

April 22, 2021

WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

New:

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 immediately. The 2020-21 form may be completed electronically and requires only one signature for all assessments. The entire six-page document must be submitted. 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 form can be found at: [Confidentiality Agreements](#).

ACT with writing

New:

May 5 Testing

The final date for ACT testing will be May 5, with accommodated testing May 5-7 and 10-11. This testing window is only offered in paper and pencil format, no online testing will be available. **The ordering window for test materials is April 20-22.**

Test Window 3

Test Window 3 paper accommodations and online testing will conclude this week. Materials for both paper accommodations and online testing are scheduled to be picked up by FedEx on April 26. If your materials are not picked up timely, please reach out to ACT immediately to schedule a pick-up: (800) 553-6244, ext. 2800.

Office Hours

There are no ACT Office Hours scheduled this week. Please join our Office Hours next week (April 29 at 9:00 a.m.) as we discuss how to access your ACT and Aspire data reports. **Meeting Link:** [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#).

Aspire

New:

Tip - Updates to Student Profiles

Any changes made to a student's PNP/profile must be made prior to the student being enrolled into a test session. If you need to make changes to a student's profile (e.g., updating PNP) you must remove that student from any test sessions prior to making any changes. Any updates made to a student's profile while still enrolled in a test session will not be applied. Once a student is removed from a test session and profile changes have been made, you can add the student back into their test sessions and reprint the student's authorization tickets. A new authorization ticket must be printed any time a student is added to a test session.

Reminder:

Student Transfers

It is important that Test Coordinators review and approve student transfer requests promptly. Test Coordinators will be notified of any transfer requests via email and will receive a notification in the Aspire PAnext portal. Please follow the instructions on page 47 of the [Aspire Test Coordinator Manual](#) to process a transfer. As a reminder, do not approve transfer requests for students who have completed testing.

Forward Exam

New:

Testing Progress

Forward Testing is going well as we enter week five, which is expected to be another very busy week. Over 90% of districts are currently testing. Several districts are taking advantage of the extended testing hours.

Forward Online Tools Training

All students should be given the opportunity to practice in the Online Tools Training (OTT) prior to actual testing, especially for grades 3 and 4. Students perform better and with less anxiety if they are familiar with the format of the test and with the types of questions they will be required to answer. Students are provided with a generic login and password on screen for the OTT. When practicing with the OTT, **DO NOT distribute Forward Exam test tickets**. Test tickets should not be distributed until you are ready to begin the actual Forward Exam.

Reminders:

Summer 2021 Educator Involvement Opportunity - Virtual New Item Review

OEA is looking to recruit a diverse group of educators from all over Wisconsin (including EL and special education teachers) to participate in this Summer's virtual "New Item Review" for the Forward Exam. This is a great opportunity to be a part of assessment development, provide valuable feedback, have detailed input about the items on the Forward Exam, and take knowledge back to the district about the process.

For more information about the virtual Item Review Meetings, including dates, logistics, and application information, go to the [Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunities webpage](#). Please share this information with all grade 3-8 and 10 educators in your district. Their input is invaluable during this stage of item development. **Deadline to apply is May 7.**

No Text-Dependent Analysis (long write) Session for the 2021 Administration

To reduce the workload on educators and students and reduce testing times in 2021, the Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) session has been removed from the Forward ELA Exam for one year. **Please ensure all staff are aware of this change.** It is important that ELA educators and Test Administrators know about this change prior to preparing for the exam. The TDA will be included in the 2022 Forward Exam.

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](#)



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April 2021 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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