# ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

**Issue 58, November 2021**

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF Public Instruction

## Updates…

### Note from the Director

Welcome back! We sincerely appreciate your continued hard work and dedication to our students' education.

The 2021-22 assessments are beginning with the opening of the ACCESS for ELLs testing window on December 1, followed by the start of the ACT, Forward Exam and DLM assessments in March, and ACT ASPIRE in April. Our staff is busy finalizing trainings and manuals that will become available over the next few months. Resource availability and training dates are posted on the calendar webpages of each assessment.

I would like to thank our Wisconsin educators for their continued participation in improving student assessment and accountability in Wisconsin. We appreciate your input in item writing and review, and in the writing of the Social Studies Essential Elements. Your contributions and vital feedback were critical to the release of the new and improved District and School Report Cards. We look forward to continuing our work together in 2022.

*Viji Somasundaram*

Director, Office of Educational Accountability

## Calendar…

### Important Dates

| 2021 | |
|---|---|
| **Date** | **Event** |
| **November 24** | Forward – DACs Receive Permissions for 2022 DRC INSIGHT Portal |
| **November 29** | ACCESS - Districts Receive Materials |
| **November 29** | ACCESS - Additional Material Window Open |
| **December 1** | **ACCESS for ELLs Test Window Open** |
| **December 3** | ACT – Deadline for Schools to Select ACT Testing Dates |
| **2022** | |
| **January 10** | Forward Exam Manuals/Guides and Training Videos Available |
| **January 10 – March 18** | NAEP Age 9 Long-Term Trend Test Window (for selected schools only) |
| **January 12** | Forward Exam DAC, SAC, DTC Q&A Webinar |
| **January 14** | ACT Deadline to Request Accommodations |
| **January 19-21** | ACT – Verify Student Enrollment |
| **January 19** | Forward – Pulls Roster Data from WISEdata to Upload to DRC INSIGHT Portal |
| **January 21** | ACT – Deadline to Submit Reconsiderations for Accommodations |
| **January 24** | Aspire – PearsonAccess$^{Next}$ Portal Opens |
| **January 24 – February 25** | DLM – Data Validation and Revision Period |
| **January 24 – March 4** | **NAEP Grades 4 and 8 Test Window (for selected schools only)** |
| **January 28** | **ACCESS for ELLs Test Window Closes** |
| **February 4** | ACCESS – All Materials Due Back to DRC |
| **March 8** | **ACT Test Window 1 (Paper Administration) *** |
| **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 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** |
| **April 4 - May 4** | **ACT Aspire Testing Window - Grades 9-10** |

**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 Forward Exam test vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), will assign District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) permission to access the 2022 INSIGHT Portal on November 24. DACs are required to assign permissions to other school and district users. Instructions for assigning user permissions will be available in the 2022 *DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide* in January 2022. DACs should ensure they are assigning the correct level of permissions to only those individuals who need access to the portal. For security purposes, be sure to refer to the User Roles and Permissions Matrix in the *DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide* when making these assignments. DACs should also remove permissions from (make inactive) any individuals in the portal who are no longer employed by the district and adjust user roles to sync with staff changes.

The *Technology User Guide*, technology readiness resources, and technology training videos for District and School Technology Coordinators (DTCs and STCs) and staff are now available on the Forward Exam Technology Requirements and Resources webpage. There are two training video options. One training video is for new DTCs and technology staff, and covers technology resources, supported devices, system requirements, system overview, and installation/configuration. The second training video is a shorter presentation with updates and reminders for DTCs experienced with Forward Exam set-up and administration.

The spring 2022 Forward Social Studies Exam for grades 4, 8, and 10 will be a new assessment aligned to the Wisconsin Standards for Social Studies that were adopted in 2018. Updated Online Tools Training (OTT) and Item Samplers are now available on the Forward Exam Practice Tests and Sample Items webpage to help students prepare for the newly aligned assessment.

The 2022 Forward Exam *Test Administration Manual* and training videos for District and School Assessment Coordinators (DACs and SACs), and Test Administrators will be available in January 2022. The first in a series of three Forward Exam Q&A webinars for DACs, SACs, and technology staff kicks off in January. For more information about when specific resources and trainings will be available, please visit the Forward Exam Calendar webpage.

**The ACT with writing Update**

The 2021-22 ACT Test Windows and Schedule of Events (SOE) are posted on the ACT Calendar webpage. The 2022 ACT PearsonAccess$^{Next}$ (PAnext) portal is now open and schools should begin the Preparing for Testing tasks found in the SOE. Schools must select their testing date, material shipment window and mode of testing by December 3. District Assessment Coordinataors (DACs) should log in to the 2022 portal to update testing staff and manage contacts. This will ensure that ACT has updated contact information on file. DPI will upload student rosters to PAnext on January 18. Schools will have until January 21 to verify enrollment. Please refer to 2022 ACT SOE for a list of all upcoming testing tasks.

The window is open for schools to **submit requests for ACT accommodations**. Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams make the determinations on whether students with disabilities will participate in the ACT with or without Designated Supports and/or Accommodations. Designated Supports are approved by the Test Accommodations Coordinator or Test Coordinator and do not require an advance request to ACT. Accommodations require a request

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**The ACT with writing Update**
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in advance along with supporting documentation. Accessibility supports are available to English Leaners and must also be requested in advance. School staff must submit requests and supporting documents via the online Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) System before January 14. DPI strongly encourages entering accommodation requests early, to allow additional time for reconsideration if needed. Additional resources are posted to the ACT Accommodations and Supports webpage, ACT English Language Supports webpage and the Wisconsin ACT website.

ACT has free test preparation services for all students. For a list of practice tests and sample questions, please visit the ACT Practice Test and Sample Items webpage.

**The ACT Aspire Update**

The 2021-22 ACT Aspire Test Window and Schedule of Events (SOE) are posted on the Aspire Calendar webpage. The 2022 Aspire PearsonAccess$^{Next}$ (PAnext) portal will open for 2022 on January 24. At that time, DACs will be able to update their testing staff and invite new users to the portal. On February 14, students will be uploaded into the system and schools can begin to verify enrollment and enter accommodations /EL supports. Please refer to the 2022 Aspire SOE for a list of all upcoming testing tasks.

Sample ACT Aspire tests and exemplar items can be found on the ACT Aspire Practice Test webpage.

**Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update**

The Instruction and Assessment Planner became available in September. The Instruction and Assessment Planner supports the teaching and learning of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, including the process of administering assessments and using results to guide next steps. The Instruction and Assessment Planner is a great tool to use as interim assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Prerequisites to planner use include rostered students, trained teachers, and first contact surveys entered. Please note that the Instruction and Assessment Planner will be closed for a technology update December 22 through January 4.

DLM also offers a parent portal which will enable parents to view their students' score reports online. Please refer to the *Parent Portal User Guide* for more information about the KITE Parent Portal.

At this time District Assessment Coordinators should be making sure that students are rostered, and teachers are completing their training. Test administrators should begin planning for the required training through the DLM Training Site and completing their test security agreements. It is strongly recommended that districts complete the following tasks by February 25:

- Enrollment, user, and roster uploads for participation in spring testing
- Required test administration and security training
- First contact and Personal Needs and Preferences (PNP) Profile for participation in spring testing

For a detailed timeline and key dates refer to the DLM calendar webpage. For more information about DLM visit the DLM webpage or contact Mike Peacy.

**ACCESS for ELLs® Update**

The ACCESS for ELLs test window opens on December 1. DPI will continuously monitor the situation in our schools this year; however, we anticipate that schools will be able to safely administer ACCESS within the currently scheduled test window dates. We recommend testing early in the window and reserving later periods in the window for make-up testing. You may begin shipping completed testing materials back as soon as you have a full box. Similar to last year, we encourage you to frequently ship out completed tests so that a school closing won't prevent receipt and scoring by DRC.

The Title III office here at DPI is continuing work on the statewide roll-out of the 2020 WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards. If you would like to be involved the ELD Standards Review Process over the next few years, please contact Amy Maciolek in the Title III office.

We have released two new guides for finding EL data in WISEdash for Districts. We are hoping that increased access to these data will help support program evaluation and improvement as well as drive better student outcomes.

**Assessment of Reading Readiness Update**

The assessment of Reading Readiness requires each district to screen all 4-year-old Kindergarten through 2nd grade students at least once each school year. As the 2021-22 school year is well under way, it is expected that most students will have already been screened at least once. District assessment coordinators and reading specialists are encouraged to work with their teachers to ensure that all students are screened, results communicated to parents, appropriate interventions or remedial reading services are provided where necessary, and the results for all students be used to help guide instructional practices.

The Department will load 2021-22 PALS, MAP and STAR reading readiness results to WISEdash for Districts.

- For districts using PALS or MAP, a new data sharing agreement will need to be completed for data to be loaded. The data use agreement can be found at: Local Assessment Data Use Agreement.
- For districts using STAR, steps to follow for data to be loaded can be found at: https://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/districts/about-data/star.

The Department will be sending out reimbursement forms to the district assessment coordinator for each district in late February/early March. Districts will be asked to indicate the screener or screeners used at each grade, the number of students screened and the amount the district is seeking for reimbursement. Once all reimbursement requests have been received, department staff will determine whether the appropriation is sufficient to reimburse the full amount requested by each district. If the appropriation is sufficient, each district will be reimbursed the full amount. If the appropriation is insufficient, payments to districts will be prorated. It is anticipated that all payments will be 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 pre-assessment window is coming up for schools selected to participate in NAEP this school year. Beginning December 6, schools in the grades 4 and 8 assessments will receive their student samples on MyNAEP. In the *Prepare for Assessment* section on MyNAEP, schools will begin the process of reviewing and updating student demographics, communicating with field staff about the logistics for assessment day, determining accommodations for students to participate in NAEP, notifying parents of the assessment, and completing school questionnaires. These tasks should be completed between December 6 and each school's test date. Schools in the age 9 Long-Term Trend (LTT) assessment may have already begun those preparations, as the LTT test window is earlier. Schools will receive automatic notifications from the MyNAEP system when tasks are ready to complete, and they will hear directly from their NAEP field staff representative.

## State Accountability

The final 2020-21 School and District Report Cards were released publicly on November 16. As a reminder, all schools and districts are required to share their most recent report cards with parents. Further details can be found on the notification requirements page. If you have questions about report cards, please contact reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov.

## Federal Accountability Update

The U.S. Department of Education has granted a federal ESSA waiver requested by DPI that suspends federal accountability requirements, including basing achievement on at least 95 percent of students, and using the Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency Indicator. It also delays 2020-21 long term goals and Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, and Targeted Support and Improvement identifications by one year.

Please note that these waivers only apply to the federal ESSA accountability system. ESSA accountability reporting is part of a coordinated joint federal notification effort in support of continuous improvement in schools and districts. IDEA determinations, another part of joint federal notifications (which are released in coordination with ESSA identifications), are not impacted by this waiver. OEA is planning to release preliminary Progress to Exit Reports and District Summary Reports as part of joint federal notifications this December.

If you have questions about ESSA accountability, please contact oeamail@dpi.wi.gov. For questions about IDEA determinations, please contact the DPI Special Education Team.

**WISEdata Student Snapshot**

The WISEdata Student Snapshot is scheduled for **December 7.** The snapshot will capture the following data:

- 2020-21 Year End Attendance, Discipline, Completion, Roster, Career Education
- 2021-22 Third Friday of September Enrollment
- 2021-22 October 1 Child Count of students with disabilities
- All student demographics

Once the snapshot is taken, the data are considered certified and final. The following resources are available to help you prepare your data for the upcoming snapshot:

- Snapshot Preparation Guidance page, including a presentation/slide deck
- WISEdata Help page, including in-depth FAQs on roster, discipline, career education, special education, and language instruction collections
- WISEadmin Portal User Guide for Administrative Users
- COVID-related WISEdata Submission Guidance, including guidance for 2020-21 Attendance and a change to CTE Participant status for 2020-21

As a reminder, Course and Program Data on the report cards are captured via Roster in this snapshot. As you prepare this snapshot, we encourage you to **use the new Coursework.**

**Dashboard in WISEdash for Districts**. The following resources can guide you through this new dashboard:

- Career Education and Coursework Dashboard User Guide
- WISEdash How-To: Career Education and Coursework Snapshot Dashboards
- Course and Program Data Guide

If you have questions about the student data snapshot, please submit a WISEsupport Ticket.

# 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. Will there be a sample letter available to send home to parents about upcoming assessments?**
Yes, there is a sample letter available about upcoming assessments available on the DAC Resources webpage. There is also an informational for brochure for families about each assessment available under each assessment's resource page. These resources are available in English, Spanish, and Hmong.

**Q. My school was selected to participate in NAEP this year. Do we have to participate?**
Your school is required to participate if your district receives Title I funds. In accepting the federal funds, one of the assurances your district agreed to was for your schools to participate in grades 4 and 8 reading and mathematics NAEP if selected.

**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 I find testing calendars or timelines with key dates?**
Each assessment has a calendar webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment's key dates, deadlines, publication releases, etc., may be found on those pages.

**Q. Where can we find more information about administering the ACT online?**
Online testing resources can be found on the ACT Technology Requirements and Resource webpage or the Wisconsin ACT Website.

**Q. Is a keyboard required for the Forward Exam?**
Yes, an external keyboard is required for the TDA portion (ELA Session 1) of the Forward Exam.

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OEA has created two webpages to keep you updated and informed. Please bookmark these pages and the main DPI COVID-19 page, which contains COVID-19 information for schools beyond assessment and accountability.

COVID-19 – Accountability Updates and Resources webpage with summary information on the impact of COVID-19 on school accountability in Wisconsin.

COVID-19 – Assessment Updates and Resources webpage that provides assessment related COVID-19 updates, resources, and FAQs.

# Building Assessment and Accountability Literacy
# Student Data 101

**How Does the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Collect Student Data?**

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) data collection tool is known as WISEdata. WISEdata uses an Application Program Interface (API) to connect the student information system (SIS) in each district and Parental Choice Program school with the DPI database. The API connection allows school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a Parental Choice Program to submit data to DPI directly from the SIS vendor of their choice. WISEdata allows DPI to meet all required state and federal reporting mandates, eliminates duplicate data collection tools, and creates a partnership with school districts and SIS vendors to make high-quality data available more easily and frequently.

**When Does WISEdata Collect Student Data?**

The use of an Application Program Interface (API) allows districts to update student information in their local SIS and have those updates reflected in WISEdata and WISEdash for Districts on a daily basis. In order to meet state and federal reporting requirements, the DPI also takes several "snapshots" of student data throughout the year. For example, the WISEdata Student Snapshot will be taken on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Given the impact and long-term use of these data, it is critical that your district's data are accurate at the time of the snapshot. As a reminder, the Course and Program Data for the 2021-22 accountability report cards are captured via Roster in this snapshot. We encourage district and school leaders, principals and building teams to work closely together in the coming weeks to prepare for the snapshot. Once the snapshot is taken, the data are considered certified and final and will be used on State Report Cards and Federal (ESSA and IDEA) Accountability measures. Please visit the Snapshot Preparation Guidance website for helpful resources in preparing for the snapshot. If you have questions about the WISEdata snapshot, please start a WISE Support Ticket.

**How Can I Learn More About the WISEdata System?**

The annual WISEdata Conference takes place on March 9 and 10, 2022. This virtual conference will provide attendees with a better understanding of state and federal reporting requirements, include updates and changes for the 2021-22 school year, and present information related to new features and functionality in WISE applications. Any person at the school, district, regional, or state level responsible for collecting, maintaining, reporting, or certifying data at any level can register for the conference in January.

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