



# Assessment Update for Parental Choice Schools

December 12, 2024

## WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

### ACT

#### New:

##### Accommodation Requests

The deadline to submit requests for spring 2025 testing is **January 24**. **DPI strongly encourages schools to enter requests into the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) now** to avoid delays and allow time for reconsideration if needed.

- Submit requests early - well before the January 24 deadline.
- Refer to [Step 3: Accommodation, on the Wisconsin ACT Webpage](#) for accommodation and EL support resources and training.
- If you have questions or need support entering an accommodation request, contact the ACT Accommodation team directly at (800) 553-6244 x1788.
- Log into the TAA to view status and decisions on accommodations/EL support requests.
  - If a request is not approved, you can submit again for reconsideration.
  - [Reach out to OEA](#) as soon as possible if you are experiencing difficulty receiving an approval for an accommodation.

#### Reminders:

##### Important Update: Selecting Testing Date and Mode

Due to changes to the PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> (PANext) system, ACT is unable to capture your school's testing mode (paper/online) through PANext. To ensure DPI has your correct testing mode on file, ACT sent a survey to all school test coordinators and DACs on November 21, 2024 ([statetesting@operations.act.org](mailto:statetesting@operations.act.org)). Only one survey per school should be completed. The deadline to complete the survey is January 10, 2025. Please contact [Nikki Braconier](#) if your school did not receive the survey link.

##### Managing Contact Information and User Accounts in PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> (PANext)

DACs should update the [Manage Contact](#) section of PANext as soon as possible to ensure ACT and DPI have the correct contact information on file to avoid delays in shipping and receipt of important assessment information. Please also remember to grant access to the PANext spring 2025 ACT portal to testing staff and remove access for users no longer in testing roles.

# PreACT Secure

## New:

### 2025 PreACT Secure Manuals

The following PreACT Secure resources have been posted to the [Wisconsin ACT Website](#), [PreACT Secure - Step 5](#):

- Online and Online Accommodated Administration Manual
- Paper Accommodated Administration Manual
- Test Forms for all administrations
- Test Coordinator Information Manual
- Wisconsin Administration Supplement

### PreACT Secure Accommodations

As a reminder, accommodations for the PreACT Secure will be entered directly into PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> (PANext) and do not require prior ACT approval. Schools can begin entering PreACT Secure accommodations once student rosters have been loaded and PANext opens on January 27. Additional information on how to enter accommodations will be provided in January.

## Reminder:

### 2025 Schedule of Events

The spring [2025 PreACT Secure Schedule of Events](#) (SOE) has now been released and posted to the Wisconsin ACT Website. The SOE contains important tasks and deadlines for administering the PreACT Secure and should be reviewed often by all testing staff.

# Forward Exam

## New:

### Forward Exam Student Preparation

The Forward Exam Practice Test, for each tested grade and content level, is available year round on the [Forward Exam Practice Test webpage](#). All students should be given the opportunity to practice with the online Forward Exam Practice Test in order to interact with the testing system, become familiar with the types of questions they may encounter on the exam, and practice using the universal tools (including Text-to-Speech). The Practice Test contains samples of test questions similar to those on the Forward Exam. Each question contains information about alignment (standard measured), answer key, depth of knowledge, and specific annotations. The Practice Test is not scored, and the online version does not save responses. Accessible Practice Tests are available for students who need to practice Spanish stacked translation, VSL, masking, and color choice tools. Braille Practice Tests can be ordered by DACs by contacting the DRC Help Desk.

The [Student Tutorial videos](#) are designed to help students become familiar with the online testing environment and should be used in conjunction with the practice test. Some videos are intended for all students, while others cover specific tools that are only available at certain grade levels. The student tutorial home screen displays which videos accompany which grade levels as well as run times. Tutorials can be viewed as a class or at individual student machines. New for 2024-25 the student tutorials will be available in Spanish. Student tutorials are available year-round and the Spanish tutorials will be available January 7.

## Reminders:

### 2025 DRC INSIGHT Portal Permissions

DRC has assigned DACs permission to access the 2025 DRC INSIGHT Portal. DACs do not need to assign permissions to other users until January or February 2025. Information about how to assign users will be provided in the DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide, available on January 7. DACs who did not receive the email from 'noreply@datarecognitioncorp.com' with the subject line "Your DRC INSIGHT Portal Account Has a New Profile", please contact the [DRC Help Desk](#) at (800) 459-6530.

### Technology Training Videos

The Forward Exam District Technology Training Videos are now available on the [Forward Exam Technology Requirements and Resources webpage](#). This year DRC has provided four short videos that cover all information District Technology Coordinators (DTCs) need to know about technology updates, requirements, Central Office Services installation/management, and the set-up of student testing devices.

### Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunities

DPI is currently recruiting a diverse group of educators from all over Wisconsin (including English learner and special education teachers) to participate in the Forward Exam Alignment Study and New Item Review. These events are important steps in the development of the Forward Exam. This is a great opportunity to be a part of the Forward Exam development and have detailed input on the exam and take knowledge back to your district about the processes. More information, including how to apply, is available on the [Forward Exam Educators Involvement webpage](#). Please share this information with your educators.

## 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
<a href="#">Administration Manuals and Test Forms</a>	Administrative manuals and test forms for the 2025 PreACT Secure.	PreACT Secure
<a href="#">Schedule of Events</a>	Schedule of important tasks and deadlines for 2025.	PreACT Secure
<a href="#">Technology Training Videos</a>	Four short training videos that cover all information DTCs need to install Central Office Services and set up student testing devices.	Forward
<a href="#">Educator Involvement Application</a>	Educators may apply for Alignment Study and/or New Item Review.	Forward
<a href="#">DRC System Requirements</a>	Hardware and software requirements for the Forward Exam. Updated in October.	Forward

<a href="#">Technology User Guide</a>	The user guide is a multi-volume set that describes how to configure, install, manage, and troubleshoot the DRC INSIGHT System.	Forward
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## Important Dates to Remember

Be sure to refer to each specific assessment calendar for a complete list of key dates.

Date	Event	Program
January 7	DAC and Test Administration Training Videos available	Forward
January 7	Test Administration Manual and DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide available	Forward
January 7	Online Testing Tech Readiness Webinar	ACT
January 10	Deadline to submit test date selection survey	ACT
January 21	Office Hours - Verifying Student Roster	ACT
January 24	Deadline to enter ACT Accommodation/EL Support Request	ACT
January 27	PreACT Secure portal opens in PAnext. Rosters available.	PreACT Secure
January 27-31	Verify ACT Student Rosters in PAnext	ACT
January 28	PreACT Secure Test Administration #1 Training Webinar	PreACT Secure
January 28	WISEdata student data file upload to DRC INSIGHT Portal	Forward



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December 2024 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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