

From: DPI
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2015
To: DACs
Subject: Badger Exam Updates

Dear District Assessment Coordinators;

All of you have worked tirelessly towards successful implementation of the assessments throughout the year. We commend you for all your work. We know that every change has repercussions for you, staff, and students so we don't make these decisions quickly or without careful consideration. Nevertheless, in order to make sure we have the best chance for successful implementation of the Badger Exam 3-8 it is necessary to make the changes as described in the note from Deputy State Superintendent Mike Thompson which I have copied below. Thank you for your patience.

Please share this information with teachers, principals, and other staff members.

Troy Couillard
Director, Office of Student Assessment
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Dear District Administrator:

Recently, State Superintendent Evers sent a letter affirming the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) commitment to quality assessments for our students. In that letter, we reiterated our commitment to administer the Badger Exam 3-8 as planned this spring. We know schools have been working diligently in preparing students and staff for this year's Badger Exam. We want to assure you that we are working with our test vendor so the transition goes as smoothly as possible and alleviates some of your concerns, like overall testing time, while ensuring the assessment provides you with the best results. We wanted to inform you of some important updates for this year's Badger Exam:

- **We are eliminating the English Language Arts (ELA) Performance Tasks**, thus reducing the Badger Exam by two and a half hours. We will still be able to provide valid scores on ELA claims and a reliable overall score.
- **The Math Performance Tasks will remain**, in order to maintain the validity of the assessment and test the claims for math problem solving and data analysis.

Testing Windows:

- **March 30-May 22** (ELA portion of the assessment).

- **April 13- May 22** (ELA with accommodations for Braille, Closed Captioning and American Sign Language, and Math - including Math Performance Assessments). This is altered slightly to ensure the test vendor had sufficient time for testing, minimizing the probability of any technical glitches for our students.

As was mentioned earlier, these changes will not impact the overall reporting information gleaned from the assessment. The Badger Exam is a good test and will give us our first insight into how our students are doing on more rigorous standards. The data from the Badger Exam will give districts information for their schools as well as important insights into possible achievement gaps. Districts will be able to use the data and continue to plan strategically to improving outcomes for all students.

We understand there has been a great deal of uncertainty regarding the future of this assessment. DPI remains committed to an annual assessment as it provides valuable information to parents, educators, policymakers, and the general public.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson, PhD
Deputy State Superintendent

Troy Couillard
Director, Office of Student Assessment
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction