

Welcome back! As we move into the 2020-21 school year, we understand districts are navigating multiple learning platforms and student schedules, while ensuring student and staff safety. We sincerely appreciate the continued hard work and dedication of our districts, schools, and educators as we begin this school year.

## OEA Assistant Director

At the end of last school year, [we shared](#) news of some reorganization here at DPI, namely that the Offices of Student Assessment and Educational Accountability would merge into a unified Office of Educational Accountability (OEA). While Viji would remain in the role of OEA director, part of the transition included creating a new Assistant Director position to support accountability and data-related work for the team. Today, we share with you that Sam Bohrod started in that position on August 3rd. Sam has worked as a policy consultant in OEA for over five years and brings not only a wealth of knowledge about both state and federal accountability, but also a passion for equity, into his work. Prior to coming to DPI, Sam worked as a classroom teacher for six years. Please join us in welcoming Sam into his new role.

As a reminder, we are happy to retain our current assistant director, Phil Olsen, who will continue to support assessment-related work.

Contact the team via [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov) or [oeamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeamail@dpi.wi.gov) with questions.

## ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES

### Fall Accountability Planning

The Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) staff are busy preparing for accountability related activities this fall. In line with that preparation, we have some relevant updates:

#### Report Card Redesign and 2019-20 Preview Reports

OEA is continuing to work with our Accountability Advisory Group and other state and national experts and stakeholders on design changes for report cards. These include visual design changes, new course data, and changes to the Closing Gaps priority area. As a reminder, you can learn about these changes in the [March 25 DAC Digest](#) and [May 27 DAC Digest](#).

The [2019 Wisconsin Act 185](#) prohibits the release of school and district accountability report cards in the 2020-21 school year. There will be no 2019-20 report cards, but we are working towards securely releasing **accountability preview reports** to schools and districts via SAFE this fall. These preview reports will use data from prior years (i.e., 2018-19 assessment results) to demonstrate the report card calculation and data changes that we have been working on and will supplement the data available in WISEdash for Districts. As we work towards this secure release, OEA will be working with our Accountability Trainers and creating additional [accountability resources](#) to guide schools and districts on these preview reports.

## OEA COVID-19 Webpage

OEA has created a [COVID-19 – Accountability Updates and Resources webpage](#) with summary information on the impact of COVID-19 on school accountability in Wisconsin. Please bookmark this and the main [DPI COVID-19 page](#), which contains COVID-19 information for schools beyond accountability.

## Alternate Accountability

In past years, schools participating in alternate accountability have submitted district-supervised evaluation data to OEA towards the end of the school year up until September. This year, because there will be no 2019-20 state or federal accountability report cards and ratings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, **OEA is not collecting 2019-20 alternate accountability data or forms from schools.**

## Coming Soon: Updated Attendance Guidance

OEA has been in discussions with other teams at DPI regarding updates to the reporting and use of attendance data. We anticipate that new guidance on attendance data will be released in upcoming weeks. In the meantime, please reference the [COVID-related WISEdata Submission Guidance webpage](#) for information on attendance and other data elements.

Please feel to contact us with any accountability questions at [oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov).

~OEA

## WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

### Assessment Strategies to Inform Instruction in 2020-2021 Resource

A new resource, *Assessment Strategies to Inform Instruction in 2020-2021*, will be available to districts in the coming weeks. This resource provides considerations for district and school leaders to use in identifying initial student needs and monitoring ongoing student learning from an equity lens to ensure every student has what they need to learn when they need it. It offers a process and sources of data to identify and align the unfinished learning students need to advance on grade-level standards within the current/upcoming unit of study.

### OSA Office Hours Webinar

The OSA Office Hours Webinars provide OSA updates, address timely issues related to DAC responsibilities, and answer questions about statewide assessments. The first webinar of the 2020-21 school year will be pre-recorded and will be released on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#) and via the DAC Digest the week of September 21. Please submit assessment-related questions you would like to be addressed during the webinar to [Lauren Zellmer](#) by Friday, September 4.

### ACT High School Assessments

#### ACT with writing

##### New:

On August 5, DPI announced the opportunity for districts to administer the ACT online for the spring 2021 assessment. Online testing is **not** required and districts will have the choice to administer the ACT on paper, online or a combination of both paper and online. Below are a few highlights of online testing to consider. Additional information about online testing, including training materials and a schedule of events, will be provided to districts in the near future.

### Online Testing Highlights:

- Provides districts with an additional 15 testing day opportunities
- No paper materials need to be ordered (paper testing may still be required for certain accommodations)
- Districts can split their testing population up over multiple days in any given test window
- Online testing can be used as a make-up for students who missed paper testing, potentially allowing all testing to be completed in one window
- In the event a site is unable to successfully pass technical site readiness, they can be reverted to paper to test on any remaining paper test dates
- Online testers must complete the entire exam (all subjects) in a single test session unless approved accommodations have been given
- Approved devices: PCs, laptops and Chromebooks.
  - iPads and tablets are **not allowed**.

Although online testing provides additional opportunities for districts to test, **DPI strongly encourages districts to test in Test Window 1, if possible**. This allows the use of Test Window 2 and 3 to be used for make-up testing.

### Spring 2021 ACT Testing Dates with Online Testing:

#### Test Window 1 (Initial)

- March 9, 2021 – Paper Administration
- March 9-12 & 15-19, 2021 – Paper Accommodations Administration
- March 9-11 & 16-18, 2021 – Online Administration

#### Test Window 2 (Make-Up)

- March 23, 2021 – Paper Administration
- March 23-26, 29-31 & April 1-2, 2021 – Paper Accommodations Administration
- March 23-25 & 30-31 & April 1, 2021 – Online Administration

#### Test Window 3 (Emergency)

- April 13, 2021 – Paper Administration
- April 13-16 & 19-23, 2021 – Paper Accommodations Administration
- April 13-15 & 20-22, 2021 – Online Administration

### Reminders:

#### Fall Voucher Testing Opportunities

On August 7, districts should have received additional fall National testing vouchers for students who were in the 11th grade in spring 2020 and who were not able to participate in the March statewide ACT with writing administration due to school closures.

- Vouchers are only to be provided to grade 11 students who were not able to test during the 2019-20 school year. Students that tested on March 3, March 17, or with a voucher on the July 18 National test date are not eligible.
- These vouchers provide students with the opportunity to test. **There is no requirement that students test on this date.**
- Students will be able to access their score reports through their online account 5-8 weeks after receipt of answer documents to ACT
- Schools and districts will be able to access student scores through the Online Reporting Portal
- DPI encourages schools and districts to share the [Testing Practice Tools](#) as a resource for students who may still need to test

For districts considering becoming an ACT National testing center, please contact ACT directly at: [testact@act.org](mailto:testact@act.org) or 800.553.6244 ext. 1510.

## School and District Reporting:

The following reports are now available in PANext for all students whose exams were received by ACT on or before April 30. Reports will only be available until **October 6**. OSA strongly encourages you to log into PANext to download and save your reports locally. DPI is not requesting districts to embargo their ACT data this year.

### School Online Deliverables:

- ACT Profile Report

### District Online Deliverables:

- ACT Profile Report - High School
- ACT Profile Report - District
- ACT Student Level Data File - District

**Note:** Results for students whose exams were shipped back to ACT after April 30, or who will be participating in the National testing voucher program, will not be included along with this delivery of the school or district profile reports or district level student data file. Student level data for these students will be available in either late fall or early winter.

## Free Digital Learning Resources for Students Impacted by COVID-19

ACT is providing resources to serve community needs during this challenging time. The resources are adaptable for use in the home and through online learning. To discover more about these resources, visit [ACT online](#).

## DLM

### New:

#### Moodle Training

Moodle Training is now available for the 2020-21 school year. New users or users who have not completed the training in the last calendar year will need to complete the new user training. Users who completed the training in the last year will need to complete the returning user training. New this year is facilitator training which will need to be completed before a facilitator will be able to lead a training. All training can be found at the [DLM Moodle Training Site](#). If you have any questions about the Moodle Training please contact [Mike Peacy](#).

#### Manuals Updated

DLM has completed and posted all of the updated manuals for the 2020-21 testing year on the [Dynamic Learning Maps](#) website. To access the manuals, select the Wisconsin tab under the state drop down menu and click on manuals.

#### Educator Portal Password Reset

Districts will need to reset passwords in Educator Portal for the 2020-21 school year.

To change the password:

- Log into Educator Portal; you will be prompted to reset your password.
- If you have trouble logging into Educator Portal, use the password reset button; you will receive an email to assist you in setting up a new password.

## New Data Extract

DLM has created a new Data Extract for the 2020-21 testing year called the Student Roster and First Contact Survey Status Extract. The new extract will provide testing readiness information for students in one place. The extract will include:

- The grade the student is enrolled in
- All subjects the student is enrolled in
- First Contact survey status and completion date

If you have any questions or need any assistance, contact [Mike Peacy](#).

## National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

### New:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the US Department of Education is communicating with states about different options for testing, and is collecting information about the feasibility of conducting assessments in schools in early 2021. As of now, the NAEP grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics will be conducted with an extended test window of January to March, 2021.

Grade 8 US History and Civics have been canceled for this school year and will likely be added to a future assessment cycle. In addition, the age 17 Long-Term Trend Reading and Mathematics assessments, which were postponed from spring 2020, will be postponed again or canceled.

We expect to receive a final decision about NAEP grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics soon, as well as a list of sample schools selected to participate if the testing moves forward as scheduled. Please send any questions to Angela Dugas: [angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov).

### International Assessments

NCES has canceled the International assessments (PISA and PIRLS) scheduled for this school year.

## Forward Exam

### New:

#### Technology Updates

The Forward Exam test vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), has released a technology bulletin with information about what is new and changing for the upcoming 2020-2021 administration. This bulletin is available on the [Forward Exam Technology Requirements webpage](#).

#### Accessibility Guide

The 2020-2021 Accessibility Guide is now available on the [Forward Exam Accommodations and Supports webpage](#). Please ensure ALL staff are made aware of and view the Accessibility Guide for the upcoming 2021 test administration.

### Reminders:

#### Assessment of New Social Studies Standards

The new Forward Exam for Social Studies was due to be launched in the spring of 2021, giving educators a few years to teach to the new standards prior to testing. This new Social Studies exam will be aligned to the new Social Studies Standards that were released in 2018. However, with the cancellation of the spring 2020 Forward Exam, DRC is unable to field test additional items needed to create the new Social Studies test. Therefore, for spring 2021 we will continue to administer Social Studies assessments aligned to the previous standards. The new Forward Exam for Social Studies will be delayed until the spring of 2022.

# Reading Readiness

New:

## 2020-21 School Year

For the 2020-21 school year, the Reading Readiness requirement will remain the same as previous years. Districts will be required to assess for Reading Readiness all four-year-old kindergarten through second grade students at least once during the school year. Each school board and the operator of each charter school shall select the appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals to be used. The school board or operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge.

As many schools are considering blended models of instruction for this school year, it is important to review the requirements for the administration of a Reading Readiness screener.

- **Who to Screen:** Each school district and each charter school is required to annually assess each student enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten (4K), five-year-old kindergarten (5K), first grade and second grade for fundamental literacy skills.
- **Community-based 4K:** The requirement for four-year-old kindergarten includes community based 4K programs that are part of a school district, as well as traditional elementary school based 4K programs.
- **When to Screen:** DPI does not have a state mandated screening window. Districts are free to establish their own screening window. Keep in mind that some vendors may utilize a screening window and have established benchmarks based on students being screened during the vendor-prescribed window.
- **Virtual Screening:** Each district is authorized to determine the method in which screening may take place. Several vendors allow for virtual administration of their screener. Users of purchased screeners should verify with the vendor the conditions upon which virtual screening should occur.
- **Who Should Administer:** It is highly recommended that classroom teachers administer the screening to each student. Classroom teachers typically have received training and have the most experience with administering a Reading Readiness screener. In general, the most accurate and informative results will be obtained when the classroom teacher administers all parts of the screening.
- **Sharing information with Parents:** Literacy screener results are required to be shared with parents/guardians. Districts can choose their preferred method of communicating these results to parents/guardians.
- **Students Identified as Being at Risk:** If a student's score on the literacy screener indicates the student is at risk of reading difficulty, schools and districts are required to provide interventions or remedial services. [Wis. Stats. 118.016](#) and [Wis. Stats. 121.02\(1\)\(c\)](#) state that the interventions or services provided to the student shall be scientifically based, and shall address all areas in which the student is deficient, in a manner consistent with the state standards in reading and language arts.
- **Interventions and Remedial Services:** Students who are identified as at risk of reading difficulty should continue to receive high-quality core instruction. In addition, targeted small-group and individual interventions may be necessary based on the obtained results. Teachers are also encouraged to work with other professionals (other classroom teachers, reading specialists, special education teachers, ELL teachers, psychologists and principals) to develop intervention plans. It may be helpful to visit the [RtI Center website](#) to develop a tiered system of instruction and support.

## Reimbursement

On June 8, DPI electronically reimbursed districts for their Reading Readiness expenses for the 2019-20 school year. More information about these reimbursements can be found at the [STAR AIDS Register](#); search under "Assessments of Reading Readiness Public".

DPI will reimburse districts for 2020-21 expenses using the same format as previous years. More information about reimbursement can be found at [Reading Readiness Reimbursement](#).

## Reading Readiness Additional Information

More information about Reading Readiness requirements can be found at [Reading Readiness Information](#) and [Reading Readiness FAQ](#).

## ACCESS for ELLs

### New DACS

WIDA AMS accounts for 2020-21 will be automatically set up the week of September 14 for DACs who have returned their completed [DAC Update Forms](#) to OSA by September 7.

### EL Identification

DPI has released guidance on the identification of ELs for 2020-21. It is available as a supplement to the EL Policy Handbook guidance, and can be found here:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/english-learners/el-identification-and-placement>.

Please see the guidance for Chapters 1-3 on using a Home Language Survey, administering a standard ELP Screener or the WIDA Remote Screener, and making an EL status determination.

### ACCESS for ELLs

At this time districts should still plan to administer ACCESS for ELLs. Please see the calendar below for important testing dates.

## DAC DIGEST DIGESTIBLES

### Important Dates to Remember

<b>August</b>	17: Delivery of 2019-20 ACCESS Paper ISRs	ACCESS
<b>September</b>	28: Private School Pre-ID Upload Window Opens	ACCESS