

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

New:

Public Comment Open on Potential Federal Waiver Request

COVID-19 has made it challenging for districts to test students. Parents have expressed a desire to school districts, DPI, and other stakeholders and decision makers to keep children home due to health concerns. In order to accommodate parents' understandable and reasonable concerns surrounding testing, DPI is seeking public comment on a federal waiver request to provide flexibility to the 95-percent test participation requirement. DPI will evaluate the public comments and determine next steps. If a waiver is submitted, the U.S. Department of Education has up to 90 days to respond. Please continue planning to assess your students safely. This waiver is up for [public comment](#) until February 5.

Reminder:

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Confidentiality Agreements

If you have not yet submitted your 2020-21 [DAC Confidentiality Agreement](#), please complete the form and submit to OEA by February 19. The 2020-21 form has a new design requiring only one signature for all assessments. The form may be completed and signed electronically using Acrobat Reader. Please be sure to read the terms for each assessment and to select one of the two options for number nine of the ACT agreement prior to signing. The entire six-page document needs to be submitted to OEA once signed. All other confidentiality forms (SACs, DTCs, STCs, etc.) remain individual forms, but may be completed electronically, and once completed are to be retained at the school/district level.

ACT with writing

New:

Materials Arriving Over the Next Two Weeks

- Materials for the initial test window ship to schools over the next two weeks. See instructions in [PAnext User Guide](#) to track shipment.
- To check in materials, follow the instructions in the [Test Coordinator Information Manual](#).
- Distribute one copy of the document, [Taking the ACT Test](#) and one **individualized** [Non-Test Instructions for Student](#) (included with testing materials).
- After receiving materials, run an Accommodations and Supports Roster for a list of students with approved accommodations and required materials. See [PAnext User Guide](#) for instructions.
- If schools need more ACT materials, place an Additional Order in PAnext. See [PAnext User Guide](#) for instructions.

Important Reminders About Test Materials

- Test books are specific to each test date.
- All ACT-approved accommodations use accommodated materials and are specific to each window.
- Use of incorrect materials is likely to result in an invalidated test due to misadministration.
- District and school staff, including athletic coaches, who have relatives testing on state test day should not have any access to secure materials prior to test day.
- Answer documents should be kept and used for any test date in spring 2021

Online Testing

- You can now begin creating and assigning students to test sessions (February 1-March 18).
- Validate configuration and lock down devices February 15-19.

ACT Accommodations Late Consideration Window - Deadline March 5

- Late consideration of accommodations will be permitted through March 5 only for the situations outlined in ACT's [Late Consideration Form](#).
- You must include a completed Late Consideration Form with your request.
- If the student's former school submitted the accommodations request and it was approved, ACT will transfer the accommodations materials to your school's order once you add the student to PANext.

ACT Office Hours and Training

- Wisconsin 2021 ACT Office Hours are held every Thursday at 9:00 am. Use this [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) link to join each week.
- [Register here for Test Administration #2](#), February 11, 10:30-11:30 am.

Aspire

New:

Choice Student Upload

- DPI loaded Choice student rosters into Aspire PANext on January 29.
- School staff should verify the accuracy of the student data load to ensure that all Choice students have been loaded.
- Non-choice students are not allowed to be loaded into the same Aspire tenant as the choice students.
- Schools that plan to test their non-choice students must work with ACT to establish a separate tenant for their non-choice students.

Reminder:

2021 Aspire Administration

- Aspire PANext portal opened January 25. Review the [User Role Matrix](#), before inviting new users to determine who receives which role. New assessment coordinators, please contact [Duane Dorn](#) if you did not receive an email invitation to PANext.
- Review the updated [2021 ACT Aspire Schedule of Events](#). It lists activities to complete, who completes the activity, and important deadlines.
- [Register for Aspire Trainings and Chat with Expert Sessions](#) on the DPI Aspire Trainings webpage.

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:

Optional Add Accessibility Features Window Begins February 15

During this optional window (February 15-26), districts may use the Multiple Student Upload process to upload designated supports and accommodations for multiple students at one time into the DRC INSIGHT Portal. This two-week window is the only time this option is available. If you choose not to take advantage of the window, you may still enter supports and accommodations into the DRC INSIGHT Portal on an individual student or “mass assign” basis as needed, beginning March 8. Instructions for all three processes are available in the [DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide](#).

Reminders:

Student Data Upload

The student data submitted to DRC on January 20 will be available for users to view and edit on March 8. The student demographic data file that is used to upload multiple student accessibility features will be available for download on February 15.

Forward Exam Q&A Webinar #2

On February 10, at 1:00 pm, there will be an optional Q&A webinar session that will provide an opportunity for Assessment and Technology Coordinators to ask DPI and DRC staff questions about test set-up, administration, or technology. 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. On February 10, use this [link to join the Forward Exam Q&A webinar session](#).

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](#).

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

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>.

Assessment and Accountability COVID-19 Related Updates

Reminder:

COVID-19 Updates

For assessment and accountability COVID-19 Updates please visit:

- [COVID-19 - Accountability Updates and Resources](#)
- [COVID-19 - Assessment Updates and Resources](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES

Accountability

Sample Preview Reports

As mentioned in [last week's Assessment Update](#), sample preview reports are available on the OEA [Accountability Resources webpage](#). Please share the sample reports with school board members, parents, and others in your community to ensure they are aware of the design changes. The sample reports are available for different school types (e.g., elementary, high school), different sizes (e.g., small, mid-sized), and for both school and district reports.

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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