

**From:** Gaffney-Dilley, Debra DPI [mailto:Debra.Gaffney-Dilley@dpi.wi.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 05, 2015 9:15 AM  
**To:** DACs  
**Subject:** Badger Exam Announcement

District Assessment Coordinators:  
The following email was sent yesterday to District Administrators.

*Dear District Administrators,*

*We have worked together to make sure our students have a new student assessment that gives us and their parents meaningful information about their progress. That shared goal is still going to happen this school year. I'd like to provide you with an update on this year's Badger Exam (Wisconsin's Smarter Balanced Assessment). Due to difficulties with Smarter Balanced's adaptive test engine, the 2014-15 assessment will be administered online as a fixed-form exam. This change means that questions will not adapt as a student progresses through the exam. The questions will still match those approved by the Smarter Balanced Consortium and the administration of the exam will look very similar to the version Wisconsin schools piloted. The testing window will not change.*

*Rather than introduce a new element that may have technical issues, the department has decided to delay implementation of the adaptive testing engine. The test is valid, its items are sound, and it will provide more meaningful information to educators than our previous assessment, the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE). The Governor's budget for the 2015-17 biennium includes a request to de-fund Smarter Balanced assessments that will work through the legislative process over the next several months. This does not impact the test administration for the current 2014-15 school year. As required by current state law, we will continue with the spring 2015 administration of the Badger Exam.*

*We are working hard to ensure we have a smooth transition to an online three through eight assessment in this first year of implementation. We will continue to keep you updated as we move forward. If you have any questions, please contact Troy Couillard, Director, Office of Student Assessment, at [troy.couillard@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:troy.couillard@dpi.wi.gov).*

*Sincerely,*

*Mike Thompson, PhD  
Deputy State Superintendent  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
125 South Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707-7841*

The fixed form test will have multiple forms but it will not be adaptive. Students will still encounter all different item types and the Performance Tasks. You will still receive information on the child's cut score (below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced) as well as how they scored relative to the Wisconsin Common Core Standards' claims. We are currently updating our website with these changes. Thank you for your support in making these changes.

Troy Couillard  
Director, Office of Student Assessment