



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

June 18, 2025

Accountability

New:

First Meeting of the 2025 Wisconsin Report Card Standard Setting

This summer, the 2025 Wisconsin Report Card Standard Setting panel will review and recommend updates to the thresholds used for school and district report card rating categories. The first meeting took place on Tuesday, June 11. The group met virtually in an open meeting to walk through an overview of the process, ask questions, establish meeting norms, and provide feedback on performance level descriptors. You can learn more about this first meeting in a [DPI News Release](#). The panel will continue its work in person for a multi-day session from August 12-14, 2025, in Madison, where members will engage in deeper analysis and discussion.

As a reminder, to support your communication with staff and communities, the DPI has created several standard setting resources on the [2025 Wisconsin Report Card Standard Setting webpage](#). If you have questions, please reach out to ReportCardHelp@dpi.wi.gov.

Assessment

New:

Free Professional Learning and Coaching Series 2025-26: Now Enrolling Districts

The Office of Educational Accountability and CESAs are offering the free Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series to increase teacher and leader capacity in understanding how to create and use different types of classroom assessments. This learning series has been a great success the last two years with over 1,000 educators participating from over 100 districts across the state. Watch the [highlights video](#) to learn more about how the series impacted participants' assessment practices.

The third year of this series will offer districts the opportunity to build a personalized professional learning experience. Districts can choose to focus on a selection of the assessment topics below that best align to their local priorities. Districts will launch their work with professional learning sessions held within each CESA agency or on-site within the district. This learning will be followed by job-embedded coaching designed to strengthen assessment literacy and data use practices across all levels.

Districts may choose from the following topics:



- Classroom Assessment & Data Analysis
- Designing and Using Performance Tasks
- Project-Based Assessment
- Assessing Writing Across Grade Levels and Content Areas
- Building Interim Checkpoints: Assessment to Track Student Progress
- Formative Assessment Practices
- Analyzing Formative, Interim, and Summative Data

Contact your regional CESA office now to start creating your personalized professional learning plan for the 2025-26 school year. Visit the [Strategic Assessment Professional Learning webpage](#) to learn more about this opportunity. Please contact [Lauren Zellmer](#) with questions.

Reminders:

Assessment Reporting and Sharing Results from the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS)

The 2024-25 Vendor-Based Reporting Information resource which includes key dates for the different phases of reporting for each statewide assessment is available on the [Assessment webpage](#). DPI publicly releases summary test score data for the WSAS in the fall. Please see the [May 7 DAC Digest](#) for recommendations about sharing student assessment data with district, school staff and school boards and ensuring [Student Data Privacy](#). Individual Student Reports should be sent home to parents/guardians now.

Forward Exam Remote Administration Pilot

Virtual schools that exclusively serve students through online instruction will be offered the option to administer the Forward Exam remotely in spring 2026. As part of the technology development for this, DPI is recruiting virtual schools to voluntarily participate in a remote administration pilot that will take place in October 2025. The pilot will include up to 20 schools with 20 students participating (in assorted grade levels and content areas) from each school. Technology requirements for remote administration are now available on the [Forward Exam Technology Requirements and Resources webpage](#).

Virtual schools interested in volunteering to participate in the pilot should complete the [Forward Exam Remote Administration Pilot Application](#). Selected schools will be notified in early August and trained for the pilot participation in September. For more information, or if you have questions about your school's eligibility for this pilot, please contact the [Office of Educational Accountability](#).

DAC Contact Updates During the Summer and into the 2025-26 School Year

It is important to keep your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) contact information up to date over the summer months and as staffing changes occur from 2024-25 to 2025-26. Communications from OEA will be sent to DACs over the summer and into early fall regarding assessment and accountability, including information on data and reporting availability. You may need to assign an Interim DAC to ensure your district continues to receive updates while filling the DAC position for the 2025-26 school year. The DAC contact information is used to verify who should have DAC level access to reports in the vendor

portals. Be sure to complete a [DAC Update form](#) with the appropriate effective date noted if any changes are needed for the coming months.

ACCESS for ELLs

Reminder:

ACCESS Test Redesign/Rebranding

WIDA will be revising ACCESS for the 2025-26 school year. The test will be rebranded as WIDA ACCESS, WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS. While this will largely be the same format as the current version, the Kindergarten version has been redesigned to be more compact. Training for the redesigned WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten will be available at the beginning of October.

The new test will be fully aligned to the WIDA 2020 ELD standards and will come with better ties to instruction. For more information on this redesign, please visit WIDA's [Revising ACCESS webpage](#).

ACT

Reminder:

Please see the [June 4 DAC Digest](#) for information on ACT reporting.

PreACT Secure

Reminder:

Please see the [June 4 DAC Digest](#) for information on PreACT Secure reporting.

DLM

New:

DLM Score Reports

The DLM Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and summary reports are electronically available to districts in the Educator Portal. Please share ISRs with parents/guardians as soon as possible after electronic receipt. Please also download score reports and place them in the students' folders.

DLM Reporting Resources

Several DLM reporting resources are available on the [DLM Data and Results webpage](#). All parent/guardian resources are available in English, Spanish, and Hmong versions. Reporting resources for parents/guardians include:

- Understanding Your Child's Individual Student Score Report Brochure
 - Sample ISR Cover Letter
 - Spanish or Hmong Translated ISR
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Forward Exam

New:

Forward Exam Hard Copy Individual Student Reports (ISRs)

Hard copy ISRs were mailed to districts June 17. **ISRs should be sent to parents/guardians now**, by either printing and sending electronic ISRs or sending DRC provided hard copies as soon as they are received in the district.

Reminders:

Assign Principal Access to Forward Exam Reports

Individual Student Reports (ISRs), including downloadable zipped files with separate PDF ISRs for each student, and summary reports are now available electronically in the DRC INSIGHT Portal. DACs can assign school principals the permission set of "School Report User" in the DRC INSIGHT Portal to access their school summary reporting dashboards and ISRs.

Forward Reporting Resources

ISRs should be shared with parents/guardians as soon as possible in hard copy or via a secure parent portal. When sending ISRs home, districts should use the resources available on the [Forward Exam Data and Results webpage](#) to help parents/guardians understand their child's Forward Exam results. Instructions to access the ISRs and summary data in the DRC INSIGHT Portal are provided in the User's Guide to Interpreting Reports, available on the [Forward Exam Data and Results webpage](#).

Translated ISR Resources

ISR translated templates and parent/guardian ISR cover letters are available in 21 different languages on the [Forward Exam Data and Results webpage](#) and should be provided to families as needed. DACs can contact the DRC Help Desk for additional language translations. Districts and schools are responsible for securely distributing ISRs to parents/guardians in a language they can understand and in a format that is accessible to them.

The Forward Exam reporting information here has also been shared with your principals and District Administrators.



NAEP and International Assessments

New:

NAEP 2026 Notifications

NAEP 2026 will include reading and mathematics operational and pilot assessments in grades 4, 8, and 12. There will also be U.S. History and Civics assessments in grade 8. District Administrators should receive notification emails from DPI around the end of June if they have schools selected for NAEP 2026. DACs will receive a copy of that email. Principals in those schools will be notified later this summer.

See the [NAEP webpage](#) for information and resources. Contact [Angela Dugas](#) with any questions.

Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

Reminder:

Questions about the aimswebPlus literacy screener, personal reading plans, and district early literacy remediation plans should be sent to early.reading@dpi.wi.gov. Visit the [Wisconsin Reads webpage](#) or the [ACT 20 Early literacy webpage](#) for more information.

Resources

New:

Writing Rich Classrooms: Unit Plans Added

As mentioned in the [March 5 DAC Digest](#), DPI partnered with The Greater Madison Writing Project (GMWP) and Wisconsin educators to develop instructional resources to support the sustainability of writing-rich classrooms. All narrative, informative and argumentative resources for grades 3-8 will be added to the [Writing Rich Classrooms: Unit Plans webpage](#) by June 20.

These instructional units include:

- Teacher Guides: Comprehensive strategies for identifying, unpacking, and teaching standards-aligned, rhetorically authentic effective writing prompts.
- Slide Decks: Ready-to-use visual materials for classroom instruction.
- Writing Prompts: Designed to mirror Forward Exam short-write prompts.
- Examples of Student Writing: Several units are accompanied by student writing that has been assessed using forward short-write rubrics.

Educators will have access to free virtual, asynchronous learning modules this summer.

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
2025-26 Statewide Assessment Timelines	2025-26 Wisconsin State Assessment Timelines.	ALL
Reporting Resources	Sample ISR cover letter and translated templates.	Forward
Reporting Resources	Sample ISR cover letter and student score guide.	PreACT Secure
ACT Online Reporting User Guide	Guide to assist users with accessing reports and ISRs in Success.ACT.	ACT/PreACT Secure

Important Dates to Remember

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

Date	Event	Program
June 5	Final Data available in WIDA AMS/DRC Insight	ACCESS
June 17	Hard copies of ISRs sent to districts	Forward
Late June	Districts receive notification of schools selected for NAEP 2026	NAEP



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June 2025 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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