



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

December 16, 2020

Happy Holidays!

The OEA team would like to wish all of you safe and happy holidays! We would like to thank you for all of your hard work during this challenging year and for always doing what is best for our students. This will be the last DAC Digest in 2020. We will resume with weekly DAC Digest updates on January 6.

Accountability

New:

Technical Assistance for LEAs with Federal Identifications

Preliminary joint federal notifications were released to schools and districts in SAFE last Thursday, December 10. LEAs with federal identifications are encouraged to schedule a Microsoft Teams meeting with DPI staff through this [JFN Bookings link](#). School and district staff are encouraged to bring both special education and regular education leaders to their scheduled meeting. Multiple DPI staff with relevant expertise will attend, so you can have all your questions answered with one call.

Assessment

New:

New Resources

OEA has created template “Notification of Upcoming Assessment” letters for families specific to each statewide assessment to address testing during COVID-19. These templates can be modified to fit each school or district’s specific communications needs. School or district assessment plans to safely assess students can accompany this letter to families. Another new resource, the Staff FAQ Template, is available to help schools communicate about important questions staff may have in proctoring the statewide assessments during COVID-19. Both of these new resources are located on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#).

Reminders:

Assessment Updates

Districts are facing many challenges during this unprecedented school year, and we understand the importance of prioritizing instructional time. **As of now, both state and federal requirements for assessment and accountability remain unchanged.** Statewide assessments will provide useful information to show how the ongoing pandemic has impacted our students academically.

Please see the Forward and DLM sections for updates to the test window timelines and other information in response to the ongoing COVID situation. Remote testing options are not available for statewide assessments.

Strategies and Considerations for In-Person Assessment During a Pandemic

The Strategies and Considerations for In-Person Assessment During a Pandemic resource, located on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#), provides considerations for district and school leaders to plan and safely administer assessments this spring.

ACCESS for ELLs

Reminder:

See the [ACCESS for ELLs webpage](#) for calendar dates, information, and resources.

ACT with writing

New:

Student Roster Data Pull from WISEdata

On January 18, DPI will extract a student-level data file from WISEdata and load this data to the ACT portal (PearsonAccessNext). Please make certain that your student data is correct in WISEdata before the end of the day on January 17.

ACT Office Hours

Starting in January, DPI and ACT are teaming up to offer “ACT Office Hours” every Thursday at 9:00 am, January 14 through April 15. The first 10-15 minutes will be used for a designated ACT testing topic and the remaining time will be used to answer any questions you have from the field. You will receive an email from ACT the week of January 4 with more information on scheduled topics and registration.

2020 Graduating Class Data

The 2020 Graduating Class ACT data is now available in WISEdash for Districts. Data can be accessed by selecting the “Graduation” dropdown menu. Please note that this data does not contain 2020 statewide ACT 11th grade data.

Reminder:

Process for ACT Accommodations and English Learner Supports

The focus of test administration preparation at this time is submitting ACT accommodations/EL supports by ACT’s January 15 deadline. For steps on completing this process, please refer to the [ACT Accommodations and Supports webpage](#).

Aspire

Reminder:

See the [Aspire webpage](#) for calendar dates, information, and resources.

DLM

Reminder:

Test Window Extension

DLM will also follow the same extended timeline as the Forward Assessment of March 22 - May 14.

See the [Dynamic Learning Maps website](#) for calendar dates, information, and resources.

Forward Exam

New:

2021 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 12 on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#).

There will be three training presentations, each with information targeted to a specific audience.

- **DAC/SAC Training** - Full Training for new DACs/SACs and any other DACs/SACs who would like a detailed refresher. This training covers all aspects of Forward Exam administration management from start to finish including training, set-up, preparation, administration, reporting, and any updates/changes.
- **DAC/SAC Updates Training** - Updates/Changes for the upcoming Forward Exam administration. This training is for DACs/SACs who have been through the full training and feel comfortable with the process enough to just receive updates.
- **Test Administrator Training** - Required training for all TAs. This training covers all information TAs need to prepare for and administer the Forward Exam. DACs should ensure that all TAs view this training.

2021 Forward Exam Resources

The DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide and the Test Administration Manual will be available January 12 on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).

Forward Exam Q&A webinar

On January 13 at 1:00 pm there will be an optional Q&A webinar session. This webinar is an opportunity for District and School Assessment Coordinators (DACs/SACs) and 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 or 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 13, please use this [Forward Exam Q&A webinar session Zoom link](#).

Reminder:

Changes for 2021

In addition to extending the testing window by two weeks (March 22-May 14), the 2021 Forward Exam includes two **one-year** changes that will shorten student testing times and still produce valid student scores. The changes include:

- Removing field test items from the English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science subject areas. (Field test items will be included in the 2022 Forward Exam)
- Removing the Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) item, which is Session 1 of the ELA subject area. (The TDA will be included in the 2022 Forward Exam)

Educators are encouraged to use the Forward Exam resources (TDA Item Sampler and ELA Item Sampler) for practices and formative assessments.

See the [Forward Exam webpage](#) for calendar dates, information, and resources.

NAEP

New:

MyNAEP Still Available

While NAEP testing has been postponed to the 2021-22 school year, there still remains the possibility that schools selected to participate this year will receive NAEP questionnaires. [MyNAEP](#) will remain open so that schools can update contact information or school information if needed to prepare for the distribution of the possible questionnaires.

Visit the [NCES COVID19 Updates page](#) for information about the postponement of NAEP testing this year. Please contact [Angela Dugas](#) with any questions.

Reading Readiness

Reminder:

See the [Reading Readiness webpage](#) for calendar dates, information, and resources.

Assessment and Accountability COVID-19 Related Updates

OEA has created two webpages to keep you updated and informed. Please bookmark these pages and the [main DPI COVID-19 page](#), which contains COVID-19 information for schools beyond assessment and accountability.

- [COVID-19 – Accountability Updates and Resources](#) webpage with summary information on the impact of COVID-19 on school accountability in Wisconsin.
- [COVID-19 – Assessment Updates and Resources](#) webpage that contains assessment related COVID-19 resources, 2019-20 COVID updates, and any 2020-21 updates that may arise.

Important Dates to Remember

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

Month	Day and Event	Assessment
December	21: Instruction and Assessment Planner closed for maintenance	DLM
January	1: Instruction and assessment planner reopens for the year	DLM
	4: Braille materials order window opens	Forward
	12: 2021 Test Administration and training resources become available	Forward
	13: First DAC, SAC, DTC, and STC Forward Exam Q&A Webinar	Forward
	15: Last Day to enter ACT Accommodation Requests	ACT
	18: DPI pulls roster data from WISEdata to Upload to ACT Portal	ACT
	20: DPI pulls roster data from WISEdata to Upload to DRC Portal	Forward & ACCESS
	25: PearsonAccessNext (PANext) portal opens for ACT Aspire	Aspire
	28: DPI pulls roster data from WISEdata to Upload to ACT Aspire Portal	Aspire
February	4: Attend Aspire Test Administration 1 Webinar	Aspire
	9: Attend Aspire Tech Readiness Webinar	Aspire
	10: Second DAC, SAC, DTC, and STC Forward Exam Q&A Webinar	Forward
	14: Attend ACT Test Administration 2 Webinar	ACT
	15-26: Optional add accessibility features window in DRC INSIGHT Portal	Forward
	16: Attend Aspire Chat with Experts	Aspire
	19: DAC Confidentiality Agreement forms due	General
	22: ACCESS for ELLs assessment window opens	ACCESS
	24: Instruction and Assessment Planner closes for the year	DLM
26: Deadline to complete enrollment/user/roster uploads in Educator Portal	DLM	

New Online Resource Highlights

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
Strategies and Considerations for In-Person Assessment During a Pandemic	Provides considerations for district and school leaders to plan and safely administer assessments this spring.	ALL
2020-21 DLM Test Administration Manual	Supports Test Administrators in preparing themselves and students for the DLM assessment.	DLM
DLM Educator Portal User Guide	Provides guidance and support for users navigating Educator Portal.	DLM
Assessment Best Practices during COVID-19	Found in WIDA Secure Portal ACCESS Training tile. Must be logged into the portal to access.	ACCESS



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 (608) 267-1072

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

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