



The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

September 3, 2025

Back to School Greetings

New:

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year! We would like to thank all the educators who participated in report card standard setting and item review meetings with OEA this summer. We appreciate your dedication to Wisconsin students and the Wisconsin Student Assessment System. We look forward to providing you with assessment and accountability resources and support throughout the year. The [Office of Educational Accountability website](#) includes information, timelines, trainings, and resources related to assessment and accountability in Wisconsin. We also include upcoming timelines and new resources at the bottom of the DAC Digest for your convenience.

Please email osamail@dpi.wi.gov with assessment related questions and oeamail@dpi.wi.gov with accountability related questions.

Accountability

Reminders:

2025 Report Card Narrative Statement Collection - Deadline, Friday September 5th

The collection window for the report card narrative statement is currently open and closes this Friday, September 5th. The statements in the School Directory Management Portal Narrative Statement Collection Application will be printed on the preliminary secure report cards this fall. As a reminder, the narrative statement is meant to be an optional short overview of our school or district and is printed on the top of the front page of the report cards.

Example Mid-Sized District District Report Card	Report Card, 2024-25 Public report	
OVERVIEW		
District Details	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 Enrollment : 2,031 Percent open enrollment : 0%	<i>The statement above is provided by the district. It is not an evaluation by the Wisconsin DPI.</i>	



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. If you have issues gaining access to the Narrative Statement Collection Portal, please open a [WISE Help Ticket](#).

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!

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*.

WIDA ACCESS

New:

Non-Public Pre-ID Roster Upload

On September 26, DRC will refresh the WIDA AMS/DRC Insight portal with new DAC accounts and changes to schools and districts. At this time the non-public roster upload window will open.

Reminder:

WIDA Screener Resource

WIDA has a new handout for parents explaining what the WIDA Screener is. You can find this resource in English and several other languages on the [WIDA website](#).

ACT and PreACT Secure

Reminder:

ACT and PreACT Secure Enhancements

ACT has recently implemented new enhancements to the ACT and PreACT Secure assessments. The enhancements were designed to provide a more supportive and streamlined testing experience that is more accessible and actionable for students. The first statewide implementation of the new enhancements will be administered in spring 2026. For more information, review the FAQ guides below and register for the October 22 ACT Office Hours.

- [Enhanced ACT FAQ](#)
 - [Enhanced PreACT Secure FAQ](#)
 - [Registration Link for October 22 Office Hours](#)
-

ACT

New:

2026 Accessibility Supports Guide

The 2026 ACT Accessibility Supports Guide (ASG) has now been posted to the [Wisconsin ACT State website](#). Testing staff should review this document thoroughly each year, as updates are made annually. A summary of changes to the ASG will be posted to the website within the next few weeks. Schools can begin to enter accommodation and support requests into the ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) portal beginning **September 8**. New users to [Success.ACT](#) (ACT's reporting and TAA portal) should review the [Online Reporting and TAA](#) guide for instructions on how to request access. Additional resources and training opportunities will be available this fall.

PreACT Secure

New:

2026 Accessibility Supports Guide

The 2026 PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide has now been posted to the [Wisconsin PreACT Secure State website](#). Testing staff should review this document thoroughly each year, as updates are made annually. Schools will begin entering accommodations into PearsonAccess^{next} in February 2026. Additional resources and training opportunities will be available this fall.



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.

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.



NAEP and International Assessments

Reminder:

NAEP 2026 Technology Surveys

The mathematics and reading assessments will be administered on NAEP-provided devices **or** on school devices. Technology surveys, which are available in the [NAEP AMS](#), 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 their contact information to [Angela Dugas](#). **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.

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

Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment

New:

Rostering in aimswebPlus for 2025–2026

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

Reminders:

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.

2025-26 aimswebPlus Training Options

To prepare for success in administering aimswebPlus assessments for Act 20, Pearson is offering 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. The on-demand replay of the [Overview for Administrators](#) as well as the [Optimizing Classroom Decisions through Data-Driven Insights](#) webinars are now available.

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](#).

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.

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.

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
Accessibility Guide	Forward Exam 2025-26 Accessibility Guide	Forward
NAEP Facts for Districts	Overview of NAEP 2026	NAEP
Reporting Resources	Sample ISR cover letter and student score guide.	PreACT Secure
ACT Online Reporting User Guide	Guide to assist users with accessing reports and ISRs in Success.ACT.	ACT/PreACT Secure
Early Literacy Administration and Scoring Manual	Assessment administration and scoring guidance.	aimswebPlus
Reading Administration and Scoring Manual	Assessment administration and scoring guidance.	aimswebPlus
Testing Best Practices	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
September 26	New DACs added to WIDA AMS, Non-public Roster Upload opens.	ACCESS
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>

September 2025 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or ability and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.