



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

October 8, 2025

Accountability

Reminder:

2024-25 Preliminary Secure Report Cards - October 13 Deadline to Open an Inquiry

Secure preliminary versions of the 2024-25 school and district report cards are available in [SAFE](#), the Secure Access File Exchange. 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](#). 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. 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](#).

Assessment

WIDA ACCESS

New:

Rostering

DPI has generated the preliminary roster for ACCESS containing all ELs reported in public schools and choice schools, and will be uploading that to the WIDA AMS on October 9.

On October 23, we will upload the final roster to capture any students newly reported to us as EL between now and then. This roster will be based on the demographics your student information system pushes to WISEdata on October 21.

At the end of the day on October 23, the private school Pre-ID upload window will also close, and DRC will create material orders and print labels for all students uploaded to the WIDA AMS.

Test setup will open on October 30.

Training

Training for all WIDA assessments is available in the [WIDA Secure Portal](#). All staff involved in assessment must recertify annually on the test activities they are involved in. This year, the WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten has undergone a substantial revision for the first time in more than a decade. Please ensure that staff who are administering this assessment have completed all training prior to the start of the test window.

ACT/PreACT Secure

New:

Flexible Scheduling Policy

ACT is now offering schools more flexibility in administering the ACT and PreACT Secure. In addition to the standard single day administration and schedule, schools now have the following options:

- **Option 1:** Administer the assessments in a single day with an optional extended break.
- **Option 2:** Administer the assessments over two days.

Schools must choose only one option and schedule for ALL students. For more information on this new policy, please join the October 22 Office Hour when we will discuss this policy and the new ACT and PreACT Secure enhancements. Additional information on ACT's Flexible Scheduling policy will be posted to the [ACT webpage](#) later this week.

ACT

New:

2026 ACT Trainings

Registration links for the 2026 ACT administration trainings and Wisconsin Office Hours have been posted to the [ACT Trainings webpage](#).

ACT will also offer global Accommodation Office Hours that are open to any state, district or school testing staff. These will go over general questions about accommodations, but will not cover state specific policies.

District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and Test Coordinators (TCs) are encouraged to register for all training opportunities and pass along the opportunities to additional staff.

PreACT Secure

New:

2026 PreACT Secure Trainings

Registration links for the 2026 PreACT Secure trainings and Office Hours have been posted to the [PreACT Secure trainings webpage](#). District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and Test Coordinators (TCs) are encouraged to register for all training opportunities and pass along the opportunities to additional staff.

DLM

New:

Alternate Assessment Participation Rates (Spring 2025) Now Available

The spring 2025 alternate assessment participation rates for each LEA are now available for viewing in WISEgrants, DPI's web-based Federal Grants Management system. [Accessing the Alternate Assessment Participation Rates in WISEgrants](#) provides step-by-step instructions for viewing a LEA's alternate assessment participation rates (LEAs will not be sent printed copies of notifications containing their data). Any WISEgrants administrator or WISEgrants user with view or edit access to a LEA's ESEA or IDEA grants will be able to access the alternate assessment participation rate page.

Under ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), the number of students who may take an alternate assessment in English language arts (ELA), mathematics or science is limited to no more than 1.0 percent of the total number of all students in the state who are assessed in a given subject. If a LEA exceeds the 1.0% participation threshold in any subject, the LEA must submit information to DPI justifying the need to assess more than 1.0 percent of its assessed students using an alternate assessment. Only students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may participate in the alternate assessment (Dynamic Learning Maps), and no student should take the alternate assessment unless they meet the [state's definition](#) of a student with the most significant cognitive disability.

If you need assistance finding the information in WISEgrants, please send an email request to ideafiscal@dpi.wi.gov. If you have questions or need additional information on the email content or data, please contact [Iris Jacobson](#) or call (608) 264-9557.

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.

If you are unable to attend, it is recommended that your district still send up to three additional staff to hear the information provided at the training.

NAEP

(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

New:

Pearson Connecting Districts to WISE

As a reminder, it is a requirement that districts roster students in 4K-3 through WISE. Pearson is connecting districts to WISE who may not have been connected at the start of the school year. If a district was already rostering through a third-party vendor (e.g., Clever, Classlink), then data will be flowing from both WISE and the third-party vendor. If you have any questions about the data you're seeing in WISE or aimswebPlus, please reach out to either the WISE Help Desk or Pearson aimswebPlus Customer Support using the contact information below.

- [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

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.

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
Preparing for ACCESS Testing	Resources to prep for ACCESS Testing	ACCESS
Accessibility Supports Guide	ACT 2025-26 Accessibility Supports Guide	ACT
Accessibility Supports Guide	PreACT Secure 2025-26 Accessibility Supports Guide	PreACT Secure
Accessibility Guide	Forward Exam 2025-26 Accessibility Guide	Forward
NAEP Facts for Districts	Overview of NAEP 2026.	NAEP

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



Date	Event	Program
October 28	ACT Office Hours - New Test Coordinator Overview.	ACT
October 30	WIDA AMS Test Setup available.	ACCESS
Early November	NAEP test dates available for schools selected to participate	NAEP
November 3	PersonAccess ^{next} opens for 2026 ACT.	ACT
November 3-7	In-person DAC trainings.	Forward
November 4	ACT accommodations training webinar	ACT



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

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