

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

As announced in an [email to districts from Deputy State Superintendent Mike Thompson](#), requirements for the 2020-21 administration of statewide assessments remain unchanged under state and federal law. All districts and schools should begin planning for in-person testing now; this includes schools whose current instruction is hybrid, in-person, or 100% virtual. If schools are not open for in-person instruction, they still need to safely provide an in-person, school proctored testing environment. Please note that remote (virtual) testing options are not available for statewide assessments.

ACT with writing

New:

Request for accommodation/EL support reconsideration - **Deadline January 22.**

- The deadline to enter accommodations/EL supports closed on January 15.
- Log into the [Test Accessibility and Accommodations system](#) (TAA) to view status and decisions on accommodations/EL support requests.
- ACT includes notes about what documentation is needed to approve the request. Download the Decision Notification in TAA and read these notes so you can see what has been approved and where additional documentation is necessary. If you are unsure about what documentation to submit for reconsideration, contact the ACT accommodations team at (800) 553-6244, ext. 1788 or actstateaccoms@act.org
- If a request is not approved, you can submit additional documentation to support your request through **January 22.**

Student Roster Upload

- On Tuesday, January 19, DPI loaded 11th grade choice students as well as 11th grade non-choice students from schools that have opted to receive the “all school report card.”
- Assessment coordinators received an email in the afternoon of January 14 with instructions on how to upload any additional students (choice or non-choice) who were not included in the initial DPI upload. School staff will be able to upload these additional students into PAnext from January 20-22.
- School staff will have from January 20-22 to verify that student information is correct.
- Testing materials and barcode labels will be shipped only for students who are in PAnext at the end of the day on January 22. After January 22, schools can add new students, but they will not receive barcodes and schools will need to follow the instructions in the test administration manuals on how to prepare an answer document without a barcode.
- Please see the *Verifying Student Roster and Testing Format Guide* located on the [DPI ACT Resources webpage](#) for instructions.

ACT Office Hours

Wisconsin 2021 ACT Office Hours are held every Thursday at 9:00 am. Use this [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) link to join each week.

Aspire

Reminder

Extended 2021 Aspire Testing Window

To provide schools more time to safely test their students, DPI has worked with ACT to extend the 2021 Aspire testing window by two weeks (April 5-May 19). Please visit the [DPI ACT Aspire Calendar webpage](#) to download and review the revised *2021 ACT Aspire Schedule of Events*.

2021 Aspire Administration:

All 2021 Aspire administration manuals and supplements have been posted and are available to download under the administration section of the [Wisconsin ACT Website](#).

- Aspire PANext portal will open for the 2021 assessment on January 25. Review the [User Role Matrix](#), before inviting new users to determine who receives which role.
- New DACs: On January 25, look for two emails from PearsonAccess^{next} (NoReplyAspire@act.org - you may need to check junk/spam folder)
 - The first email contains instructions on how to access production site
 - The second email contains instructions on how to access training site
 - Contact [Nikki Braconier](#) if you do not receive an email
- Review the updated [2021 ACT Aspire Schedule of Events](#). It lists activities to complete, who completes the activity, and important deadlines.
- [Register for Aspire training](#) webinars.

ACT Aspire for Non-Choice Students

Schools that elect to test their non-choice students with ACT Aspire will need to contact ACT directly to order tests for these students. Ordering information can be found at: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/act-aspire.html#get-aspire>. Schools will not need to order tests for their choice students as DPI automatically loads the choice students into the testing portal.

Forward Exam

New:

Technology Bulletin - Information on Alternate Site Testing

DRC has released a technology bulletin with information for District and School Technology Coordinators who are setting up alternate testing sites (e.g. community center, library, medical facility) that are off the district network. All testing must be completed in-person with a trained test administrator, even when using a location other than a school building. This bulletin is available on the [Forward Exam Technology Requirements webpage](#).

Reminders:

Forward Exam for Non-Choice Students

CESA 6 will again be overseeing the process for schools that wish to test their non-choice students. Ordering information can be found at: <https://www.cesa6.org/services/wi-forward-exam/order-form.cfm>.

Test Administration Script Spanish Translation

The Forward Exam Test Administration Script is available in Spanish and available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#). This resource can be used to administer the Forward Exam in conjunction with the Spanish stacked translation and small group translation supports.

See the [Forward Exam webpage](#) for calendar dates, information, and resources.

Assessment and Accountability COVID-19 Related Updates

Reminder:

COVID-19 Information

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 which contains assessment related COVID-19 resources, 2019-20 COVID updates, and any 2020-21 updates that may arise.

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES

Accountability

Reminder: Preview Reports Available in SAFE

As mentioned in [last week's Assessment Update](#), preview reports are now available in [SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange](#). The [OEA Accountability Resources webpage](#) is also updated with new resources to help you understand and explain the preview reports. As a reminder, preview reports are **not report cards**. These informational reports use data from prior years (i.e., 2018-19 assessment results) to demonstrate future report card design and calculation changes.

This secure release opens the report card inquiry period, a window for schools and districts to work with OEA to address suspected data submission errors. When there is sufficient evidence of a data error, OEA will manually correct the data and update the preview reports. **If you believe an inquiry may be appropriate, please [open an Inquiry](#) with our office before the end of the day on January 22.**

If you have questions about the preview reports please contact the [Office of Educational Accountability](#) or your [Accountability Trainer](#). If you have questions about accessing SAFE, please use the [DPI help desk](#).



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