



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

March 4, 2021

U.S. Department of Education Assessment and Accountability Updates

Last week, Deputy State Superintendent Mike Thompson sent an [email to District Administrators](#) regarding the latest information from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) on federal statewide assessment and accountability requirements.

Accountability

New:

Preview Report Feedback Survey

Earlier this year, OEA released secure accountability preview reports directly to schools and districts in [SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange](#). We also posted sample preview reports on the [Accountability Resources webpage](#). As a reminder, preview reports are **not report cards**. These informational reports use data from prior years (i.e., 2018-19 assessment results) to demonstrate future report card design and calculation changes that our team has been working on with our Accountability Advisory Group and other state and national experts and stakeholders.

As we proceed with this work, we have created a survey to gather feedback on these changes demonstrated in the preview reports. Please use the Preview Report Feedback Survey form available on the [Accountability Resources webpage](#) to provide OEA with feedback and please share this form with your school and district communities. We are planning to close this survey on April 2.

If you have questions about the preview report survey, please contact Patrick Chambers at Patrick.Chambers@dpi.wi.gov.

Assessment

Reminder:

OEA Office Hours Webinar

The OEA Office Hours slides have been posted on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#). The recording will also be available on this webpage this week.



ACCESS for ELLs

Reminder:

Extended Testing Hours

Districts choosing to administer the ACCESS for ELLs exam during the evening and on weekends should have district/school technology staff and back-up plans in place prior to any test administration during extended hours. No help desk or technical support will be available from DRC or DPI during extended testing 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.

ACT with writing

New:

Final Preparations for the Initial Test Window

The initial test window for the ACT begins March 9. All testing staff must be trained prior to administration. **Test books and approved accommodation materials are specific to each test window and may not be used in subsequent windows.** Do not hold on to paper test books from test window one to use for test window two or three. Retain answer documents and order new test books for the makeup testing. For schools testing online, prepare your online test sessions and precache content in advance. DPI strongly encourages running a mock administration.

Test Window 1 Dates:

March 9, Paper Administration

March 9-12, 15-19, Paper Administration for Accommodations

March 9-11, 16-18, Online Testing (Standard and Online Accommodations)

Emergency and Inclement Weather Policy

Please review, print, and share the *ACT Emergency and Inclement Weather Plan* found on the [DPI ACT Resource webpage](#). This plan provides instructions to schools on what to do if school is delayed or closed on test day due to weather or another emergency.

Reminder:**ACT Late Consideration Request Window**

The late consideration request window for accommodations and supports will end **March 5**. Requests for reasons other than those listed in the Late Consideration Request Form will not be reviewed. If you have a new student whose former school submitted an accommodation request and it was approved, ACT will transfer the accommodations materials to your school's test materials order once you add the student to PAnext.

MyACT Update

Students can now register for a MyACT account with their student codes using MyACT. OEA has created and will continue to update the *MyACT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* document as new information becomes available. This document is available on the [DPI ACT Resource webpage](#), provides resources and answers to common questions that may arise during the MyACT registration process.

Aspire

Reminder:**Accommodations**

Test Coordinators should enter accommodation and EL supports for Aspire spring 2021 testing into the Aspire PAnext portal through a student's Personal Needs Profile (PNP). Instructions are outlined in the Aspire Test Coordinator Manual. All PNPs for paper testing must be entered by **March 5** to ensure barcodes are received and testing materials are shipped timely.

Testing Hours

Districts have the option to administer Aspire during the evening and on weekends. Districts do not need special permission for Aspire testing during extended hours. Please be aware that no help desk or technical support will be available from ACT 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. DPI encourages districts to review technology requirements and run a Mock Administration within the [Aspire Testing Training Website](#) prior to testing. Please see the [Configuration section](#) on the ACT Aspire webpage for site readiness resources.

Chat with an Expert Webinar

Register for the March 10, 2:30 pm, [Chat with an Expert webinar](#). The webinar will be recorded and posted to the [DPI Aspire Trainings webpage](#) for those who cannot attend the live session.

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.

DLM

New:

Test Tickets and Testlet Information Page (TIPS)

DLM test tickets and TIPS will appear in the Educator Portal once the test window opens on March 22. Please remember that test tickets and TIPS will only appear for students who have been rostered in each required content area and for whom First Contact Surveys (FCS) have been submitted.

Spring Assessment Resources

Materials Collections Lists, organized by subject and grade, have been posted on the Educator Resource webpages for [ELA](#), [Math](#), and [Science](#). The lists include:

- Common materials needed for testlets
- Alternate test forms materials for students with visual impairments
- Substitute materials that may be more familiar to students (some cases may not allow for substitutions based on information provided in the TIPS)

Reminder:

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.

Parent Portal

DLM is still looking for districts that are willing to try out the Parent Portal and provide feedback. If your district is interested, please contact [Mike Peacy](#).

Forward Exam

Reminder:

Test Set-up Available on March 8

Beginning on March 8, DACs and SACs will be able to print test tickets, edit or create test sessions, edit student data, and enter accessibility features on an individual student basis in the DRC INSIGHT Portal.

These tasks cannot be completed prior to March 8. DRC will put all students into test sessions the week of March 1-5.

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](#).

Extended Testing Hours

Forward Exam testing is accessible from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. 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.** 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.

NAEP

Reminder:

NAEP 2021 and Questionnaires

Visit the [NCES COVID-19 Updates webpage](#) 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. Resources for participating schools can also be found on the [NAEP Resources | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction webpage](#). 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](#)
- [COVID-19 Assessment FAQ](#)

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
March	5: Last day to enter late requests for considerations for accommodations/ELL supports	ACT
	5: Last day to enter Aspire paper accommodations to receive barcodes	Aspire
	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 test window opens	Forward/DLM
	22-26: NAEP Monthly School Survey	NAEP
April	23: ACT test window 2 begins	ACT
	5: Aspire test window begins	Aspire
	13: ACT test window 3 begins	ACT
May	19-23: NAEP Monthly School Survey	NAEP
	14: Forward and DLM test window closes	Forward/DLM
	19: Aspire test window closes	Aspire
	24-28: NAEP Monthly School Survey	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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