



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

February 17, 2021

Assessment

New:

Summary of DPI Submitted Federal Waiver Applications

DPI has requested the following waivers from the U.S. Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education has up to 90 days to respond to our requests.

- ESEA Addendum & TSI Waiver - DPI is requesting an addendum to the Wisconsin ESEA plan that would delay Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) identifications and shift long-term goals by one year. DPI is also requesting a waiver to delay Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) identifications by one year.
- ACCESS for ELLs - DPI is requesting a federal waiver from requiring an annual ELP assessment of every EL, and from using the Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency Indicator in Wisconsin's ESSA accountability system for the 2020-21 school year.
- ESSA Required Academic Assessments: DPI is seeking flexibility for situations where testing every student will not be possible. Schools and districts are still required to administer the statewide assessments following infection control and mitigation protocols and as permissible by local health departments. DPI is seeking to waive the requirement to have an accountability indicator in 2020-21 that measures the achievement of at least 95 percent of all students.

The waivers would not affect state testing requirements; plan to assess your students safely.

Reminder:

COVID-19 FAQ Now Available

This FAQ is now available on the [COVID-19 Assessment webpage](#) and will be updated regularly.

OEA Office Hours Webinar

The next OEA Office Hours webinar is scheduled for February 26, from 11:00 am -12:00 pm. DACs will receive an email invitation with information on how to join the meeting the week of the webinar. A recording of the webinar will be provided on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#).



ACCESS for ELLs

New:

Extended Testing Hours

Districts have the option to administer the ACCESS for ELLs exam during the evening and on weekends. Districts do not need special permission for ACCESS for ELLs testing during extended hours. Please be aware that no help desk or technical support will be available from DRC or DPI during extended testing hours. DACs should have district/school technology staff and back-up plans in place prior to any test administration during extended hours.

Student Transfer Requests

If a student who needs to take ACCESS enrolls in your district, please fill out the [ACCESS for ELLs Student Transfer Request form](#). Their enrollment will be verified and any existing records in the WIDA AMS will be moved to your district.

Reminder:

Test Window

The ACCESS for ELLs test window opens February 22.

Communicating with Families Regarding the ACCESS for ELLs

DPI would like to remind you to communicate with the families of English learners in their native languages. Please utilize the [“Notification of Upcoming Assessment”](#) letters offered in both Spanish and Hmong. This year especially, it is important to reassure families there will be no penalties for students who are unable to test.

Test Material

The Additional Materials Ordering window is now open. Please inventory the materials you have received and order additional materials as needed.

ACT with writing

New:

MyACT

On February 12, ACT sent out an email confirming that students would be able to register for a MyACT account with their student codes on February 20. Due to the anticipated number of students who will be trying to access MyACT when it opens, OEA is advising schools to wait and have students register for MyACT beginning February 23.

OEA has created a *MyACT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* document, to assist testing staff with the MyACT process, which will be available by the end of the week on the [DPI ACT Resource webpage](#). The

FAQ will provide resources and answers to common questions that may arise during the MyACT registration process.

Testing Staff Training Session

DACs or Test Coordinators must host a training session that is required for all testing staff (new and experienced) prior to testing. This training is separate from the briefing session on test day. The following resources provide informational topics that should be included in your training:

- [Test Coordinator Information Manual](#) (starting on page 20)
- Standard Paper [ACT Test Administration Manual](#) (starting on page 13)
- Paper Accommodations [ACT Test Administration Manual](#) (starting on page 19)
- Online/Online Accommodations [ACT Test Administration Manual](#) (starting on page 24)
- Additional training tutorials can be found on the [Wisconsin ACT Website](#)

Reminder:

Online Testing Readiness

Districts should have completed site readiness for online testing. If you have not yet completed the site readiness activities or a mock administration, you should do so immediately. Districts may create and assign students to online test sessions February 1 – March 18. The last day to switch from online to paper testing and to order materials is February 26 for the March 9 administration.

Aspire

New:

Technology Readiness

As the start of the ACT Aspire assessment draws near, it is important that your test site meet the technical requirements *before* testing begins. Please review the [ACT Aspire Schedule of Events](#) for tasks and deadlines to complete for technical readiness. If you have not already done so, make sure to invite your district technology coordinator to both the [Aspire Training website](#) and the live [production site](#). Use the resources under the [configuration section](#) on the Wisconsin ACT Aspire Webpage to configure systems for Aspire testing.

Reminder:

Chat with Expert Trainings

[Register for upcoming Aspire webinars](#) and Chat with Experts trainings. All previous webinars are recorded and posted to the DPI Aspire Trainings webpage.

DLM

New:

First Contact Surveys

The test administrator who most clearly understands the needs of the child should complete the first contact survey. Survey questions go beyond basic demographic information, covering a variety of areas including communication, academic skills and attention. First contact surveys need to be filled out completely and accurately to ensure the student is being tested at the correct level. Testlets will not be delivered until the surveys are completed.

Reminder:

Extended Testing Hours

Districts have the option to administer the DLM exam during the evening and on weekends. Districts do not need special permission for DLM testing during extended hours. No help desk or technical support will be available from DLM or DPI during extended testing hours.

Data Extracts

Please continue to monitor the data extracts in Educator Portal to assure that students and teachers are ready for the test window to open.

Forward Exam

New:

Forward Exam Q&A Webinar #3

On March 10, at 1:00 pm, there will be an optional Q&A webinar session that will provide an opportunity for Assessment and Technology Coordinators to ask DPI and DRC staff questions about test set-up, administration, or technology. 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. On March 10, use this [link to join the Forward Exam Q&A webinar session](#).

Optional Add Accessibility Features Window is Now Open

During this optional window (February 15-26), districts may use the Multiple Student Upload process to upload designated supports and accommodations for multiple students at one time into the DRC INSIGHT Portal. This two-week window is the only time this option is available. If you choose not to take advantage of the window, you may still enter supports and accommodations into the DRC INSIGHT Portal on an individual student or “mass assign” basis as needed, beginning March 8. Instructions for all three processes are available in the [DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide](#).

Reminder:**Extended Testing Hours**

Currently, Forward Exam testing is accessible from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. In order to allow districts additional time to administer the assessment in-person to students safely, DPI is offering optional extended testing hours for the 2020-21 Forward Exam. Districts may now opt to test students, in-person, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings until 8:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm during the testing window. **Districts should be aware that no help desk or technical support will be available from DRC or DPI for testing during extended hours.** DACs should have district/school technology staff and back-up plans in place prior to any test administration during extended hours. In order to utilize the extended hours, DACs must complete and submit the [Forward Exam - Extended Testing Hours Request Form](#) for their district. The request form must be submitted a minimum of one week prior to the planned extended hour testing day. Upon approval from DPI, DRC will open the testing application for the extended hours requested by the district.

NAEP**New:****New Monthly School Survey**

A new monthly school survey has come out of an Executive Order from the White House to collect information from schools across the country about how students are receiving instruction. The first round of survey collection is **next week, February 22 to 26**. The schools participating in this survey will be the same set of schools that were originally selected for the now-postponed NAEP testing. The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete each month and will ask questions about mode of instruction, enrollment, and attendance for students broken out by demographic group. Angela will contact DACs and school principals this week with more information.

Reminder:**Update on School and Teacher Questionnaires**

There continues to be an unexpected delay in the notification to schools about the NAEP 2021 School and Teacher Questionnaires Special Study. Angela will send emails to the selected schools (those in the original sample of schools for the now-postponed NAEP testing) and DACs as soon as the federal government approves next steps for this special study.

Visit the [NCES COVID-19 Updates page](#) for information about the postponement of NAEP testing this year. [MyNAEP](#) is available for participating schools and will be updated with information about the school and teacher questionnaires as well as the monthly school survey. 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

COVID-19 Updates

For assessment and accountability COVID-19 Updates please visit:

- [COVID-19 – Accountability Updates and Resources](#)
 - [COVID-19 – Assessment Updates and Resources](#)
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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
February	TBD: NAEP 2021 Questionnaires Special Study window opens (delayed)	NAEP
	15-19: Validate Configuration and Lock Down Devices (online)	ACT
	15-26: Optional add accessibility features window in DRC INSIGHT Portal	Forward
	16: Attend Aspire Chat with an Expert	Aspire
	17: Test Materials Delivered	ACCESS
	19: DAC Confidentiality Agreement forms due	General
	22: ACCESS for ELLs test window opens	ACCESS
	22-26: NAEP Monthly School Survey (if approved)	NAEP
	24: Instruction and Assessment Planner closes for the year	DLM
	26: Deadline to complete enrollment/user/roster uploads in Educator Portal	DLM
	26: Last day to switch from online testing to paper testing	ACT
	26: Last day to order additional standard test materials for March 9	ACT
March	4: Attend Aspire Test Administration 2 Webinar	Aspire
	5: Last day to enter late requests for considerations for accommodations/ELL supports	ACT
	6-18: Prepare Test Sessions and Precache (online)	ACT
	8: Test set-up window opens	Forward
	9: ACT Test Window 1 begins	ACT
	10: Third DAC, SAC, DTC, and STC Forward Exam Q&A Webinar	Forward
	10: Attend Aspire Chat with an Expert	Aspire
	22: Forward and DLM testing window opens	Forward/DLM
	22-26: NAEP Monthly School Survey (if approved)	NAEP
	23: ACT Test Window 2 begins	ACT
	26: NAEP 2021 Questionnaires Special Study window closes	NAEP



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
Forward Exam February Q&A Webinar	Recorded optional Q&A webinar session in which Assessment and Technology Coordinators were given the opportunity to ask DPI and DRC staff questions about test set-up, administration, or technology.	Forward



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

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