



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

July 17, 2025

Accountability

New:

School and District Report Card Narrative Statement Collection This Fall

The Office of Educational Accountability has been working to streamline the collection process and make it easier for district staff to submit the narrative statements for the report card. New in 2025, we will automatically roll forward the statement that was submitted for the 2024 report card! There will still be the opportunity to submit a new narrative statement or modify or delete the prior year's statement; there will be a submission window in the fall preceding the preliminary secure release of report cards.

We will share additional details regarding the narrative statement process in August via the DAC Digest. For now, feel free to start the process of reviewing and revising prior statements to be ready for the submission window.

If you would like to review the statement that you submitted for the 2024-25 report card that will be rolled forward, you can review your report cards in [SAFE](#) or the [public Report Cards webpage](#).

Reminder:

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

Reminders:

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 participating educators' and leaders' 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 [Free Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series webpage](#) to learn more about this opportunity. Please contact [Lauren Zellmer](#) with questions.

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.

WIDA ACCESS

New:

DRC Insight Update Required

On August 1, the current version of DRC Insight will no longer function. Please ensure the Insight installs on student devices are updated to the newest version. Details were shared in a broadcast email from DRC on July 14.

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:

Rosters

Students can be rostered in Educator Portal beginning in August. Rostering students early allows teachers access to student score reports and the Instruction and Assessment Planner early in the school year so they can be used to guide instruction. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact [Mike Peacy](#).

DLM Training Site

The DLM Training will be available for teachers starting August 4. Teachers new to DLM will need an account created in Educator Portal to access the three-hour new teacher training. Returning teachers will log into Educator Portal to complete the one-hour returning teacher training.

Reminders:

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

Forward Exam

New:

ChromeOS Progressive Web Application (PWA) Required for DRC INSIGHT

Google is ending support for the type of kiosk application DRC currently uses to create the DRC INSIGHT Secure Application for Chromebook. In response, DRC has developed a new Chromebook **Progressive Web Application (PWA)** to meet Google's new version support and security guidelines. The new application is available to download from the DRC INSIGHT Portal under General Information. All sites that use ChromeOS devices for testing will need to uninstall the kiosk application and install the PWA version of DRC INSIGHT by July 31. After this date, an error message will display and districts will be forced to install the PWA version of DRC INSIGHT. For more information, refer to the DRC Tech Bulletin available on the [Technology Requirements and Resources webpage](#).

Technology System Requirements

DACs and DTCs should review the hardware and operating system requirements for the 2025-26 administration, including the COS Service Device configurations and required bandwidth, to ensure student devices meet the minimum requirements for testing. Updated 2026 technology system requirements (updated in June 2025) are available on the [Forward Exam Technology Requirements webpage](#).



Reminders:

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](#).

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.

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.

NAEP and International Assessments

New:

NAEP 2026 Notifications Delayed

Notifications to districts with schools selected for NAEP 2026 have *not* been sent out yet due to delays at the U.S. Department of Education. Once those email notifications are sent out, we will update the DAC Digest. District Administrators will receive the first round of notification emails and DACs will receive a copy of that email. Principals in those schools will be notified later this summer. As a reminder, 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. See the [NAEP webpage](#) for information and resources. Contact [Angela Dugas](#) with any questions.

Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

New:

2025-26 aimswebPlus Training Options

To prepare for success in administering aimswebPlus assessments for Act 20, Pearson is offering live webinars. Please note that it is not necessary to attend the webinars live as they will be recorded and made available on demand. A full description of each session can be found here under the “Training” section of the [aimswebPlus Wisconsin website](#).

- Overview for Administrators - [Register](#) for Monday, July 21 (1-2:30 pm CDT) webinar.
- Optimizing Classroom Decisions through Data-Driven Insights - [Register](#) for Thursday, August 21 (9-10:30 am CDT) webinar.
- Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis - [Register](#) for Thursday, August 28 (9-10:30 am CDT) webinar.

2025-26 Assessment Matrix and Printing Requirements

The Wisconsin Assessment Matrix for English-language assessments has been updated for the 2025-2026 school year and, along with the printing requirements document, will be made available online soon.

Changes include:

- 5-Year-Old Kindergarten
 - Mid-year and spring requirement for Phonemic Awareness will be met through assessing Phoneme Segmentation rather than Initial Sounds.
 - Nonsense Word Fluency added to assess Decoding Skills in mid-year and spring.
- Grade 1
 - Letter Naming Fluency added to fall administration.
 - Nonsense Word Fluency and Word Reading Fluency added to fall, mid-year, and spring administrations.



Please note there are no changes to the matrix for Spanish language assessments. When the new English language Assessment Matrix and printing requirements document are available, it will be posted on the [aimswebPlus Wisconsin website](#) (under “Content” section) as well as shared in the DAC Digest.

New 2025-26 Administration and Scoring Manual Available

A new [Early Literacy Administration and Scoring Manual](#) (4K – Grade 1) has been made available in the aimswebPlus Help library. Note that the administration procedures for the measures have not changed, but the information is delivered in a cleaner and clearer format. Please ensure test administrators are using this updated guide for all 2025-26 administrations. As a reminder, the [Reading Administration and Scoring Manual](#) (Grades 2 and above) was updated in February. If your schools have not already printed the new version for Grades 2+, please ensure that it is done prior to the fall 2025 administration.

Finally, the [Testing Best Practices](#) document has also been updated in the Help library. Please encourage your schools to share with all people administering aimswebPlus assessments.

Fall 2025 Braille Orders

Braille test forms for the fall 2025 administration will be available to order beginning July 21. To order materials, please complete the [Orders for Fall 2025 Act 20 Braille Form](#).

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.

Rostering

Starting in the 2025-26 school year, Pearson and Wisconsin DPI will utilize a flexible, hybrid approach to rostering for Act 20 screener assessments. By default, all data points will be loaded nightly through the WISEdata API. However, LEAs may choose to use a third party tool to roster teacher and class data instead. Student data will still be rostered through the WISEdata API for all districts throughout the school year. Student data will continue to be rostered through WISEdata for all districts throughout the school year. Districts may, however, choose to load staff and class data through a third-party vendor, such as Clever or ClassLink.

The decision to have all students rostered through WISEdata ensures consistency across all districts and compliance with DPI’s data standards, especially when populating aimswebPlus with student WISEid’s. This piece is critical for sharing student screener results with DPI. The automated data synchronization supports greater data accuracy while allowing each district to continue rostering non-reading and Grades 4 and up assessments using their preferred method.

Pearson will begin loading student, staff, and class information from WISEdata on a nightly basis beginning August 1. As each district is ready, they can decide whether to continue populating staff and

class data through WISEdata or move to update through a third-party provider. Additional information, including guidance documentation, will be shared on the [aimswebPlus Wisconsin website](#) soon.

2025-26 Update on aimswebPlus Norms

In Wisconsin, the fundamental reading skills and universal reading screener test is administered to students from 4K through 3rd grade to assess proficiency in key literacy skills. It identifies students needing additional support (bottom 25%) and aids in early literacy remediation plans, ensuring fair allocation of student support. The test used is Pearson's aimswebPlus, which has been "re-normed" for the 2025-26 school year. Additional information will soon be available on [aimswebPlus Wisconsin website](#) explaining re-norming and its importance for understanding student performance.

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 have been posted to the [Writing Rich Classrooms: Unit Plans webpage](#).

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

Resource	Description	Assessment
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
Early Literacy Administration and Scoring Manual	Assessment administration and scoring guidance.	aimswEBPlus
Reading Administration and Scoring Manual	Assessment administration and scoring guidance.	aimswEBPlus
Testing Best Practices	General testing guidelines.	aimswEBPlus

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
July	Districts receive notification of schools selected for NAEP 2026 - delayed	NAEP
July 21	aimswEBPlus Training Webinar: Overview for Administrators	aimswEBPlus
August 21	aimswEBPlus Training Webinar: Optimizing Classroom Decisions through Data-Driven Insights	aimswEBPlus
August 28	aimswEBPlus Training Webinar: Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis	aimswEBPlus





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