

2023-24

# Wisconsin Statewide Assessments

## Things to Know

### Statewide Assessments

The Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) is designed to provide information about student knowledge and skills in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Assessment results are also used for state and federal accountability and school improvement. The WSAS includes the following state assessments:



- [Forward Exam](#) at grades 3-8 in English language arts and mathematics, grades 4 and 8 in science, and grade 10 in social studies
- [PreACT Secure](#) at grades 9 and 10
- [The ACT with writing](#) at grade 11 (also provides an ACT score for college applicants), and
- [Dynamic Learning Maps \(DLM\)](#) is the alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities at grades 3-11

### Statewide Assessment Reporting

- Student achievement is reported using [performance levels](#) that indicate the degree to which students are meeting the grade-level expectations of the Wisconsin Academic Standards. The scores needed for each performance level were determined through standard settings involving educators from around the state.
- Reporting and performance level resources are included on the Data and Results page for each assessment on the [Assessment in Wisconsin webpage](#). Information for families about the statewide assessments is also available on this webpage.
- Information about standards is available on the [Wisconsin Academic Standards webpage](#).
- Test participation is included as a part of achievement scores in the ESSA Accountability Reports.
- Assessment results are available on [WISEdash Public](#).

### Data Considerations

- State summative assessment results are a snapshot of student performance and should be used in conjunction with other measures, such as interim and formative assessment data, classroom observations, and student grades to gauge student learning.
- Forward Exam ELA and mathematics scale scores (test scores) and performance levels: Due to updates in test content and scale, ELA and mathematics scale scores cannot be directly compared between 2024 and prior years.
- ACT and PreACT Secure state performance levels were also updated in English language arts, mathematics and science to ensure coherent reporting and accountability, however, the underlying scores didn't change. It is possible to compare scores across years, however, as with the Forward Exam, consider 2024 the first year of a new trend for proficiency rates.
- For more specific information on interpreting assessment data, please see [How to Use 2023-24 Forward Exam Assessment Data](#).



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**Public Instruction**  
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