

August 20, 2020

Welcome to the first Assessment Update for the 2020-21 school year. This weekly update is designed to provide school administrators and assessment coordinators with relevant information related to the required assessments for Choice students.

During the school year, choice school staff with assessment related questions should contact Duane Dorn at the Department. Contact information is:

Duane Dorn  
DPI, Office of Student Assessment  
[duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov)  
(608) 267-1069

### WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

#### Annual Assessment Coordinator Update Form

Each Choice School is required to identify an assessment coordinator (DAC) who will be responsible for overseeing the assessment program for the school. The Update Form can be found at: [Assessment Coordinator Update Form](#). Your district number (required on the form) can be found at: [Private School Directory](#). Use your school number instead of the district number on the form. Also, use your school name on the District Name line and have your choice administrator sign the form. Completed forms can be submitted to [duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov).

The information provided is used to:

- ensure DACs are on the email lists which will provide them with regular assessment updates throughout the year.
- upload DAC information into vendor portals to ensure DACs have 2020-21 permissions.

**Important note:** DACs should remove permissions from and/or make inactive any individuals in vendor portals who are no longer employed by the school and adjust user roles to sync with recent staffing changes.

#### Required Assessments

For the 2020-21 school year, Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), Racine Parental Choice Program (RPCP) and Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) Schools will be required to administer to MPCP, RPCP, and WPCP pupils the following assessments:

- Wisconsin Forward Exam for English Language Arts and Mathematics in the spring of 2021 for grades 3-8.
- Wisconsin Forward Exam for Science in the spring of 2021 for grades 4 and 8.
- Wisconsin Forward Exam for Social Studies in the spring of 2021 for grades 4, 8 and 10.
- ACT Aspire™ in spring of 2021 for 9th and 10th grade.
- The ACT® with Writing in the spring of 2021 for 11th grade.

## Costs of the assessments

The Department of Public Instruction is committed to paying for the vendor costs of the assessments for students who are part of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, the Racine Parental Choice Program and the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program. Schools which elect to administer any of the assessments to their non-Choice student population will be responsible for the vendor costs of the assessments.

Each individual school is responsible for the cost of administering the assessments. This includes proctor costs and administrative overhead that accompanies preparing for the assessments. Schools that elect to have their non-Choice students test will be able to purchase the test materials on a per student basis. More information on ordering for non-choice students will be provided in future Assessment Updates

## Schools with Less than Twenty Choice Students

The assessment requirement is waived for any school that participates in one of the choice programs if the school has fewer than 20 students in grades 3 to 12.

## Excusal from Testing

It is expected that all students will complete the assessments during the testing date or window. However, there may be situations where parents or guardians desire to excuse their child from testing. If a parent or guardian elects to excuse their child from testing, the school is required to maintain written documentation of the parent's request and to honor that request by not requiring the student to complete the assessment. School personnel do not have the authority to excuse students from testing without parental approval.

It should be noted that school level reports will indicate the total number of students, the number of students that have completed testing and the number of students that have not been tested. By reporting participation in this manner, an accurate picture of school performance will be generated.

## Assessment Strategies to Inform Instruction in 2020-2021

A new resource, *Assessment Strategies to Inform Instruction in 2020-2021*, will be available to schools in the coming weeks. This resource provides considerations for school leaders to use in identifying initial student needs and monitoring ongoing student learning from an equity lens to ensure every student has what they need to learn when they need it. It offers a process and sources of data to identify and align the unfinished learning students need to advance on grade-level standards within the current/upcoming unit of study.

## ACT High School Assessments

### ACT with writing

#### New

On August 6, DPI distributed fall ACT National testing vouchers to schools for students who were in the 11th grade in spring 2020 and who were not able to participate in the March statewide ACT with writing administration due to school closures. As you gauge your students' interest in fall National testing, consider becoming a registered ACT National testing center in order to enhance testing availability for your students.

The [ACT National Testing Center Resource Guide](#) contains information on the roles and responsibilities of a National testing center, contact information for ACT and ACT's Social Distancing Guidelines for test administration. For schools interested in testing only their 2020

11th grade students with vouchers, please see the *Becoming a National Test Center, Unlisted Test Center* section in the ACT National Testing Center Resource Guide.

**Please note:** DPI fall National testing vouchers allow for a student to register for The ACT with writing exam only. As a National testing center (listed or unlisted), you will need to accommodate: The ACT (no writing), The ACT with writing and The ACT for students with accommodations. For additional questions on becoming a National test center, please contact ACT directly: [testact@act.org](mailto:testact@act.org) or 800.553.6244 ext.1510.

#### Fall National ACT Testing Dates:

National Testing Date	Student Registration Deadline
Saturday, September 12	August 28, 2020
Sunday, September 13	August 28, 2020
Saturday, September 19	August 28, 2020
Saturday, October 10	September 17, 2020
Saturday, October 17	September 17, 2020
Saturday, October 24	September 17, 2020
Sunday, October 25	September 17, 2020
Saturday, December 12	November 6, 2020

#### Online Testing

On August 5, DPI announced the opportunity for schools to administer the ACT online for the spring 2021 assessment. Online testing is **not** required and schools will have the choice to administer the ACT on paper, online or a combination of both paper and online. Below are a few highlights of online testing to consider. Additional information about online testing, including training materials and a schedule of events, will be provided to schools in the near future.

#### Online Testing Highlights:

- Provides schools with an additional 15 testing day opportunities.
- No paper materials need to be ordered (paper testing may still be required for certain accommodations).
- Schools can split their testing population up over multiple days in any given test window.
- Online testing can be used as a make-up for students who missed paper testing, potentially allowing all testing to be completed in one window.
- In the event a site is unable to successfully pass technical site readiness, they can be reverted to paper to test on any remaining paper test dates.
- Online testers must complete the entire exam (all subjects) in a single test session unless approved accommodations have been given.
- Approved devices: PCs, laptops and Chromebooks.
  - iPads and tablets are **not allowed**.

Although online testing provides additional opportunities for schools to test, **DPI strongly encourages schools to test in Test Window 1, if possible**. This allows the use of Test Window 2 and 3 to be used for make-up testing.

## Spring 2021 ACT Testing Dates with Online Testing:

### Test Window 1 (Initial)

- March 9, 2021 – Paper Administration
- March 9-12 & 15-19, 2021 – Paper Accommodations Administration
- March 9-11 & 16-18, 2021 – Online Administration

### Test Window 2 (Make-Up)

- March 23, 2021 – Paper Administration
- March 23-26, 29-31 & April 1-2, 2021 – Paper Accommodations Administration
- March 23-25 & 30-31 & April 1, 2021 – Online Administration

### Test Window 3 (Emergency)

- April 13, 2021 – Paper Administration
- April 13-16 & 19-23, 2021 – Paper Accommodations Administration
- April 13-15 & 20-22, 2021 – Online Administration

## Forward Exam

### New:

#### Information for Families Brochure

The updated Information for Families Brochure for the 2020-21 school year is now available on the [Forward Exam Resources webpage](#). The brochure is available in English, Spanish, and Hmong.

#### Technology Updates

The Forward Exam test vendor, Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), has released a technology bulletin with information about what is new and changing for the upcoming 2020-2021 administration. This bulletin is available on the [Forward Exam Technology Requirements webpage](#).

#### Accessibility Guide

The 2020-2021 Accessibility Guide is now available on the [Forward Exam Accommodations and Supports webpage](#). Please ensure ALL staff are made aware of and view the Accessibility Guide for the upcoming 2021 test administration.

#### Assessment of New Social Studies Standards

The new Forward Exam for Social Studies was due to be launched in the spring of 2021, giving educators a few years to teach to the new standards prior to testing. This new Social Studies exam will be aligned to the new Social Studies Standards that were released in 2018. However, with the cancellation of the spring 2020 Forward Exam, DRC is unable to field test additional items needed to create the new Social Studies test. Therefore, for spring 2021 we will continue to administer Social Studies assessments aligned to the previous standards. The new Forward Exam for Social Studies will be delayed until the spring of 2022.

## ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATES

### OEA Assistant Director

At the end of last school year, [we shared](#) news of some reorganization here at DPI, namely that the Offices of Student Assessment and Educational Accountability would merge into a unified Office of Educational Accountability (OEA). While Viji would remain in the role of OEA director, part of the transition included creating a new Assistant Director position to support accountability and data-related work for the team. Today, we share with you that Sam Bohrod started in that position

on August 3rd. Sam has worked as a policy consultant in OEA for over five years and brings not only a wealth of knowledge about both state and federal accountability, but also a passion for equity, into his work. Prior to coming to DPI, Sam worked as a classroom teacher for six years. Please join us in welcoming Sam into his new role.

## Course Data in Preview Reports

Among the changes included in the upcoming preview reports will be the inclusion of postsecondary preparation and arts course data. Postsecondary preparation data (often referred to as “college and career readiness”) and arts course data are new requirements for the Accountability Report Cards through state statute ([Wis. Stat. 115.385](#)) and will include the following data in school and district report cards:

### Postsecondary Preparation

- The number and percentage of pupils attending a dual enrollment course;
- The number and percentage of pupils participating in a Youth Apprenticeship;
- The number of community service hours provided by pupils (not yet collected);
- The number of Advanced Placement courses offered to, and earned by, pupils; and
- The number of pupils earning industry-recognized credentials.

### Arts

- The percentage of students participating in Arts Courses.
- Arts is defined as dance, music, theatre, and art & design courses.

In the preview reports, we are able to show all but community service hours, which are not collected at a student level. The reported data will be for **informational** purposes only and **will not be scored**. Additionally, the data are for grades 9-12 only. Schools without these grades, or without these data (see information about choice schools, below) will not have these pages in their report cards.

### Collection and Timing of Course Data

WISEdata was updated in 2018-19 to collect course data for grades 9-12 as part of the Roster collection (with the exception of student-level community service hours). These requirements are in WISEdata and currently apply only to public schools and districts, not schools participating in a choice program. The snapshot of Roster data takes place in December, which means that course data, just like graduation and attendance rates, are lagged by one year on report cards.

For more information, please see our [Course Data in Report Cards webpage](#) on the OEA website. You can contact us with accountability questions at [oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov).

~OEA