The DAC Digest
August 26, 2020

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES

Flexibility in Requirements for Continuous Improvement Planning

Last week, DPI sent a Continuous Improvement Plan Flexibility Memo to districts with federal identifications. This memo contains information on flexibility related to requirements for federally identified districts to the extent allowed under federal law (ESSA and IDEA). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, districts identified through IDEA LEA Determinations and IDEA Racial Equity have been given flexibility through IDEA in implementing required continuous improvement plans. For school-level identifications under ESSA (CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools), there are no changes to continuous improvement planning at this time, as federal law has not provided additional flexibility under ESSA. Please note, however, that an updated Continuous Improvement Process Criteria and Rubric has been posted on DPI's Continuous Improvement Support webpage. A summary of the changes is listed on pages 22-23 of the rubric document.

As a reminder, there will be no new ESSA identifications in the 2020-21 school year, but there will be IDEA LEA determinations. You can find more information on this and the impact of COVID-19 on federal accountability on our OEA COVID-19 webpage.

For questions about IDEA LEA Determinations and Racial Equity, please schedule a virtual meeting with Joint Federal Notifications Support. For questions about ESSA accountability, please email OEA at oeamail@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.

OEA Office Hours Webinar

The OEA Office Hours Webinars provide OEA assessment updates, address timely issues related to DAC responsibilities, and answer questions about statewide assessments. Webinars will occur four-five times this year in September, November, January, and March. We will communicate dates as they are finalized throughout the year.

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 addressed during the webinar to <u>Lauren Zellmer</u> by Friday, September 4.**

Annual DAC/DTC Update Form

Be sure to submit your district's annual [District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) and District Technology Coordinator (DTC) update forms](#) by September 30.
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 2020-21 permissions.

Important notes:
- WIDA AMS accounts for 2020-21 will be automatically set up the week of September 14 for DACs who have returned their completed forms to OEA by September 7.
- 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.
- District administrators must sign the form

ACT High School Assessments
ACT with writing

Reminders

DPI announced the opportunity for districts to administer the ACT online for the spring 2021 assessment. Online testing is <u>*not*</u> 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

DLM
New:
Instruction and Assessment Planner
The Instruction and Assessment Planner will be open for the school year on September 14. One of the main goals of this program is to support the teaching and learning of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. The other main goal is to support the process of administering assessments and using results to guide next steps. If your district is interested in using the Instruction and Assessment planner to help guide education for your students, please reach out to Mike Peacy.

Reminders:
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.

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)

We are still awaiting a final decision about NAEP 2021. As of now, the NAEP grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics tests will be conducted with an extended window of January to March, 2021. NCES has the following message posted on their website:

> *The current NAEP 2021 schedule includes assessing fourth- and eighth-grade students in schools across the country in mathematics and reading. The National Center for Education Statistics is aware of the enormous challenges that our nation's schools are facing due to the COVID-19 outbreak and the flexible approaches needed to assess students during this time. NCES continues to monitor COVID-19 developments and will work closely with our state and district partners to determine how best to assess students in schools.*

Once we get confirmation that the assessments will be conducted, we will send out notification to districts and schools that have been selected, along with specific information about testing procedures and safety protocols. In the meantime, please send any questions to Angela Dugas: angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov.

Forward Exam

Reminders:

Information for Families Brochure

The updated Information for Families Brochure for the 2020-21 school year is now available on the Forward Exam Resources webpage. The brochure is available in English, Spanish, and Hmong.

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.

Reading Readiness

Reminders:

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

Test Window Extension

To allow districts more time and flexibility during the 2020-21 school year, the ACCESS for ELLs test window will be extended through February 26. As DPI, WIDA, and DRC better understand the impact of Wisconsin and other states adjusting their test windows, we will update you on the timeline for spring post-testing activities, such as data validation windows and reporting.

The ACCESS for ELLs Test Window is currently scheduled for December 1, 2020 through February 26, 2021.

Reminders

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 OEA 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.

DAC DIGEST DIGESTIBLES

Important Dates to Remember		
September	28: Private School Pre-ID Upload Window Opens	ACCESS
	30: Annual DAC/DTC Update Form Due	