



# The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

August 20, 2025

## Accountability

### Reminders:

#### Report Card Standard Setting Update

On August 14, 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!

#### 2025 Report Card Narrative Statement Collection - Timeline and Updates

The collection window for the report card narrative statement is currently open and statements were automatically rolled forward from the 2024-25 report cards. All statement modifications are due on Friday, September 5th for inclusion in the preliminary secure release of report cards. The narrative statements in the School Directory Management Portal as of September 5th will be included in the fall preliminary secure release of report cards. Please see the [August 15 DAC Digest](#) and the [Report Card Narrative Statement webpage](#) for more information regarding the statement collection process and how to access the collection application.

If you have any questions regarding the narrative statements on the report card, please reach out to [ReportCardHelp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:ReportCardHelp@dpi.wi.gov). If you have issues gaining access to the Narrative Statement Collection Portal, please open a [WISE Help Ticket](#).

## Assessment

### Reminders:

#### 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. See the [August 15 DAC Digest](#) for more information. This is not to be confused with the *DAC Confidentiality Form*, which is required closer to the testing windows.



### 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 any questions.

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## WIDA ACCESS

### Reminders:

#### 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](#).

#### 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. 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. For more information on this redesign, please visit WIDA's [Revising ACCESS webpage](#).

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## ACT

### Reminder:

Please visit the [ACT website](#) for ACT information, resources and dates.

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## PreACT Secure

### Reminder:

Please visit the [PreACT Secure website](#) for ACT information, resources and dates.

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## DLM

### Reminders:

#### 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 log in 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

### Reminders:

#### 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.

### 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](#).

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## NAEP and International Assessments

### Reminder:

#### 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:

#### New Family Report Available

A brand new Family Report has been released in aimswebPlus. This report can be shared with parents or other family members and provides a key tool for parental engagement and student success tracking. The Family Report is available in English and Spanish. The [Release Notes](#) from the update are now available and include screenshots of where to find the report.

#### 2025-26 Act 20 aimswebPlus Rostering Guide Posted

[The Wisconsin ACT 20 Rostering Guide](#) is now available. This guide includes information about changes from last school year as well as key information needed to successfully roster for Act 20 this year. Additional information has been shared in the August 2025 edition of the [WISE Insights newsletter](#).

### 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 (9-10:30 am CDT)
- [Register for the Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis webinar](#) – Thursday, August 28 (9-10:30 am CDT)

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. Please 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 it 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.

### **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.

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## **WISEdash for Districts Training and Advisory Group Opportunities**

### **Reminders:**

#### **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.

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## **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.
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## 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
September 8	Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) opens.	ACT
September 19	Deadline for districts to complete school technology surveys for schools participating in NAEP reading and mathematics.	NAEP

Date	Event	Program
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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