



## COVID-19

### Attendance Flexibility Provisions in 2020-21

Last week, an [email from Deputy State Superintendent Mike Thompson](#) was sent to district administrators containing information on [COVID-19 Regulatory Flexibility Framework Provisions for the 2020-21 School Year](#). This framework contains updated flexibility provisions on a number of topics, including attendance. DPI will require districts to record attendance in 2020-21 and the framework outlines attendance information and examples for in person and virtual (synchronous and asynchronous) learning environments.

- *In person* - Standard reporting practices and guidance apply and attendance should be taken daily. The [WISEdata: Attendance](#) page contains complete guidance on in person attendance reporting.
- *Virtual instruction* - The framework lists many examples for taking attendance in virtual instruction settings including (but not limited to) Learning Management System Records, completion of assignments, and regular check-ins. Please see the framework for a more comprehensive list.

DPI will capture official attendance data for 2020-21 in December 2021, as part of the Year End WISEdata snapshot. You can find this framework and more information on the [DPI COVID-19 webpage](#). For COVID-19 specific questions, please email [COVID-19questions@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:COVID-19questions@dpi.wi.gov).

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## Accountability Updates

### Joint Federal Notifications in 2020-21

As mentioned in [previous DAC Digests](#), DPI was granted a federal waiver by the U.S. Department of Education in March, which provided relief from ESSA testing, accountability, and reporting requirements. From an accountability perspective, this means that schools with ESSA identifications in 2019-20 retain those identifications this coming year.

As you also know, ESSA accountability reporting is part of a coordinated joint federal notification effort in support of [continuous improvement](#) in schools and districts. Preliminary secure joint federal notifications are typically released in early December, and include IDEA LEA Determinations, ESSA Accountability Reports, and ESSA Progress to Exit Reports. Final notifications are released in March and also include

Racial Equity in Special Education (disproportionality) reports. In light of our federal waiver and data limitations, DPI staff met over the summer to discuss reporting plans for the coming year, and considered the following:

- We have to produce new LEA Determinations reports because the U.S. Department of Education did not offer waivers from IDEA accountability.
- For ESSA accountability, there are no new identifications, and we do not have sufficient data to produce summary scores, but we do have some new data:
  - ACCESS for ELLs (to measure progress in attaining English language proficiency)
  - Attendance (to measure absenteeism)
  - Graduation (to measure four- and seven-year graduation rates)
- Schools and districts face unique new burdens this year and we want to reduce burden whenever possible.
- Continuous improvement is more important than ever, and when new data are available, they may be valuable to those of you supporting school improvement and should be shared.

We are releasing the following informational ESSA reports:

- ESSA Accountability Reports will be converted to informational reports that include only new data. This means that reports will be shortened from 20 to two pages.
- ESSA Progress to Exit Reports will be updated with new data where available. These reports are only for schools with identifications and, while schools cannot exit following 2020-21, new data are relevant for future years when it will be possible to exit.
- We will provide more information about IDEA and ESSA reporting in the coming months, but here are key points:
  - DPI is proceeding with Joint Federal Notifications that include both IDEA and ESSA reporting.
  - Preliminary Joint Federal Notifications will be released in early December.
  - IDEA accountability is still in place, with new LEA Determinations this year.
  - ESSA accountability is informational only, with reports that contain updated data to inform ongoing continuous improvement efforts.

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## Assessment Updates

### Assessment Strategies to Inform Instruction in 2020-21 Resource

[Assessment Strategies to Inform Instruction in 2020-21](#) provides considerations for district and school leaders to use in identifying initial student needs and monitoring ongoing student learning from an equity lens. It offers a process and sources of data to identify and align the unfinished learning students need to advance on grade-level standards.

## OEA Office Hours Webinar

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 [Lauren Zellmer](#) by Friday, September 4.

## Annual DAC/DTC Update Forms

Annual [District Assessment Coordinator \(DAC\) and District Technology Coordinator \(DTC\) update forms](#) are due September 30 to ensure access to vendor portals and email communication from OEA.

## ACCESS for ELLs

### Reminder:

#### Test Window Extension

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

## ACT with writing

### New:

#### Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) Migration

ACT's Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) has migrated into [Success.ACT.org](#).

- If you currently do not have an account with Success.ACT, you must create one by visiting [Success.ACT.org](#). **Set up your account using the same email address used to log into TAA.**
  - Using the same email address will allow your TAA access to migrate over to Success.ACT.
  - Your current TAA login credentials cannot be used to log into Success.ACT, you must create a separate account.
- If you currently have an account set up with Success.ACT.org, your TAA account will already be migrated and you will have access as soon as you log in.
- If you do not have access to TAA, create an account in Success.ACT and request access. Please see the [TAA User Guide](#) on steps to request access.

#### 2021 ACT Resources and Portals

2021 test dates are posted on the [DPI ACT Calendar webpage](#).

- The detailed 2021 resources including Schedule of Events, manuals and training materials will start to become available early October.
- ACT maintains a [resource webpage](#) for grade 11 state testing in Wisconsin. [DPI also maintains resource pages](#) for the ACT.
- [ACT PearsonAccessNext \(PANext\) Portal](#).
- The ACT PANext portal will open November 2.
- Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) System will open September 14.

**Data**

The 2019-20 ACT Statewide (11th Grade) data is available in [WISEdash for Districts](#). Please note, this data does not include 2019-20 11th grade students who tested with vouchers during the summer and fall ACT National test dates. The most recent information on dashboards can be found here: [About the Data](#).

The data in the WISEdash secure portal contain personally identifiable student information. Data security requirements as outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and state law must be met before the results are shared publicly.

**WISEDash**

Performance data from ACT 2019-20 is available in the [WISEdash](#) public portal. Please note, this data does not include 2019-20 11th grade students who tested with vouchers during the summer and fall ACT National test dates.

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## Forward Exam

**Reminders:****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 2020-21 administration. This bulletin is available on the Forward Exam Technology Requirements webpage.

**Accessibility Guide**

The 2020-21 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.

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## National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

**Reminder:**

NCES announced that NAEP grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics tests will be conducted with an extended window of January to March, 2021, and with a reduced sample size of schools across the nation. Additionally, there will be no Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) reporting. Selected schools will be notified by the end of September and will receive specific information about testing procedures and safety protocols. Please send questions to [Angela Dugas](#).

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# 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. More information about the requirements can be found at: [Assessment of Reading Readiness](#).

## 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](#).

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

| New Online Resource Highlights   |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| <i>As new resources are posted to our website, we will include them here for your convenience for two weeks. This is NOT an exhaustive list, but meant to highlight resources with significant relevance to our upcoming test windows.</i> |   |            |
| Resource   | Description   | Assessment |
| <a href="#">Assessment Strategies to Inform Instruction in 2020-21</a>   | Provides considerations for district and school leaders to use in identifying initial student needs and monitoring ongoing student learning from an equity lens.  | N/A        |
| <a href="#">Accessibility Guide</a>  | Provides information for classroom teachers, English development educators, special education teachers, and related services personnel as they select and administer universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations for those students who need them. | Forward    |
| <a href="#">Wisconsin Forward Exam Technology Requirements</a>   | Provides information about what is new and changing for the upcoming 2020-21 administration.  | Forward    |



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