

From: Passehl, Melissa K. DPI [mailto:Melissa.Passehl@dpi.wi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 1:33 PM
To: DACs
Subject: Attn: DACs - Assessment/Accountability Updates

Dear Colleague:

In an effort to streamline communications, this email includes a variety of updates pertinent to assessment and accountability. Please share these updates within your district as widely as you see fit.

Act 55: the 2015-17 Biennial Budget

As you know, the Governor signed Act 55 into law earlier this month. We've summarized some of the required changes that affect you in the attached summary. It provides details about key Act 55 requirements specific to accountability and assessment.

- You will also be able find the summary document here: <http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/>.
- A comprehensive summary of the entire budget is available from our Policy & Budget team: <http://pb.dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/budget/pdf/Final%20Act%2055%202015-17%20budget%20summary.pdf>.
- Finally, if you are interested in reviewing the budget directly, please reference this PDF: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/path/Publisher/WSL/FrontPage/Special/100%20-%20Act%2055%20-%20Executive%20Budget%20with%20Partial%20Veto>.

We note this in the summary, but it's worth saying again: **technical changes, clarification of language, and the release of additional rules and guidance following from Act 55 will take place in the coming months.** We will continue to update you throughout this process.

Assessment Data Timelines

We understand you are eager to get assessment results. We have received many questions about data availability from those working hard to compile and report assessment results to inform local planning and/or share with local school boards. To support your work, we'd like to share where things currently stand with state-level assessment reporting. In short, we do not have a set schedule for when the assessment results will be available in WISEdash for Districts or the Public Portal. We anticipate a fall press release, but as of yet, no date has been determined.

DPI is currently working to load the new assessment data files into our data warehouse. Like you, we are learning about these new data and data files. This is a complex and time-intensive process involving data from multiple vendors. Once the data load and quality assurance processes are complete, we will move forward with secure reporting (in WISEdash for Districts) of results as they are available. At that point, work will continue toward making data available in the WISEdash Public Portal.

- We are currently working with the following prioritization: 1) Badger, 2) ACT, 3) Aspire, and 4) DLM. Badger, ACT, and Aspire data loads are in progress; we have not yet received DLM data to begin the load process.
- We understand an interest in having a state-level comparison to provide context for local results, and we are looking into providing secure preliminary state-level results on or near the secure release of the data for districts and schools.

Additionally, as we load data, we also have the important task of setting cut scores to determine performance levels for the ACT and Aspire assessments. We anticipate these cut scores will be determined by mid-September. This is necessary for secure, and eventually public, reporting.

DPI does extensive data checking and “cleaning” prior to loading the data in the data warehouse for reporting. Any data that you obtain from a vendor portal would not yet have received this quality assurance. **As a result, districts should not publicly share assessment results at this time.** As a reminder, if you share results in a School Board meeting, **those results become public records.** Data pulled from vendor portals may only be used to inform local instructional or programmatic decisions.

Accountability: Title I and Title III

As a reminder, there will be no school or district report cards for 2014-15. In the meantime, DPI is working to implement changes to the accountability calculations required by Act 55 and to identify potential additional changes to continue to improve the report cards. This work will be ongoing during the 2015-16 school year. Please see the attached summary for further details.

While there will be no report cards for 2014-15, federal accountability requirements remain in place. This includes Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs) for Title I accountability and Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) for Title III (English language learner) accountability. Here are two updates on those topics:

Title I: Once we have finalized Badger and ACT data, DPI will examine performance related to existing [AMO targets](#) to determine if new targets are appropriate. If they are, DPI would submit a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education to request approval of new targets. If new targets are not necessary, we would begin the process of publicly reporting on AMOs.

Title III: Because AMAOs are impacted by AMOs, the release date for 2014-15 AMAO determinations for English Language Learners is not yet finalized. Given timelines for the new assessment data for 2014-15, however, we anticipate AMAO reports will be available later than in prior years. Once ready, district reports will be available in the [Secure Access File Exchange](#) (SAFE). We will provide a more detailed timeline as soon as it is available.

Beginning this fall, public summary download files for 2014-15 and prior year AMAO determinations will be available on the Accountability for English Language Learners website: <https://oea.dpi.wi.gov/acct/ellamao>.

We hope these updates inform your work going forward. If you have any input or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov.

Regards,
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