

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

ACT with writing

New:

ACT test window 1 has come to a close. Thank you for your continued support to ensure students have a successful testing experience this spring.

Testing Window 2 Begins

ACT test window 2 began March 23. All standard paper testing materials from the paper March 23 test date are scheduled to be picked up by FedEx on March 24. If your materials are not picked-up timely, please reach out to ACT immediately to schedule a pick-up: (800) 553-6244, ext. 2800. The paper accommodation test window is scheduled March 23-26, 29-31 and April 1-2. Online testing (standard and accommodations) is scheduled March 23-25 and March 30-April 1. If you are administering online make-up testing during test window 2 you will need to order the [Online Testing Materials Return Kit](#) to return your materials. Materials for both paper accommodation and online testing are scheduled to be picked-up by FedEx on April 5.

Aspire

New:

Preparing for Testing:

The Aspire testing window will open on April 5 and run until May 19, 2021.

Tech Readiness

Technical Coordinators should review the Technical Readiness Guide and TestNav system requirements and run a mock administration prior to testing. All technical site readiness resources are found on the [Wisconsin ACT Aspire webpage](#).

Staff Training

Train all testing staff (new and old) before test day. Test Coordinators should review and implement all training topics outlined under the Staff Training Requirement section of the [Aspire Test Coordinator Manual](#). Recordings of all webinars and task specific tutorials can be found on the [Wisconsin ACT Aspire webpage](#).

Test Sessions

Test Coordinators should be setting up test sessions and assigning students to those test sessions. Please see the [Aspire Test Coordinator Manual](#) for directions or view the training tutorials found on the [Wisconsin ACT Aspire webpage](#) under Preparation.

Preparing Students

Exemplar items for ACT Aspire are available on the [DPI ACT Aspire Practice Tests/Sample Items webpage](#).

Forward Exam

New:

Forward Exam Test Window Now Open

The Forward Exam Test Window opened March 22. All testing must be completed by May 14. As a reminder, OEA has provided additional flexibility to the window by allowing districts to request additional in-person evening or weekend testing (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings until 8:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm). Refer to the [COVID-19 Assessment Update webpage](#) for more information on extended testing hours and all other Forward Exam administration changes for 2021.

Accessing Forward Exam Practice Tests on iPads

For students using iPads, the Online Tools Training (OTT) and Item Samplers should be accessed through the DRC INSIGHT App on the student's device or the public URL using a Safari browser.

Reminders:

Preparing Virtual Student Devices for On-site Testing

DRC has released a [technology bulletin](#) that provides guidance for districts about preparing virtual learner's devices for on-site Forward testing.

Forward Accommodation Requests

For those extremely rare situations where a student may need print-on-demand, listening script, Read Aloud accommodation, or an accommodation not in the Accessibility Guide, there is a special protocol to request approval for the use of these accommodations. Refer to the [Accessibility Guide](#) for more information about these accommodations. If a student requires the use of one of these uncommon accommodations, the DAC must submit a [Request for Approval Form](#).

Read Aloud Accommodation Prior Approval

The Read Aloud accommodation is different from the Read Aloud designated support, and it is only available to a student with visual impairments who is receiving instruction in contracted braille but is not yet proficient. The student's need must be documented in an IEP or 504 plan and the student must meet all five criteria on the [Forward Exam Request for Read Aloud Accommodation Form](#) which must be submitted to OEA by the DAC. **Students who do not have DPI prior approval for the use of the Read Aloud accommodation may have the ELA portion of their test invalidated due to the use of an inappropriate accommodation.** Students who do not meet the accommodation criteria but require Read Aloud, including students who have IEP or 504 plans, should use the Read Aloud designated support.

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

For assessment and accountability COVID-19 Updates please visit:

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

ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES

Reminder:

Preview Report Feedback Survey

As previously announced, OEA has created a survey to gather feedback on design changes demonstrated in the preview reports. Please use the Preview Report Feedback Survey form available on the [Accountability Resources webpage](#) to provide OEA with feedback and please share this form with your school and district communities. We are planning to close this survey on April 2.

If you have questions about the preview report survey, please contact [Patrick Chambers](#).



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March 2021 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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