

December 17, 2020

Happy Holidays!

The OEA team would like to wish all of you safe and happy holidays! We would like to thank you for all of your hard work during this challenging year and for always doing what is best for our students. This will be the last Assessment Update in 2020. We will resume with weekly Assessment Updates on January 7, 2021.

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

New:

OEA has created template “Notification of Upcoming Assessment” letters for families specific to each statewide assessment to address testing during COVID-19. These templates can be modified to fit each school or district’s specific communications needs. School or district assessment plans to safely assess students can accompany this letter to families. Another new resource, the Staff FAQ Template, is available to help schools communicate about important questions staff may have in proctoring the statewide assessments during COVID-19. Both of these new resources are located on the [DAC Resources and Trainings webpage](#).

Reminders:

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](#).

ACT with writing

New:

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 were sent to choice assessment coordinators on December 15 with the order deadline set for January 8.

Student Roster Data Pull from WISEdata

On January 18, DPI will extract a student-level data file from WISEdata and load this data to the ACT portal (PearsonAccessNext). DPI will load all 11th grade choice students as well as 11th grade non-choice students from schools that have opted to receive the “all school report card.” Please make certain that your student data is correct in WISEdata before the end of the day on January 17.

Additional Steps Needed to Order the ACT for Non-Choice Students

Listed below are the complete list of steps necessary for schools to order the ACT with Writing for their non-choice students.

- Complete the order form by the January 8 deadline. This step is to notify DPI whether a school plans on testing non-choice students.
- Verify that DPI has loaded your choice students (and non-choice students from schools that are receiving the all school report card) into the portal (January 20-22 window to complete this step).
- Once choice students have been verified as being loaded, school staff will be able to load any additional 11th grade non-choice students into the portal that plan on testing (January 20-22 window to complete this step). This step is to let ACT know which students will be tested.
- ACT will ship test materials based off of the students loaded into PANext.
- At the conclusion of the testing windows, DPI will contact schools to ask them to verify the actual number of non-choice students that were tested. DPI will then bill schools based off of this updated information.

ACT Office Hours

Starting in January, DPI and ACT are teaming up to offer “ACT Office Hours” every Thursday at 9:00 am, January 14 through April 15. The first 10-15 minutes will be used for a designated ACT testing topic and the remaining time will be used to answer any questions you have from the field. You will receive an email from ACT the week of January 4 with more information on scheduled topics and registration.

Reminder:

Process for ACT Accommodations and English Learner Supports

The focus of test administration preparation at this time is submitting ACT accommodations/EL supports by ACT’s January 15 deadline. For steps on completing this process, please refer to the [ACT Accommodations and Supports webpage](#).

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.

ACT Aspire Information

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

Forward Exam

New:

2021 Forward Exam Trainings

The Forward Exam pre-recorded trainings for District and School Assessment Coordinators (DACs/SACs) and Test Administrators (TAs) will be available January 12 on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#). There will be three training presentations, each with information targeted to a specific audience.

- **DAC/SAC Training** - Full Training for new DACs/SACs and any other DACs/SACs who would like a detailed refresher. This training covers all aspects of Forward Exam administration management from start to finish including training, set-up, preparation, administration, reporting, and any updates/changes.
- **DAC/SAC Updates Training** - Updates/Changes for the upcoming Forward Exam administration. This training is for DACs/SACs who have been through the full training and feel comfortable with the process enough to just receive updates.
- **Test Administrator Training** - Required training for all TAs. This training covers all information TAs need to prepare for and administer the Forward Exam. DACs should ensure that all TAs view this training.

2021 Forward Exam Resources

The DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide and the Test Administration Manual will be available January 12 on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).

Forward Exam Q&A webinar

On January 13 at 1:00 pm there will be an optional Q&A webinar session. This webinar is an opportunity for District and School Assessment Coordinators (DACs/SACs) and Technology Coordinators (DTCs/STCs) to ask DPI and DRC staff questions about Forward Exam test set-up, administration, or technology that may have come up after reviewing the training videos or other resources. Please share this information with your DTCs, SACs, and STCs. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Forward Exam Trainings webpage](#) for those who cannot attend the live session. To join the webinar on January 13, please use this [Forward Exam Q&A webinar session Zoom link](#).

Reminder:

Changes for 2021

In addition to extending the testing window by two weeks (March 22-May 14), the 2021 Forward Exam includes two **one-year** changes that will shorten student testing times and still produce valid student scores. The changes include:

- Removing field test items from the English language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science subject areas. (Field test items will be included in the 2022 Forward Exam)
- Removing the Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) item, which is Session 1 of the ELA subject area. (The TDA 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.

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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