

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.

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 choice 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

Reminders

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

Reminders:

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.