



# The DAC Digest

## Assessment & Accountability Updates

August 15, 2025

## Accountability

### New:

#### Report Card Standard Setting Update

On August 14, 2025, the [report card standard setting panel](#) concluded their work and submitted key recommendations to update performance benchmarks used in the state's annual school and district report cards. You can learn more in an [August 15 DPI new release](#). Thank you to the more than two dozen education leaders from across Wisconsin for their expertise and commitment to this important work!

#### New Public Report Card App

As part of the state accountability system, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) produces report cards for every publicly funded school and district in Wisconsin. Each fall, DPI shares Secure (unredacted) report cards directly to schools and districts in [SAFE](#), the Secure Access File Exchange. Public versions of the report cards are made available later in the fall as downloadable PDFs. This year, the DPI is excited to announce that the public report cards can be found on a [new, updated report card app!](#)

The new report card app contains the same core features as the previous app, as users can still locate and download PDF report cards for every school and district by school year. New improvements include the ability to search for report cards by school or city, the option to download multiple report cards at the same time, and a redesigned look and feel.


For questions about report cards, please contact the Office Educational Accountability at [ReportCardHelp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:ReportCardHelp@dpi.wi.gov). For questions about accessing SAFE or the report card app, please contact the [DPI Help Desk](#).

#### 2025 Report Card Narrative Statement Collection Updates

Each year, DPI invites districts and schools to submit a brief narrative statement for the front page of their report cards. The narrative statement is a short, optional overview that allows you to share insights beyond the report card data, such as your school's mission, new or ongoing initiatives, descriptions of district/school culture or curriculum, or other noteworthy characteristics.

To view your previous narrative statements or see examples from other districts or schools, visit [the new Public Report Card app](#) and open the first page of any prior school or district report card. The narrative statement is a 400-character text box on the top right of the front page of the school and district report card, an example screenshot of where this appears is included below:



<b>Example Mid-Sized District</b> District Report Card	Report Card, 2024-25 Public report	
<b>OVERVIEW</b>		
<b>District Details</b>	This is an example of the 400-character statement that can be included on the top of the front page of a school and district report card. This statement can be updated annually and can either be unique to the school or district or more general. The DPI's intention with this statement is to allow schools and district to highlight information that would not otherwise be included in this report card.	
Grades : KG-12	<i>The statement above is provided by the district. It is not an evaluation by the Wisconsin DPI.</i>	
Enrollment : 2,031		
Percent open enrollment : 0%		

New for 2024-25! If a narrative statement was submitted last year, it will automatically carry over to the 2024-25 report cards. If no changes are made by a district or school, last year's statements will appear as-is on this year's report cards. You will have the option to edit, add, or delete statements annually via an application, the [School Directory Management Portal](#), found within [WISEhome](#). As always, narrative statements will appear in the fall preliminary secure release for your review prior to the public release.

For more information about the 2024-25 survey collection including the timeline for submitting or editing a statement as well as instructions for gaining edit access to the School Directory Management Portal, see the [Report Card Narrative Statement page](#). If you have any questions, please [contact OEA](#).

The last day to update narrative statements within the School Directory Management Portal is Friday, September 5, 2025. The narrative statements in the School Directory Management Portal as of September 5 will be included in the fall preliminary secure release of report cards.

## Assessment

### New:

#### Annual DAC and DTC Contact Information Update Forms

The 2025-26 annual [District Assessment Coordinator \(DAC\) and District Technology Coordinator \(DTC\) Update forms](#) must be submitted by **September 30** to ensure the information is correct for the DPI upload to the vendor portals. These forms are required for both new and returning DACs and DTCs, even if the information has not changed, and must be signed by the District Administrator. The information provided is used to:

- Ensure DACs and DTCs are on the email lists which will provide them with regular assessment updates throughout the year.
- Upload DAC information into vendor portals to ensure DACs have 2025-26 permissions.



**Important notes:**

- 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.
- DACs should remove permissions from and/or make inactive any individuals in vendor portals who are no longer employed by the district and adjust user roles to sync with recent staffing changes.
- If DAC contact changes occur after form submission, a new form should be submitted to name a new or interim DAC.

**Reminder:****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. Districts will build their own professional learning plan by focusing on an assessment topic that best aligns 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. 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.

**WIDA ACCESS****New:****Changes to MODEL**

WIDA has transitioned the [MODEL assessment](#) to an online interim/progress monitoring assessment, and has discontinued its use as an ELP screener. Districts which are still using this assessment for kindergarten ELP screening must transition to the WIDA Screener for Kindergarten, available in the WIDA Secure Portal under [Assessment Training](#).

**Reminders:****DRC Insight Update Required**

On August 1 DRC Insight received a major version update. Please ensure that the Insight installs on student devices are updated to the newest version. Details were shared in a broadcast email from DRC on July 14.



### **ACCESS Test Redesign/Rebranding**

WIDA has revised ACCESS for the 2025-26 school year, rebranding it as WIDA ACCESS, WIDA ACCESS for Kindergarten, and WIDA Alternate ACCESS. Grades 1-12 remain unchanged, but 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](#).

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## **ACT**

### **Reminder:**

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

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## **PreACT Secure**

### **Reminder:**

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

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## **DLM**

### **New:**

#### **User Accounts**

District Assessment Coordinators can begin to add user accounts through Educator Portal. Adding user accounts early allows teachers to begin working on their training, First Contact Surveys and the Instruction and Assessment Planner. If you have any questions regarding Educator Portal, please contact [Mike Peacy](#).

#### **Rosters**

District Assessment Coordinators can begin to create rosters in Educator Portal. Creating rosters early allows teachers access to digital score reports for the students rostered to them. Teachers can use these reports to help guide their instruction. Rosters are also needed for teachers to fill out First Contact Surveys and use the Instruction and Assessment Planner.

#### **DLM Training Site**

The DLM Training Site is available for teachers. Educators will access the DLM Training Site through Educator Portal. Log into Educator Portal and select the training tab. Select the assigned training and the training site will open. If you have any questions regarding training please contact [Mike Peacy](#).



## Multifactor Authentication

To protect student Personally Identifiable Information (PII), DLM has implemented [Multifactor Authentication](#) (MFA) when logging into Educator Portal. MFA adds an additional layer of security by requiring users to provide two or more verification factors to gain access to systems and applications. This significantly reduces the risk of unauthorized access, even if a password is compromised. After entering your password, you will receive an emailed code that must be entered to successfully login to Educator Portal. This code is active for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, a new code will need to be requested.

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## Forward Exam

### New:

#### Accessibility Guide

The 2025-26 Accessibility Guide is now available on the [Forward Exam Accommodations and Supports webpage](#). Please ensure ALL staff are made aware of and review the Accessibility Guide for the 2026 test administration.

### Reminders:

#### 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 or an error message will display. 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](#).

#### 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 later in 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](#).

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## NAEP and International Assessments

### New:

#### NAEP 2026 Notifications

Initial notifications to districts with schools selected for NAEP 2026 were emailed to district administrators and DACs on July 24. Notifications to school principals were emailed on August 7.

Follow-up emails were sent to DACs that have schools participating in reading and mathematics assessments on August 8, which included information about registering for the [NAEP Assessment Management System \(AMS\)](#) and completing school technology surveys. The mathematics and reading assessments will be administered on Chromebooks provided by NAEP *or* on school devices. The technology surveys will help determine which device-mode each school will use. Please note that some schools that are eligible to use school devices may still be designated to use NAEP devices. DACs may choose to designate a district technology coordinator to complete the surveys for their schools by emailing [Angela Dugas](#) their contact information. **Technology surveys need to be completed by September 19.** Surveys are not necessary for schools participating in the civics and U.S. history assessments, as they will be administered on NAEP devices.

Angela will follow up with school principals in September regarding next steps to prepare for NAEP, including designating a school coordinator and registering for the NAEP AMS.

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

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## Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

### New:

#### Fall 2025 Braille Orders and Administration Guide

Braille test forms for the Fall 2025 administration are available to order. To order materials, please complete the [Wisconsin Act 20 Fall 2025 Braille Order Form](#). A new [Wisconsin Act 20 Braille Administration and Scoring Guide](#) has been posted to the aimswebPlus Help Site.

#### 2025-26 Act 20 Checklists for 4K – Grade 3

A brand new set of [aimswebPlus Benchmark Administration Checklists](#) for 4K – Grade 3 have been posted to the WI aimswebPlus website. These checklists share where to access the necessary materials

before testing, where to record responses during or after administration, and which reports might be most beneficial after administration.

### Individual Student Report for Spanish 4K CELF Screener

A new individual student report is available in aimswebPlus for the Spanish language 4K CELF screener. This report provides the score for each student as well as whether the student did or did not meet criterion, and general information about the screener.

## Reminders:

### 2025-26 aimswebPlus Training Options

To prepare for success in administering aimswebPlus assessments for Act 20, Pearson is offering the below set of 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 is available on the [Wisconsin aimswebPlus website](#) under the “Training” section.

- [Register for the Optimizing Classroom Decisions through Data-Driven Insights webinar](#) – Thursday, August 21 (9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CT)
- [Register for the Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis webinar](#) – Thursday, August 28 (9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CT)

Additionally, the recording of the July 21 [Overview for Administrators webinar](#) has been posted for on-demand viewing.

### 2025-26 Assessment Matrix and Printing Requirements

The [Wisconsin Assessment Matrix for English-language assessments](#) has been updated for the 2025-26 school year. The [English Printing Requirements](#) has also been updated. 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

**Note:** there are no changes to the matrix for Spanish language assessments.

### 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 more concise format. Test administrators must use the 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 schools have not already printed the new version for Grades 2+, please ensure that is done prior to the Fall 2025 administration. Finally, the [Testing Best Practices](#) has also been updated in the Help library. Encourage schools to share the updated best practices with all staff administering aimswebPlus assessments.

### 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. The screener 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.

### 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. 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. A 2025-26 Rostering Guide will be posted to the [Wisconsin aimswebPlus website](#) soon.

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## WISEdash for Districts Training and Advisory Group Opportunities

### New:

#### Help Shape the Future of WISEdash!

The WISEdash Advisory Group is a volunteer group of about 20 WISEdash users from varying roles such as assessment coordinators, special education directors, curriculum and instruction directors, principals, data analysts, district administrators, and others across multiple districts of different sizes. This virtual group meets regularly to explore topics related to WISEdash, a set of dashboard-driven portals that

display aggregate and student-level data for educators to improve educational outcomes. In addition, the group receives timely WISEdash information and updates.

The role of the advisory group is to:

- provide feedback and ideas on tools and dashboards that should be updated or built within WISEdash;
- share ways you have used WISEdash to help your district;
- promote WISEdash use among your peers.

DPI is looking for new members from school districts or independent charter schools specifically to join in 2025-26. Please complete the [interest survey](#) if you work for a school district or Independent Charter School and are interested in participating in the WISEdash Advisory Group.

### WISEdash for Districts – Upcoming Beginner and Intermediate Trainings

Please join us virtually for upcoming Beginner and Intermediate WISEdash for Districts trainings. If you or your staff are new or would like a refresher, this is a great way to get familiar with WISEdash for Districts.

Registration is required, links to registration are included with more details below for each training.

- [Register for the WISEdash for Beginners Training](#) - Tuesday, August 26; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- [Register for the WISEdash for Intermediate Users Training](#) - Thursday, August 28; 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please submit a [WISE Help Ticket](#) and a member of the Partner Support team will get back to you.

## Resources

### Reminder:

#### 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.

## 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
<a href="#">Accessibility Guide</a>	Forward Exam 2025-26 Accessibility Guide	Forward
<a href="#">NAEP Facts for Districts</a>	Overview of NAEP 2026	NAEP
<a href="#">Reporting Resources</a>	Sample ISR cover letter and student score guide.	PreACT Secure
<a href="#">ACT Online Reporting User Guide</a>	Guide to assist users with accessing reports and ISRs in Success.ACT.	ACT/PreACT Secure
<a href="#">Early Literacy Administration and Scoring Manual</a>	Assessment administration and scoring guidance.	aimswebPlus
<a href="#">Reading Administration and Scoring Manual</a>	Assessment administration and scoring guidance.	aimswebPlus
<a href="#">Testing Best Practices</a>	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
September 5	Deadline to update, submit, or delete any narrative statements for the preliminary secure release of the school and district report cards in School Directory Management Portal.	Report Cards

Date	Event	Program
September 19	Deadline for districts to complete school technology surveys for schools participating in NAEP reading and mathematics.	NAEP
September 30	DAC Update Forms due to DPI.	ALL



This publication is available from:  
 Division of Student and School Success  
 Office of Educational Accountability  
 (608) 267-1072

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

August 2025 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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