

## WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

### Assessment

#### New:

##### Assessment Updates

Schools are facing many challenges during this unprecedented school year, and we understand the importance of prioritizing instructional time. As of now, state requirements for assessment and accountability remain unchanged. Statewide assessments will provide useful information to show how the ongoing pandemic has impacted our students academically.

Please see the Forward section for updates to the test window timeline and other information in response to the ongoing COVID situation. Remote testing options are not available for statewide assessments.

##### Strategies and Considerations for In-Person Assessment During a Pandemic

The Strategies and Considerations for In-Person Assessment During a Pandemic resource provides considerations for district and school leaders to plan and safely administer assessments this spring. The information provided in this document does not constitute a requirement for any school. Instead, this information should be used as a starting point and adjusted to fit each assessment and each school's unique student population and needs. This new resource is available on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#).

#### Reminder:

##### Assessment in Action Module is Now Available

The [Assessment in Action Introduction Unit](#) outlines promising practices schools and districts across Wisconsin are implementing within their Strategic Assessment Systems. Each school's story is housed on the [Assessment in Action Group](#) on WISELearn.

### ACT with writing

#### New:

##### Process for ACT Accommodations and English Learner Supports

- School staff members submitting ACT accommodations and EL supports for students should request access to the ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) **as soon as possible**. There can be only one TAA Test Coordinator (TC) per school, but there can be multiple Test Accommodations Coordinators (TAC). TCs and TACs can enter accommodations into TAA. Instructions for requesting TAA access are in the [TAA User Guide](#).
- Submit all accommodations requests for ACT in the TAA System. Do not submit requests for local arrangements in TAA. Local arrangements are approved by the Test Coordinator. Refer to the [List of Allowable Supports](#) for what is a local arrangement versus an accommodation.

- Submit requests early - well before the **January 15 deadline** - so there is time to resubmit if additional documentation is needed to verify the disability.
- Refer to the resources found on [DPI's ACT Accommodations Webpage](#). The resources are organized in a checklist format to help schools with the accommodations testing process.
- Find information on English Learner Supports on [DPI's ACT English Learner Supports Webpage](#).
- View the recording of [Wisconsin's ACT Accommodations Training Webinar](#) for an overview of the accommodations process.
- Submit a request again for reconsideration if a request is not approved. If you are unsure about what documentation to submit for reconsideration, consult the [ACT Documentation Policy](#) or contact the ACT Accommodations team at (800)553-6244 ext. 1788 or [actaccoms@act.org](mailto:actaccoms@act.org).
- Log into TAA to view accommodations request decisions. After receiving decisions, if accommodations requests are not approved, please contact [OSA](#) as soon as possible.

### Reminder:

#### ACT with Writing for Non-Choice Students

Non-choice students will again be allowed to take the ACT with Writing on the state administration dates. Cost for the test will be \$50 per student. Order forms will be sent to choice assessment coordinators in the next few days with the order deadline set for January 8.

## Aspire

### Reminder:

#### 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.

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

## Forward Exam

### New:

#### Changes for 2021

In an effort to reduce the workload on students and educators, while providing a valid and reliable assessment, the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) in conjunction with Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) have identified two **one-year solutions** that will shorten student testing times and still produce valid student scores. These changes will reduce testing times by a minimum of 70-80 minutes depending on grade level. Changes to the 2021 Forward Exam will include:

- Removing field test items from the English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science subject areas.
- Removing the Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) item, which is Session 1 of the ELA subject area.

In addition, the **testing window has been extended by two weeks** (March 22 - May 14) to provide schools more time to safely assess all students.

We remain committed to the equitable education of every student – regardless of learning environment – so all students have the knowledge, skills, and habits to graduate career and college ready. **Writing is a key skill and an important part of the Wisconsin Academic Standards**

for ELA. The TDA item (ELA Session 1) and field test items will be included in the 2022 Forward Exam. Educators are encouraged to use the Forward Exam resources (TDA Item Sampler and ELA Item Sampler) for practices and formative assessments.

**Reminder:**

**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>.

**Forward Information**

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.



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December 2020 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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