rostering in aimswebPlus for 2025-26

Thank you for working diligently to ensure data shared in WISEdata and third party tools are rostered and ready for administration of the Act 20 measures. For technical support, please reach out to one of the below resources:

- [WISE Help Desk](#) (608) 267-9115
  - Loading rostering data from a Student Information System (SIS) to WISEdata
  - Viewing rostering data in WISEdata
- [Pearson aimswebPlus/Customer Support](#) (866) 313-6194, option 2
  - Viewing rostering data in aimswebPlus
  - Loading staff and class data from a third-party source
  - Viewing and exporting score results in aimswebPlus

### Act 20 Braille Administration and Scoring Guide and Transcriber's Notes Posted Online

For districts administering Act 20 aimswebPlus measures, a braille administration and scoring guide as well as braille transcriber's notes have been posted to the WI aimswebPlus website in the Accessibility and Accommodations section. As a reminder, braille forms can also be ordered for fall 2025 using this form. Materials for winter and spring will be available as we approach the start of those administrations.

## 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
<a href="#">Preparing for ACCESS Testing</a>	Resources to prep for ACCESS Testing	ACCESS
<a href="#">Accessibility Supports Guide</a>	ACT 2025-26 Accessibility Supports Guide	ACT
<a href="#">Accessibility Supports Guide</a>	PreACT Secure 2025-26 Accessibility Supports Guide	PreACT Secure
<a href="#">Accessibility Guide</a>	Forward Exam 2025-26 Accessibility Guide	Forward

<a href="#">NAEP Facts for Districts</a>	Overview of NAEP 2026	NAEP
<a href="#">Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis webinar recording</a>	Recorded webinar on data analysis	aimswebPlus
<a href="#">What Does a Change in a Student's Percentile Mean? How Updated Norms Impact Risk Status in Wisconsin</a>	Resource for families explaining how academic test scores for early literacy are interpreted this year	aimswebPlus
<a href="#">Wisconsin Act 20 aimswebPlus Rostering Guide</a>	aimswebPlus Rostering Guide	aimswebPlus

## Important Dates to Remember

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

Date	Event	Program
October 9	Preliminary ACCESS roster uploaded to WIDA AMS.	ACCESS
October 15	NAEP School Coordinators register for the NAEP AMS and complete the <i>Provide School Characteristics section (selected schools only)</i> .	NAEP
October 22	ACT/PreACT Secure Office Hours – Enhancements.	ACT/PreACT Secure
October 23	Final ACCESS roster uploaded to WIDA AMS Materials orders and labels generated.	ACCESS
October 24	Deadline to register for the 2026 Forward Exam in-person DAC training.	Forward
October 28	ACT Office Hours - New Test Coordinator Overview.	ACT
October 30	WIDA AMS Test Setup available.	ACCESS

Date	Event	Program
Early November	NAEP test dates available for schools selected to participate	NAEP
November 3	PersonAccess <sup>next</sup> opens for 2026 ACT.	ACT
November 3-7	In-person DAC trainings.	Forward



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 Office of Educational Accountability  
 (608) 267-1072

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

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