



# Assessment Update for Parental Choice Schools

August 26, 2021

## WISCONSIN STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UPDATES

### New:

#### Requirements for 2021-22 School year

For the 2021-22 school year, Parental Choice Schools will be required to administer to choice pupils the following assessments:

- [Wisconsin Forward Exam](#) for English Language Arts and Mathematics assessments in the spring of 2022 for grades 3-8.
- [Wisconsin Forward Exam](#) for Science in the spring of 2022 for grades 4 and 8.
- [Wisconsin Forward Exam](#) for Social Studies in the spring of 2022 for grades 4, 8 and 10.
- [ACT Aspire™](#) in the spring of 2022 for 9th and 10th grade.
- [The ACT® with writing](#) in the spring of 2022 for 11th grade.

#### Annual Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Update Form

Be sure to submit your school's annual [Assessment Coordinator Update Form](#) by October 30. This form is required for both new and returning assessment coordinators. The information provided is used to:

- Ensure assessment coordinators are on the email lists which will provide them with regular assessment updates throughout the year.
- Upload assessment coordinator information into vendor portals to ensure proper permissions for the 2021-22 school year.

#### Administration Dates and Timeline

For the 2021-22 school year, all required assessments for Choice students will be administered in the spring of the school year. Assessment calendars can be found at:

- [ACT with writing Calendar](#)
- [ACT Aspire Calendar](#)
- [Forward Exam Calendar](#)

#### Costs of the assessments

The Department of Public Instruction is committed to paying for the vendor costs of the assessments for Parental Choice students. 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.

## 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.

## Civics Assessment Requirement for High School Graduation

Beginning with the 2016-17 school year, [Wis. Stats. 118.33\(1m\)](#) states that Choice schools may not grant a high school diploma to any pupil unless the pupil takes a civics test comprised of 100 questions that are identical to the 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the pupil correctly answers at least 65 of those questions.

Additional requirements of this legislation include:

- Students with an IEP as defined under [Wis. Stats. 115.787](#) must complete the exam to receive a diploma but are not required to meet the benchmark of 65 correct answers.
- A limited-English proficient pupil, as defined in [Wis. Stats. 115.955 \(7\)](#), is allowed to take the civics test in the pupil's language of choice.
- Students are also allowed to re-take the exam until they pass.

This assessment falls under the jurisdiction of districts, charter operators, and choice schools and is not administered by DPI. As such, districts and schools will be responsible for the format and date of the exam.

## Reminders:

### Spring 2021 Assessment Results

All schools should have received 2021 assessment results from vendors. We would like to remind you that state summative assessments are only one measure of student achievement and should be used in conjunction with multiple measures such as interim and formative assessment data, classroom observations, and student grades to gauge student learning.

As assessment reports become available in the secure portals, please be aware that DPI will publicly release the statewide assessment results in the fall and notify schools when results may be shared publicly. Until then, the public release of the assessment results is not permissible (this includes school boards). Schools may use the data for professional development and curriculum/instructional planning.

## ACT with writing

### Reminder:

#### ACT New Accommodations Policy

On July 21, ACT publicly announced changes to their ACT Accommodations Policy. Beginning with the 2021-22 testing year, students who already receive accommodations at their school under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act will automatically be eligible to receive the allowable testing accommodations when they register for the ACT with accommodations. In conjunction with the policy change, ACT is updating its system for requesting accommodations to require less information and documentation to support requests submitted on behalf of students with a current IEP or 504 plan.

- [ACT's New Accommodations Policy Announcement](#)
- [ACT's New Policy for Requesting Accommodation](#)

Additional information and training on this new policy will be provided by ACT and DPI for the upcoming spring 2022 statewide ACT assessment.

# Forward Exam

## New:

### Updated District Data Download Files

The Forward Exam test vendor, DRC, made an update to one column of data in the district data download files to identify students who used the text-to-speech (TTS) designated support while testing. On August 18, DRC replaced all district data download files in the DRC INSIGHT Portal so they now contain this column of data. If you are interested in reviewing this information, you will need to download the updated district data file.

## Reminder:

### Accessibility Guide

The 2021-22 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 2022 test administration.

### Forward Exam Summary Reports and Individual Student Reports (ISRs)

Hard copy Individual Student Reports (ISRs) were delivered to districts in late July. **Be sure to send ISRs out to parents/guardians as soon as possible after receipt, either in hard copy or via your secure parent portal.** Districts and schools should take advantage of the [reporting resources for parents/guardians](#). All parent/guardian resources are available in English, Spanish, and Hmong. ISRs should be provided to parents or guardians in a language they can understand and in a format that is accessible to them.

Electronic ISRs and summary reports were made available in the DRC INSIGHT Portal in late June. [The User's Guide to Interpreting Reports](#) is designed to help district and school staff access, understand, explain, and interpret the results of the Forward Exam.

# Assessment and Accountability COVID-19 Related Updates

## COVID 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](#)

## New Online Resource Highlights

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 test windows.

| Resource                                | Description   | Assessment |
|---|---|------------|
| <a href="#">Sample ISR Cover Letter</a> | Sample Forward Exam cover letter that can be modified to include specific school or district needs. | Forward    |
| <a href="#">What Is an Individual</a>   | One page handout explaining the information included in the ISR.                                    | Forward    |

|   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| <a href="#">Student Report (ISR)?</a>           |  |         |
| <a href="#">Spanish or Hmong Translated ISR</a> | New this year, the translated ISR is produced containing no student data. Districts and schools may include a copy of the Spanish or Hmong translated ISR with the student's actual ISR (in English) so non-English speaking families are better able to access and understand their child's Forward Exam results. | Forward |
| <a href="#">ACT Reporting Resources</a>         | Link to ACT Reporting Resources.   | ACT     |
| <a href="#">Aspire ISR Cover Letter</a>         | Sample Individual Student Report cover letter.   | Aspire  |
| <a href="#">Aspire Summative Reports Guide</a>  | List and description of all Summative reports for ACT Aspire.  | Aspire  |



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