



Assessment Update for Parental Choice Schools

March 20, 2025

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

Assessment

Reminder:

Test Participation

Test participation is an important part of accountability determinations and performance data validity. Please work with building leaders to plan for successful test administrations by:

- Monitoring test participation within each assessment's administrative platform.
- Communicating regularly with School Assessment Coordinators (SACs) to support participation, for example, scheduling makeup sessions when needed.
- Scheduling testing early in the test window to ensure time for makeup testing or other unforeseen circumstances.

ACT

New:

Test Window 1 Reminders

Paper standard testing concluded on March 11 and paper accommodated and online testing will conclude March 21. Upon completion, pack and return all paper test materials according to the instructions in the [Test Coordinator Information Manual](#) and [Test Administration Manuals](#).

Return all test materials by the date outlined in the [2025 ACT Schedule of Events](#). Review the [March 3 ACT program email](#) for additional reminders and preparations for Test Window 2.

Test Window 2

ACT Test Window 2 starts Tuesday, March 25. Reminders:

- March 25: Paper standard testing.
- March 25-28, March 31-April 4: All online testing and paper accommodated testing.
- Student MyACT account registrations must be completed within two days post testing.
- Run an [Accommodations Supports Roster](#) before testing and confirm all students with accommodations are listed.
- Review [2025 ACT Schedule of Events](#) for all Test Window 2 tasks and deadlines.

Test Window 3 - Material Order Deadline

April 8 is the final standard paper testing date for ACT. The last day to order paper testing materials for Test Window 3 is **March 28**.

PreACT Secure

New:

PreACT Secure Test Window

The PreACT Secure test window opened on March 17. All testing must be completed by April 25. Checklists for both [Test Coordinators](#) and [Technical Coordinators](#) are provided to make sure you are on track for the 2025 administration. Please test early in the window to allow adequate time for make-up sessions. Please see the [March 12 PreACT Secure program email](#) for testing resources and reminders.

Forward Exam

New:

Disable Background Applications on Testing Devices

Before testing, districts must ensure that background processes and features are disabled on student testing devices. Examples include instructional software (e.g., Grammarly), AI features (e.g., Microsoft Copilot), and screen readers (e.g., Chromevox, VoiceOver). These examples are not a comprehensive list. See page 22 of the Forward Exam Technology User Guide Volume 1, available on the [Forward Exam Technology Resources webpage](#), for more information.

Stacked Translation

Districts and schools should confirm that students are assigned the correct support before testing. The Forward Exam Practice Test can be used to determine if a student should be assigned the 'Stacked Translation (Spanish) with English (STE) Audio' or the 'Stacked Translation (Spanish) with Spanish (STS) Audio' Designated Support. If a student begins testing with the wrong audio assigned, the district must contact DPI to determine if the test can be purged. Tests cannot be purged if a student has completed more than two test questions, so it is important to ensure the correct support is assigned before testing. Test Administrators should check the student test ticket prior to the start of testing to verify that the Spanish translation with English Audio (STE) or Spanish Audio (STS) has been assigned appropriately. If STS or STE does not appear on the ticket, it will not be available to the student. Note that if the student requires occasional text read in the other language (English or Spanish), you may also assign the Read Aloud (Human Reader) Designated Support in either English or Spanish. Please share this information with your Test Administrators.

New Student Status Dashboard

This is a reminder that the Student Status Dashboard has been removed from the DRC INSIGHT Portal and has been replaced by the new Student Status and Test Status Reports, which can be found under Scoring and Reporting > Reporting Services > Operational Dashboard. More information is available in the DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide on page 40, available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#).

Educator Involvement Opportunities

DPI is still recruiting Wisconsin educators (including English learner and special education teachers) to participate in the Forward Exam New Item Review (deadline to apply is May 2). Item review is an important step in the development of the Forward Exam. This is a great opportunity to be a part of the Forward Exam development, have detailed input on the test questions, and take knowledge back to your district about the process. More information, including how to apply, is available on the [Forward Exam Educators Involvement webpage](#). Please share this information with your educators.

Reminders:

Forward Exam Test Window Opened March 17

The Forward Exam test window opened March 17. The Prior to Testing Checklist is currently available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#). This is not a comprehensive list to get ready for testing, only a quick double check prior to testing to make sure you are on track.

Comprehensive checklists for District/School Assessment Coordinators and Test Administrators are available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#). All testing must be completed by April 25.

Important - Chromebook OS Update

During ACCESS testing, there was an intermittent text rendering issue that some Chromebook devices experienced when testing in DRC INSIGHT, where letters appeared spaced out or pushed together (overlapping), and a portion of some tables and graphics extended beyond the visible screen. This text spacing issue has been resolved with ChromeOS Version 133. DRC recommends that **ChromeOS devices should be updated to ChromeOS Version 133** to avoid this issue during Wisconsin Forward testing. For more information refer to the [Chromebook Rendering Issues and Troubleshooting Steps Tech Bulletin](#).

Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series

Reminder:

The Assessment Professional Learning Series is going virtual!

The Assessment Professional Learning Series is now being offered virtually to offer more opportunities for educators, schools and districts to take advantage of this [FREE virtual learning](#). These sessions offer dedicated time for synchronous virtual professional learning with educators around the state provided by CESA Assessment Specialists. Participants will also have access to resources for asynchronous learning between sessions. In addition to this learning, in-district coaching support is also available within each local CESA. Please register by April 30.

Topics and dates:

- Formative Assessment Practices: April 8, April 15, April 29 and May 6; 3:30-5:30 pm
- Classroom End of Unit Assessments and Data Use: April 30, May 14 and May 28; 3-5pm
- Educator Created Interim Assessments: June 12 and June 17; 8am-12pm

Contact [Renee Jadin-Rice](#) for more information.

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
Chromebook Tech Bulletin	Chromebook Rendering Issues and Troubleshooting Steps Tech Bulletin.	Forward
Educator Involvement Application	Educators may apply for New Item Review.	Forward
Writing Rich Classrooms: Unit Plans	Low-stakes, high-impact writing units across grade levels and writing genres.	

Important Dates to Remember

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

Date	Event	Program
March 17	Forward and PreACT Secure test windows began	WSAS
March 21	ACT Test Window 1: Administer online and accommodated testing closes (paper and online)	ACT
March 24	Return all paper accommodated test materials for Test Window 1	ACT
March 25	Start of ACT Test Window 2	ACT
March 31 - April 25	District window to opt-out of receiving paper Individual Student Reports (ISRs)	Forward
April 8	Start of ACT Test Window 3/final paper testing day	ACT
April 8	Combined ACT/PreACT Secure Office Hours - Online Reporting	ACT/PreACT Secure
May 2	Deadline to apply for Forward Exam New Item Review (educator involvement opportunity)	Forward



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March 2025 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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