



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

September 25, 2025

Accountability

New:

2024-25 Report Cards Preliminary Secure Release - October 2

An update was included in the [EdLeaders Dispatch](#) sent to District Administrators on Tuesday, September 23 announcing that **next week, October 2, DPI will release the secure preliminary versions of the 2024-25 School and District Report Cards**. As in prior years, the preliminary report cards will be released via [SAFE](#), the Secure Access File Exchange. Please make sure you have [access to SAFE](#) prior to the secure release. If you have any questions about accessing SAFE, please [submit a WISE help ticket](#).

As a secure report, they contain potentially identifiable student information and have not been redacted. As such, and because the report cards are preliminary and subject to change, **the secure reports and any information on the preliminary report cards may not be shared** with your local media, parents, or members of the community.

The secure release opens the [report card inquiry period](#), which will take place between October 2-13. This window is an opportunity for schools and districts to work with OEA to address possible data submission errors.

Report Card Resources

In preparation for next week's secure release, we have posted [report card resources](#) to guide your review of the preliminary report cards and assist with local report card interpretation and messaging. These three resources are particularly helpful to inform initial review as part of the inquiry period:

- What's New document, outlining the updates to the report cards;
- Secure Release Checklist, which can be used when reviewing preliminary report cards; and
- Guide to Correctable Data document, outlining which accountability data may be corrected through opening an inquiry.

OEA will continue to update our resources webpage as we move towards the preliminary secure report card release, as well as the final secure and public releases planned for November.



Assessment

New:

2024-25 Assessment Data Public Release -September 25

Spring 2024-25 statewide assessment results for the Forward Exam, ACT, PreACT Secure, and DLM are now available in the [WISEdash public portal](#). A press release is available on the [DPI News Releases webpage](#). Several resources including the Assessment Data Release, Parent Letter Template and the Assessment Data Release Talking Points are available on the [Office of Educational Accountability webpage](#). Additional resources are available for each assessment on the corresponding assessment's data and results webpage. If you have any questions, please contact the [Office of Educational Accountability](#).

Reminder:

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*.

WIDA ACCESS

Reminder:

Rostering

On September 26, the non-public roster upload window will open. Most Choice participants will be included in the public school upload, so this window is just for non-Choice private schools who do not submit enrollment records to DPI.

On October 9, DPI will upload a preliminary roster for the 2025-26 ACCESS administration. This will reflect the EL statuses pushed to WISEdata from your SIS on the night of October 7. Please ensure that students' EL statuses are up-to-date and being synched to WISEdata prior to that time.

After the preliminary roster is uploaded, you'll have approximately two weeks to identify any missing students and correct their EL statuses before we do a final roster upload.

ACT

Reminder:

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

PreACT Secure

Reminder:

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

DLM

New:

DLM Test Administrator Facilitated Training

This year, DPI is offering a virtual DLM New Test Administrator Facilitated Training to provide new test administrators with an environment to train as a group. The training will be on September 30 from 3 pm-6 pm. To register for this training, please fill out the [DLM Test Administrator Training Form](#). You will be sent a Microsoft Teams meeting link prior to September 30 to join the training. Please make sure your device can access Microsoft Teams.

Reminders:

User Accounts and Rosters

District Assessment Coordinators can begin updating user accounts and assigning students to rosters. Assuring teachers have their user accounts and students rostered to them is a crucial part of using various options with the DLM. Teachers with students rostered to them can access student score reports, begin their training and use the Instruction and Assessment Planner.

Resources are Available

Test Coordinator Checklists, Test Administrator Checklists, and DLM Parent Informational Brochures are now available on the [DLM Resources webpage](#).

Please contact [Mike Peacy](#) with any questions.

Forward Exam

New:

Forward Exam 2026 DAC Training

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) invite District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and up to three assessment staff members (e.g., School Assessment Coordinator, Assistant to DAC) to attend an **in-person training** event for the spring 2026 Forward Exam. Identical trainings will be held in different locations across the state November 3-7 and run from 9 am to 2:30 pm each day. **An email with registration information will be sent to all DACs on September 26.** Registration must be completed no later than October 24.

The in-person training will include:

- 2026 DRC New Portal changes and updates:
 - Accommodation and designated support upload/assignment
 - Test set-up availability
 - Student transfers
 - Updated administrator tutorials
 - Reports
- New student rostering process (Ed-Fi API).
- Forward Exam management from start to finish.

Reminder:

Forward Exam Calendar

The 2025-26 key dates and deadlines are now available on the [Forward Exam Calendar webpage](#). Dates may be subject to change, so be sure to refer to this webpage throughout the year for most current dates.

NAEP and International Assessments

Reminder:

Communications to Principals and Next Steps

Angela Duags will send emails to school principals by the end of this week with information about next steps to prepare for NAEP assessments. Principals will be invited to register for the NAEP Assessment Management System ([NAEP AMS](#)) and designate a NAEP School Coordinator, who should register for the NAEP AMS and complete the *Provide School Characteristics* section by **October 15**. DACs can review testing modes (school devices or NAEP-provided devices) and monitor the progress of their schools in the NAEP AMS. Assessment dates will be sent to schools and posted in the NAEP AMS in November.

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

Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

New:

'Student Not Tested' Indicator Coming Soon

Pearson is in the process of developing an indicator within the aimswebPlus platform that allows users to indicate when a student has not tested on an Act 20 screener as well as the reason why (for example, absent, advanced to diagnostic, etc.). There is no action on the part of districts at this time, more information and a guide will be shared in the coming weeks as it is available.

Reminders:

Training Webinar Posted: Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis

The [Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis webinar recording](#) has been posted online for on-demand playback. The [Overview for Administrators](#) and [Optimizing Classroom Decisions through Data-Driven Insights](#) webinars are also available for on-demand viewing.

Updated Act 20 aimswebPlus Rostering Guide Posted

An updated version of the [Wisconsin Act 20 aimswebPlus Rostering Guide](#) has been posted online. Changes are outlined in Appendix A and include the addition of field mapping for rostering between WISEdata and aimswebPlus as well as new information in the Enabling WISEdata Nightly Sync section.

New Guide for Understanding Student Percentile Changes for Families

A new document has been posted online titled [What Does a Change in a Student's Percentile Mean? How Updated Norms Impact Risk Status in Wisconsin](#). This guide is meant to be shared with families to help understand what changes in their student's percentile on Act 20 screeners may mean from year to year.

Rostering in aimswebPlus for 2025-26

Thank you for working diligently to ensure data shared in WISEdata and third party tools are rostered and ready for administration of the Act 20 measures. For technical support, please reach out to one of the below resources:

- [WISE Help Desk](#) (608) 267-9115
 - Loading rostering data from a Student Information System (SIS) to WISEdata
 - Viewing rostering data in WISEdata
- [Pearson aimswebPlus/Customer Support](#) (866) 313-6194, option 2
 - Viewing rostering data in aimswebPlus
 - Loading staff and class data from a third-party source
 - Viewing and exporting score results in aimswebPlus

Act 20 Braille Administration and Scoring Guide and Transcriber's Notes Posted Online

For districts administering Act 20 aimswebPlus measures, a braille administration and scoring guide as well as braille transcriber's notes have been posted to the WI aimswebPlus website in the Accessibility and Accommodations section. As a reminder, braille forms can also be ordered for fall 2025 using this form. Materials for winter and spring will be available as we approach the start of those admins.

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
Preparing for ACCESS Testing	Resources to prep for ACCESS Testing	ACCESS
Accessibility Supports Guide	ACT 2025-26 Accessibility Supports Guide	ACT
Accessibility Supports Guide	PreACT Secure 2025-26 Accessibility Supports Guide	PreACT Secure
Accessibility Guide	Forward Exam 2025-26 Accessibility Guide	Forward
NAEP Facts for Districts	Overview of NAEP 2026	NAEP
Empowering Individualized Student Decisions through Data Analysis webinar recording	Recorded webinar on data analysis	aimswebPlus
What Does a Change in a Student's Percentile Mean? How Updated Norms Impact Risk Status in Wisconsin	Resource for families explaining how academic test scores for early literacy are interpreted this year	aimswebPlus
Wisconsin Act 20 aimswebPlus Rostering Guide	aimswebPlus Rostering Guide	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 26	New DACs added to WIDA AMS, Non-public Roster Upload opens.	ACCESS
September 30	DAC Update Forms due to DPI.	ALL
October 9	Preliminary ACCESS roster uploaded to WIDA AMS.	ACCESS

Date	Event	Program
October 15	NAEP School Coordinators register for the NAEP AMS and complete the <i>Provide School Characteristics</i> section (<i>selected schools only</i>).	NAEP
October 22	ACT/PreACT Secure Office Hours – Enhancements.	ACT/PreACT Secure
October 23	Final ACCESS roster uploaded to WIDA AMS Materials orders and labels generated.	ACCESS
October 24	Deadline to register for the 2026 Forward Exam in-person DAC training.	Forward
October 28	ACT Office Hours - New Test Coordinator Overview.	ACT
October 30	WIDA AMS Test Setup available.	ACCESS
November 3	PersonAccess ^{next} opens for 2026 ACT.	ACT
November 3-7	In-person DAC trainings.	Forward



This publication is available from:
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 Office of Educational Accountability
 (608) 267-1072

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

September 2025 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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