

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 59, March 2022



Updates...

Note from the Director



Thank you, Wisconsin educators, for successfully administering the 2021-22 ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

NAEP assessments are well underway in selected participating schools for 2021-22.

The testing windows for Forward Exam, DLM, Aspire, and ACT are quickly approaching. I would like to acknowledge and express my gratitude for the work that school staff are doing to prepare themselves and our students for the 2022 spring test administration. Student and staff training and preparation resources are available for each assessment on the [Assessment webpage](#). The [Office of Educational Accountability \(OEA\) staff](#) is available to assist our schools on assessment and accountability topics, and we look forward to working with you throughout the spring.

Viji Somasundaram

Director, Office of Educational Accountability



Calendar...

Important Dates

2022	
Date	Event
March 7	Forward – DRC INSIGHT Portal Opens for Demographic Data Clean Up and Assignment of Student Accessibility Features
March 8	ACT Test Window 1 (Paper Administration) *
March 9	Forward – Third District/School Assessment and Technology Coordinator Q&A Webinar
March 8-11 & 14-18	ACT Test Window 1 for Students Testing with Accommodations (Paper Administration) *
March 8-10 & March 15-17	ACT Test Window 1 (Online Administration and Online Accommodations) *
March 10	Aspire Test Administration #2 Webinar
March 18	NAEP age 9 Long-Term Trend test window closes (for selected schools only)
March 8-16	ACCESS – Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window
March 21 – April 29	Forward Test Window – ELA and Mathematics Grades 3-8, Science Grades 4 and 8, and Social Studies Grades 4, 8, and 10
March 21 – April 29	DLM Test Window – ELA and Mathematics Grades 3-11, Science Grades 4 and 8-11, and Social Studies Grades 4, 8, and 10
March 31	NAEP Grades 4 and 8 Test Window closes (for selected schools only)
April 4 - May 4	ACT Aspire Testing Window - Grades 9-10
April 29	ACCESS – Digital Reports and Downloads Available in WIDA-AMS
May 9-23	ACCESS – Post-Reporting Data Validation Window
May 12	ACCESS – Paper Reports Delivered to Districts

*For Additional ACT test windows see the [ACT Calendar webpage](#).

Dates may be subject to change. Check the Assessment calendar webpages for the most current dates throughout the year.



Forward Exam Update



The 2022 Forward Exam test window will open on March 21 and close on April 29. Schools are responsible for notifying families of upcoming assessments in a format that is accessible to them (i.e., meets their language or accommodation needs). Family notification resources, including a template letter and Forward Exam informational brochure, are available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).

The required Forward Exam training videos, including the District and School Assessment Coordinator (DAC/SAC) Training and the Test Administrator Training, are posted on the [Forward Exam Training webpage](#).

Prior to testing, it is important to provide students with time to practice with the Online Tools Training to ensure they are comfortable with the question types, online tools, and the testing environment. Several student preparation resources are available on the [Forward Exam Practice Test and Sample Items webpage](#).

The Social Studies Forward Exam this spring will be a new assessment based on the Social Studies Academic Standards released in 2018. Wisconsin educators will have the opportunity to participate in a Social Studies Standards setting meeting following testing this spring. More information about the Standard setting will be posted on the [Forward Exam Educator Opportunities webpage](#) in April.

To provide additional scheduling flexibility for testing, schools may utilize extended testing hours upon request on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday until 8:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. More information on extended testing hours is available on the [Assessment Forms webpage](#). Schools interested in extended testing hours should contact their DAC.



The ACT with writing Update



March 8 is the first of three ACT testing windows for grade 11 students. It is recommended that schools take advantage of this first testing window to test the majority of their students and use later windows for make-up testing. DPI is offering districts the opportunity to administer the ACT in both paper and online formats which provides additional scheduling flexibility and make-up testing dates. Dates for the spring 2022 ACT assessment testing windows are available on the [ACT Calendar webpage](#).

ACT will ship [Taking the ACT Test](#) booklets and individualized copies of [MyACT Non-Test Instructions](#) for each student. Upon receipt, schools should distribute these materials and have students complete their MyACT account registration. MyACT is ACT's online registration site that allows students to manage their ACT scores, demographic information, high school resume, and college plans. In addition, schools should continue to manage their student roster within PearsonAccess^{Next}, order additional testing materials, and complete all tasks for online testing site readiness. Refer to the [ACT Schedule of Events](#) for a list of assessment tasks and deadlines. All ACT training opportunities and recordings are available on the [ACT Training webpage](#).

Free ACT practice tests can be found within students' MyACT accounts once registered. Additional free practice tests and resources are available on the [ACT Practice Tests and Sample Items webpage](#).

The ACT Aspire Update

The Aspire test window for grades 9 and 10 is April 4 through May 4. DPI is offering optional extended testing hours for the 2022 assessment. As a computer-based assessment, schools should be aware of the technology requirements and perform all online site readiness tasks prior to testing. Site readiness resources are located on the [Wisconsin ACT Website](#). Please refer to the [Aspire Schedule of Events](#) for a list of assessment tasks and deadlines. Trainings for the Aspire assessment began in early February and will continue throughout the month of March. All training opportunities and recordings are available on the [Aspire Trainings webpage](#).

Sample practice tests are available to help students, parents, and educators become familiar with the content, testing environment, and different types of questions. Sample Aspire practice tests are available on the [Aspire Practice Tests webpage](#).

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



The DLM testing window is March 21 through April 29. Districts and schools should

be confirming that they are prepared for testing by ensuring portal data is verified, student rostering is finished, and educators have completed training. DPI recommends that preparation for DLM testing should be completed as soon as possible.

Educators who will be administering the DLM are required to complete the Test Administration Training Modules. There are training modules for educators new to DLM administration and modules for returning educators. All training requirements must be completed before the test administrator will have access to the student's Kite login information and be able to administer the DLM. More information is available in the [Guide to DLM Required Test Administration Training](#).

Educators are responsible for making sure that students' First Contact Surveys are complete and accurate. These surveys are used to collect background information about students who are

eligible for the DLM assessments. The survey goes beyond basic demographic information and includes questions on communication, assistive technology devices, motor and sensory impairments, and academic performance. The data gathered are used to recommend the linkage level for each Essential Element for all subjects. More information is available in the [Educators Portal User Guide](#).

Educators are also encouraged to [securely upload writing samples](#) produced by students during the writing test to the Educator Portal. Samples are used for validity evidence and do not impact scoring.

More information about DLM is available on the [DLM webpage](#). Questions regarding DLM may be directed to [Mike Peacy](#).



ACCESS for ELLs® Update



We would like to thank all of the educators essential to the successful administration of the 2021-22 ACCESS for ELLs. Your dedication to the English Learners of Wisconsin is appreciated.

WIDA provides free eLearning courses in the [WIDA Secure portal](#) which are available to all educators in the state of WI. *Engaging Multilingual Learners in Science* is their newest offering, joining similar courses for Math and Social Studies, along with an introduction to the new 2020 English Language Development Standards. Districts interested in these professional learning opportunities are encouraged to create accounts for staff who need them, including classroom teachers and administrators.

Assessment of Reading Readiness Update



For the 2021-22 school year, the Reading Readiness assessment requirement to screen all 4-year-old kindergarten through 2nd grade students remains in place. DACs and reading specialists are encouraged to work with their teachers to ensure that all students are screened, and appropriate interventions or remedial reading services are provided where appropriate and that the results for all students be used to help guide instructional practices.

The Department will be sending out reimbursement forms to the DAC for each district in the next couple of weeks. It is anticipated that all payments will be electronically distributed prior to the end of the school year.

More information on the Reading Readiness requirements is available on the [Reading Readiness webpage](#) which includes a [frequently asked questions](#) section.

NAEP Update



The NAEP 2022 testing window is underway in Wisconsin and around the nation. This year, students are participating in grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics, grade 8 U.S. History and Civics, and Long-Term Trend age 9 Reading and Mathematics. Long-Term Trend results are expected to be released this fall and are national-level results on a trendline reaching back to the 1970s. The grades 4 and 8 results will be released after the Long-Term Trend results. All subject areas will have national-level results and the Reading and Mathematics assessments will also produce results at the state level and for participating large urban districts.

Federal Accountability Update

In December, the Office of Educational Accountability released Progress to Exit Reports via the [Secure Access File Exchange \(SAFE\)](#) as part of Joint Federal Notifications. Final versions of these

reports, including IDEA LEA Determinations and Racial Disproportionality reports, are released in March.

Test Participation and Federal Accountability

As districts and schools prepare for testing, we often receive questions about the impact of test participation on state and federal ESSA accountability. The following information should help districts and schools understanding of test participation and its impact on accountability.

Federal Accountability (ESSA) - ESSA requires achievement calculations to be based upon the greater of 95% of students enrolled for the full academic year or the actual number of students tested. Hence, schools that have student groups with lower than a 95% test participation rate are penalized. Wisconsin's ESSA system applies this requirement by adjusting the denominator of the points-based proficiency rate calculation to the 95% tested level for schools testing below the required 95% rate.

For example, if a middle school serving students in grades 6-8 had 100 full academic year students, but only 90 of these students participated in state assessments, the school's points-based proficiency rate is calculated by dividing the number of points by 95 (minimum participation required by ESSA) rather than 90 (the actual number of students tested). This results in a lowered achievement score for that school.

Questions related to test participation and accountability may be directed to oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov. Questions about IDEA accountability may be directed to the [DPI Special Education team](#).

We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. Questions may be to the [Office of Educational Accountability](#).

FAQ ...

Reminder – Each assessment has an FAQ webpage with scenarios/issues related to that specific assessment:

[ACT FAQ](#), [DLM FAQ](#), [Forward FAQ](#), [Aspire FAQ](#), [ACCESS for ELLs FAQ](#).

Q. Is there a sample letter available to send home to families about upcoming assessments?

Yes, there is a sample letter about upcoming assessments available on the [DAC Resources webpage](#). There is also an informational brochure for families about each assessment available under each assessment's resource page. Districts and schools are required to communicate this information with families in method that is accessible to them (i.e., language and accommodation needs). These resources are available in English, Spanish, and Hmong.

Q. Will there be a Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) in the 2021-22 the Forward Exam?

Yes, the TDA (long write) will be in the 2021-22 the Forward Exam. There are several resources (e.g., TDA Item Samplers, Writer's Checklist, FAQs) available to help students and staff understand the TDA available on the [Forward Resources webpage](#).

Q. Can a school choose to administer the ACT in both formats (paper and online)?

Yes, a school can choose to administer the ACT in one or both formats. If choosing to administer both formats, schools must first indicate a testing date in **both** the paper and online testing date fields within PANext. Then, once your student roster is available, indicate what students are testing on paper or online.

Q. Where can a school find information about when and how to switch students from ACT paper testing to ACT online testing?

Schools may switch students from ACT paper testing to ACT online testing at any point during the assessment window. Instructions are available in the [Switching from Paper to Online Testing document](#).

Q. Are extended afterhours testing available for Aspire this year?

Yes, DPI is offering optional extended testing hours for the 2022 Aspire assessment. To request afterhours testing, complete the [ACT Aspire Extended Testing Hours Request Form](#).

Jill K. Underly, PhD., State Superintendent



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