



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

December 9, 2020

Accountability

Preliminary Joint Federal Notifications this Week

Preliminary joint federal notifications will be provided to schools and districts in SAFE this Thursday, December 10. Please see the [December 2 DAC Digest](#) for more information.

Assessment

New:

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 provides considerations for district and school leaders to plan and safely administer assessments this spring. The information provided in this document does not constitute a requirement for any district or school. Instead, this information should be used as a starting point and adjusted to fit each assessment and each school's unique student population and needs. This new resource is available on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#).

Reminder:

Assessment in Action Module is Now Available

The [Assessment in Action Introduction Unit](#) outlines promising practices schools and districts across Wisconsin are implementing within their Strategic Assessment Systems. Each school's story is housed on the [Assessment in Action Group](#) on WISELearn.



ACCESS for ELLs

Reminder:

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

ACT with writing

New:

Process for ACT Accommodations and English Learner Supports

- School staff members submitting ACT accommodations and English Learning (EL) supports for students should request access to the ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) **as soon as possible**. There can be only one TAA Test Coordinator (TC) per school, but there can be multiple Test Accommodations Coordinators (TAC). TCs and TACs can enter accommodations into TAA. Instructions for requesting TAA access are in the [TAA User Guide](#).
 - Submit all accommodations requests for ACT in the TAA System. Do not submit requests for local arrangements in TAA. Local arrangements are approved by the Test Coordinator. Refer to the [List of Allowable Supports](#) for what is a local arrangement versus an accommodation.
 - Submit requests early - well before the **January 15 deadline** - so there is time to resubmit if additional documentation is needed to verify the disability.
 - Refer to the resources found on [DPI's ACT Accommodations Webpage](#). The resources are organized in a checklist format to help schools with the accommodations testing process.
 - Find information on EL supports on [DPI's ACT English Learner Supports Webpage](#).
 - View the recording of [Wisconsin's ACT Accommodations Training Webinar](#) for an overview of the accommodations process.
 - Submit a request again for reconsideration if a request is not approved. If you are unsure about what documentation to submit for reconsideration, consult the [ACT Documentation Policy](#) or contact the ACT Accommodations team at (800) 553-6244 ext.1788 or actaccoms@act.org.
 - Log into TAA to view accommodations request decisions. After receiving decisions, if accommodations requests are not approved, please [contact OSA](#) as soon as possible.
-

Aspire

Reminder:

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

DLM

New:

Test Window Extension

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

Rosters

Please continue to roster students into Educator Portal. Once students are rostered, teachers can begin to work on First Contact Surveys and Personal Needs and Preference Profiles. It is a good idea to begin getting these steps done now so students are ready to test in the spring. If you have any issues with creating rosters, please contact [Mike Peacy](#) or go to the [DLM website](#) under manuals.

Reminder:

Supporting the Learning of Children with Significant Cognitive Disabilities at Home

NCEO and the TIES center have developed a series of videos to help families learn ways to support the learning of their children with significant cognitive disabilities at home and have conversations with teachers to link home-schools supports. The videos are available on both the NCEO and TIES Center websites.

Forward Exam

New:

Changes for 2021

In an effort to reduce the workload on students and educators, while providing a valid and reliable assessment, the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) in conjunction with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) have identified two **one-year solutions** that will shorten student testing times and still produce valid student scores. These changes will reduce testing times by a minimum of 70-80 minutes depending on grade level. Changes to the 2021 Forward Exam will include:

- Removing field test items from the English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science subject areas.
- Removing the Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) item, which is Session 1 of the ELA subject area.

In addition, the **testing window has been extended by two weeks** (March 22 - May 14) to provide schools more time to safely assess all students.

We remain committed to the equitable education of every student – regardless of learning environment – so all students have the knowledge, skills, and habits to graduate career and college ready. **Writing is a key skill and an important part of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for ELA. The TDA item (ELA Session 1) and field test items 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 practice and formative assessments.

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

NAEP

Reminder:

NAEP 2021 is Postponed

The NAEP testing has been postponed to the 2021-22 school year. There may still be NAEP questionnaires sent to schools selected to participate this year. Schools and districts that were participating in NAEP this year should have received an email notification on December 1. For more information about how this decision was made, visit the [NCES COVID19 Updates page](#). 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	Data and Event	Assessment
December	10: Online Testing Site Readiness Q&A Webinar	ACT
	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 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	10: Second DAC, SAC, DTC, and Q&A Webinar	Forward
	15-26: Optional add accessibility features window in DRC INSIGHT Portal	Forward
	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
2021 Aspire Schedule of Events	Contains important Aspire assessment tasks and deadlines and should be referenced frequently throughout the testing year.	Aspire
2021 ACT Administration Manual -Standard Paper	Administration manual for standard paper ACT testing.	ACT
2021 ACT Accommodations Administration Manual - Paper	Administration manual for accommodation paper ACT testing.	ACT
2021 ACT Administration Manual -Online	Administration manual for online ACT testing.	ACT
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





This publication is available from:
Division of Student and School Success
Office of Educational Accountability
(608) 267-1072

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

December 2020 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or ability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.