



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
& STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Newsletter - Issue XXVIII, November 2013

OEA/OSA Updates...

Successful Administration of the 2013-14 WSAS

The 2013-14 Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) test window comes to a close November 29. DPI would like to thank everyone for their time and effort in the successful administration of the 2013 WKCE and WAA-SwD. The Office of Student Assessment (OSA) staff appreciate the phone calls and emails from schools and districts asking for clarification, providing comments, and reporting irregularities. Your attention to administrative detail and awareness of test security before, during, and after testing helps to ensure all students have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. We know how much work this is for schools and districts, and appreciate all that you do.

Smarter Update

Wisconsin is on track with plans to use the Smarter Assessments in grades 3-8 beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

The Field Test will take place from March 18-June 6, 2014. About 20% of Wisconsin's students, grades 3-8, will take part. Schools will be selected from the many volunteers who registered to participate. The Field Test will evaluate the performance of more than 20,000 assessment items and performance tasks—as well as the performance of the online testing system. Data from the Field Test will allow Smarter to set preliminary achievement standards during the summer of 2014. The Field Test also provides an opportunity to make sure technology systems and administration logistics are ready for implementation of the assessment system in the 2014-15 school year.

Accommodations will be consistent across Smarter states. Usability, Accessibility, and Accommodations Guidelines for the assessment system are available at



http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_091113.pdf. The guidelines are developed in collaboration with

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OEA/OSA Calendar...

Important Dates

2013	
November 27 8:00 AM	Deadline to review and revise all ISES records before lockdown
November 29	WSAS Testing Window Closes (WKCE and WAA-SwD)
December 2	ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window Opens
December 9	Deadline for DACs to arrange for pick-up of WSAS test materials
2014	
January 8	Pre-Recorded 2013-14 Record Editing System (RES) training available via Mediasite
January 13-22	Record Editing System Window
January 27	NAEP Assessment Window Opens
February 7	ACCESS for ELLs® Testing Window Closes
February 18	WSAS Individual Performance Reports (IPRs) shipped to districts
March 7	NAEP Testing Window Closes
March 13	WSAS Phase II and Phase III Test Results available online securely – Data Embargoed until April 8, 2014

We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. As the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) and Student Assessment (OSA) work to improve and refine this communication tool, we appreciate feedback and/or suggestions on the layout and content.

Please contact OEA and OSA at:

oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.





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Smarter Update (Continued from page 1)

member states and nationally recognized experts. Further details will be provided in the spring so districts can include this information in IEPs.

Smarter has translated information about the assessment system into Spanish which includes factsheets and handouts for teachers, parents, and students. These resources are available at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/parents-students/como-ayudar-a-todos-los-estudiantes-a-que-tengan-exito/>.

Work on the formative end of the Smarter Assessment has begun. A State Leadership Team, consisting of seven DPI staff, a higher education representative from UW-La Crosse, and a State Network of Educators, comprised of about 90 individuals from schools and educational institutions around the state, have undergone training for submitting formative assessment resources to the new Smarter Digital Library. The Digital Library will be a powerful tool for integrating formative assessment into instructional practice. It promises to take much of the work out of locating formative assessment tools that exemplify one or more of the key attributes of formative practice (clarifying intended learning, eliciting evidence, analyzing evidence, and acting on evidence) and that are in line with the Common Core State Standards.

Record Editing System Window

Districts will have an opportunity to review student demographics and testing status during the WSAS Record Editing System (RES) window from 8:00 a.m., January 13, until noon on January 22. This is a district's final chance to ensure that all students who were tested appear as tested, that all students in their district are accounted for, that no students were inadvertently opted-out, etc. There will be a field to indicate whether or not each student was tested, and which test was used (WKCE or WAA-SwD). RES is the final opportunity for districts to ensure that data used by the DPI for reporting and accountability are accurate and complete. A recorded training session on using RES will be available online January 8, 2014.

**Online Assessment Technology
Readiness Survey**

In October, DPI surveyed 558 districts and Wisconsin Private School Choice Program schools to determine readiness for the new online Smarter Assessments. The surveys included questions related to device, bandwidth, and staff readiness. The response rate as of October 20 was 96%, with 92% of test sites in the responding districts and choice schools reporting they are both device and bandwidth ready. DPI will publish survey results and respond to questions and concerns identified through the survey in the coming months. For resources on technology readiness and to join a discussion group, see <http://tinyurl.com/wiscsbac1>. We urge district assessment coordinators and district technology coordinators to continue working together to ensure a smooth transition to large-scale online testing in 2014-15. DPI thanks you for your time to complete the survey – and there is still time to complete it if your district has not yet done so.

ISES Deadline

The ISES "Review and Revision" period, which runs until 8:00 a.m. on November 27, is the opportunity for districts to review their student demographic data and make any necessary changes so WSAS reports will be accurate.

Before November 27, school districts should check all student demographic data in ISES for accuracy and completeness, correct remaining errors, address any unacknowledged warnings, and lock and submit final district data. DACs should work with their WSLS/ISES administrators to accomplish this task. Districts will have one final opportunity to review WSAS student demographics during the January Record Editing System window.





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ACT Update

ACT will replace the WKCE as the statewide accountability instrument for high school. 61% of Wisconsin's high school students already take the ACT. The full suite of ACT assessments will be administered to all high school students without cost to student or districts.

The biennial budget requires DPI to begin administering the ACT suite in 2014-15. The annual cycle of ACT assessments will consist of the Aspire ninth grade assessment in the fall and Aspire for ninth and tenth graders and the ACT and WorkKeys for eleventh graders in the spring.



ACCESS for ELLs® Update

New students who have been identified as possible English language learners (ELLs) through the use of a home language survey or other means are expected to complete an English language proficiency screener within the first 30 days after enrollment. The screener is used for both ELL identification and ELL service placement. The W-APT screener is available free of charge to districts for this purpose on the WIDA website and is accessible with the district login. The current release is Version 3, October 2013. Districts and schools may continue to use any already printed copies of the W-APT.

The test window for ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is December 2, 2013, through February 7, 2014.

MetriTech will ship Pre-ID barcode labels to all districts. Pre-ID labels are scheduled to arrive in districts about January 10, 2014. The Pre-ID labels will include all relevant demographic data for reporting and accountability under state and federal law. The state file will include all ELL students (ELP 1-5) with an active enrollment status in a Wisconsin public school at the time the file is created. MetriTech will also provide labels for private schools. Private school data files are due from districts to MetriTech by December 12, 2013.

Additional ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing materials may be ordered by the ordering deadline of January 28, 2014, by contacting MetriTech at 800-747-4868 or by email: wida@metritech.com.

All test proctors are required to complete the on-line test administration training modules for tests they administer. DPI recommends proctors do so annually to stay current with new administration procedures. District Assessment Coordinators are responsible for setting up individual test administration training accounts. Individuals who have test administration training accounts but can't access the training site may contact WIDA Client Services at 1-866-276-7735 or www.wida.us for instructions on generating new passwords.

District Administrators who would like to provide more comprehensive trainings for test proctors can use the materials provided in the ACCESS for ELLs Toolkit found on the secure WIDA website. All confidentiality and security protocols should be followed when accessing and using these training materials.

This year, the ACCESS for ELLs Listening domain test will be media-based. All listening items for all tiers and grades 1-12 are prerecorded. Rather than listening to the test administrator read the scripted items, the students will listen to a recording. This allows for students to listen to more authentic language use, such as conversations involving more than one speaker. Test items will be administered via audio from a CD or streamed online via a secure password-protected site. ACCESS for ELLs test materials will include one CD for every Eight test forms at each grade and tier. This CD can be played on a standard CD player or a computer with a CD/DVD drive with speakers. As an additional option, the Listening test can be streamed online from a secure MetriTech, Inc. website. Districts that use this option need to make sure they meet the minimum computer requirements for streaming.

The Listening section in the Test Administrator Script booklet includes changes to reflect the new delivery method. The Test Administrator Script will not contain recorded test item transcripts. The written transcript of the actual items will not be provided except in rare instances when a test administrator-read script is a necessary accommodation documented in a student's IEP or 504 Plan. In these cases, a copy of the appropriate Recording Script can be ordered from MetriTech, Inc.

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ACCESS for ELLs® Update (Continued from page 3)

In addition to Listening test alterations, there have also been minor changes to the Reading test administration. Rather than providing a fixed amount of time for the Reading test (35 minutes) and extra time allowable (5 minutes), the timing guidelines provide an overall range of how long the test should take (35-45 minutes), and allow educators more discretion. These changes are presented in more detail in the online training materials and in the ACCESS for ELLs Test Administration Manual.



Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ Update

Individuals administering the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs should complete the online trainings found on the WIDA website page at <http://wida.us/assessment/alternateaccess.aspx>. It's recommended that the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs be administered by the professional who works most closely with the student. Special education and ELL professionals can work collaboratively on both the assessment training and administration. New guiding documents are available to help districts understand and use the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs score reports. These materials can be found via the WIDA website and www.wida.us.

Districts can use the **1-7-C: IEP: Participation in Statewide Language Assessment, Checklist and Accommodations (Worksheet)** found at http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_forms06 to help identify who may be eligible to take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs and document accommodations used for either language assessment. Only a very small number of students are expected to meet the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs eligibility requirements.

For questions about the ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, to obtain district level pass codes, or for any other ELL assessment related questions, please contact Audrey Lesondak at 608-267-5153 or audrey.lesondak@dpi.wi.gov.

ASSETS (Assessment Services Supporting ELs through Technology Systems) Grant

The ASSETS Consortium is now entering year three of the four-year grant to develop the next generation ACCESS for ELLs®. The ASSETS Team is pleased to welcome the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the Consortium, bringing our total number of states to 35. Over the past few months, the ASSETS Subcommittees have:

- continued to provide input on the formation of a common English Learner definition,
- recommended appropriate technological devices to be supported in the operational ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 assessment, and
- drafted policy recommendations regarding available accessibility features and accommodations provided for ELLs with disabilities.



The autumn months have been full of test development activity. Wisconsin will be participating in only the listening domain field test in 2015. However, ASSETS test development partners have been busy preparing for the

2014 field test in the speaking, reading, and writing domains for some of our other member states. Information for the 2015 field test will be provided in fall 2014.

Data Recognition Corporation (DRC), the field test platform provider, joined WIDA and DPI in the first webinar for the ACCESS 2.0 Field Test. Project partners have held several workshops to finalize plans for the field test platform and items to be produced in the coming months.

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ASSETS Grant (Continued from page 4)

Activities involving resources for instructor use have also been at the forefront in the ASSETS Project. Research and development have continued to be key activities as staff analyzed data for the Dynamic Language Learning Progressions (DLLPs) and discussed revisions to the interim assessment prototypes. Alison Bailey and Margaret Heritage are leading the DLLP research, empirically mapping language development for a range of academic functions. The results will inform ASSETS test development and provide instructional and formative assessment resources for teachers.

- For information regarding the ASSETS Project (including Interim Assessments and Field Test information): www.assetsproject.org
- For information regarding the Dynamic Language Learning Progression visit <http://www.dllp.org/>

Wisconsin Information System for Education Dashboard (WISEdash) Update

The WISEdash Public Portal is now live at <http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov>.



The WISEdash Public Portal is the companion to WISEdash for Districts (a secure portal). No student-level data is displayed. No WAMS id is required. Similar to WINSS, the WISEdash Public Portal contains only aggregated and redacted school-level data. The following WINSS data topics are fully incorporated into WISEdash: ACT, AP, WSAS, Attendance, and Enrollment. Remaining WINSS data topics will be migrated over time into WISEdash.

Key WISEdash features:



- Side-by-side: Compare two school districts or two schools in WSAS, AP, ACT, Attendance, and Enrollment

- Multi-district and multi-school: Compare any five districts or five schools to each other, or compare to statewide
- Trends: See trends over the last five years
- Data files: Get statewide data files back to 1995

We encourage district staff to start with WISEdash Public for most data needs. When you are ready to do student-level analysis, use the Secure Home icon  in the WISEdash footer for quick access to Secure Home.

Website links to WINSS will need to be changed.

To help you, DPI has a special webpage; http://wise.dpi.wi.gov/wisedash_districtsupport, that contains website badges, top links, user guides, and key information about when to use the public portal vs. the district portal for analysis. We encourage you to add a WISEdash badge to your website so that parents and staff can find the WISEdash Public Portal easily.

Note - Data Views and Enrollment: WISEdash Public Portal contains two data views: Certified and Current. For most public users, the differences will not be noticeable. For users of WISEdash Secure for districts, you may find closer matches to your Secure data with Current view. Please read this webpage, http://wise.dpi.wi.gov/wisedash_dataviews, for more details. Pay special attention to the availability of enrollment data for the 2013-14 school year in the Current data view. Note that the 3rd Friday of September "official" data counts will be published under the Certified Data View after the ISES collection closes. If you have questions, please use our new WISEdash help ticket: <http://wise.dpi.wi.gov/help-ticket>.

PALS Update

The PALS fall administration windows for 4K, 5K, and 1st grade has closed. The school and district level downloadable files are available on the PALS Online Score Entry and Reporting System. DPI would like to thank the administrators, teachers, and other staff from all of the schools across the state that contributed to this fall's administration.
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PALS Update (Continued from page 5)

The optional PALS mid-year administration window for 4K through 1st grade is scheduled to open January 6 and remain open until February 28, 2014, with the score entry deadline also set for February 28. For more information about the mid-year administration, see the PALS Wisconsin website: http://www.palswisconsin.info/about_MidYear.shtml.

The required PALS spring administration window for 4K through 1st grade is scheduled for April 28-May 23, 2014, with the score entry deadline set for June 6, 2014. Teachers will need to choose two weeks within the window to administer the assessment to their students.

PALS Quick Checks (available for 5K and 1st grade) are brief measures used to monitor student progress between the three main screening/assessment windows (fall, mid-year, spring) and to determine the effectiveness of instruction and intervention. Quick Checks are accessible via the PALS Online System account, where Quick Check progress charts and summary reports are generated as scores are entered. A Quick Check Guidance document is also available to provide specific information about using Quick Checks.



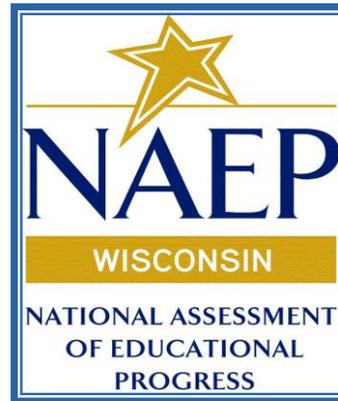
The PALS training site offers a number of courses that may be of use for teachers now that they have completed screening their students. Two particular courses, "Monitoring Student Progress with PALS" and "Using PALS Data to Drive Instruction" should be considered for all teachers. To access the training site, go to <http://pd.casenex.com/>.

For more information on PALS, see the PALS Wisconsin Resource Center at: <http://www.palswisconsin.info>, contact PALS directly at support@palshelp.com or (888) 728-7257, or contact Duane Dorn at DPI at duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-1069.

NAEP Updates

NAEP 2013 results were released on November 7, 2013. See how Wisconsin's 4th and 8th graders performed compared to their peers in other states. To compare state performance, visit

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/states/>, to dig into the data visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/>, to read Wisconsin's press release visit http://news.dpi.wi.gov/files/eis/pdf/dpinr2013_143.pdf. Stay tuned for NAEP 2013 Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) results, which should be released in December or January. Milwaukee Public Schools participated in the TUDA program; these district-level results can be compared to other urban districts that participated across the nation.



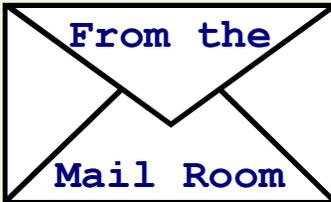
Schools that are participating in NAEP 2014 should visit MyNAEP (www.mynaep.com) to review the list of pre-assessment activities that need to be completed before assessments begin at the end of January. Please note that unlike in previous NAEP administrations, there will be no in-person pre-assessment visits at schools. Instead, this year the activities will be completed online and in phone calls with NAEP Representatives. If you have trouble logging onto MyNAEP, please contact the NAEP Help Desk at 800-283-6237 or naephelp@westat.com. If you have any other questions about your school's participation, please contact your NAEP Representative (contact information is posted on MyNAEP), Angela Dugas at angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov, or Kristen Burton at kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov.





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“Are the Assessment Window Dates Available for the 2014-15 School Year?”

We understand districts are setting their calendars for the 2014-15 school year and would like information on testing windows for the new assessments. The information we currently have is tentative and in a graphic timeline format available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_wiassessmt. As contracts with the assessment vendors are finalized, we will have specific dates to share with districts.

FAQ... Shipping and Packing Test Materials

Q. When bundling test books, must we use the bands that are provided?

Yes. You must use the bands provided for bundling. These bands are specifically selected for their size, strength, and durability. Rubber bands or other types of bands may damage test books and make them difficult to score.

Q. When boxing test books, must we use the boxes that are provided?

Yes. You must use the boxes provided for shipping materials back to CTB. These boxes are specific to Wisconsin and make it easier to keep track of all Wisconsin test materials.

Q. What should I do to show that I shipped all of my boxes?

Be sure that a staff member is present when boxes are picked up, and that every box has been accounted for on the shipping document. Retain a copy of the receipt verifying the number of boxes shipped.

Q. What should I do if we've already shipped our boxes and we have one or more test books that didn't get included in the shipment?

If there are some test books left out after shipping, you must register through the online retrieval system for test-box pick-up again. Pack them in a testing box, not in an envelope. Do not mail the books to CTB, doing so may result in test books that are not scored.

Q. How should I pack the tests if I have one or more test books with irregularities?

Test books with irregularities should be banded with a completed Special Handling Form (included in the TCK). After packing the rest of the test books, place these special handling materials above the stack of test books under the school header sheet.

Q. Why is it important to accurately report the lowest grade in my school last year?

WSAS disaggregated reports and accountability determinations are based on students enrolled for a full academic year (FAY). If the lowest grade in the school last year was a grade level of testing this year (for example grade 6 in a middle school), then none of the students currently enrolled in that grade had been enrolled in the school FAY. When this is the case, school level reports for that grade are disaggregated based upon FAY status within the district. If the lowest grade in the school last year is not accurately reported, then disaggregated reports and accountability determinations may be inaccurate and WINSS and School Report Cards may show no test results for some grades in the school.



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Building Assessment Literacy...

2014-15 School Year Assessments

The Office of Student assessment would like to clarify the assessment plan for the 2014-15 school year:

- The WKCE for Reading/Language Arts/Writing and Mathematics will be replaced by Smarter in grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics in the spring of the year. All Smarter summative assessments will be given during a testing window in spring of 2015.
- The WKCE Social Studies and Science assessments will continue to be given in the fall for grades 4, 8, and 10.
- ACT Early High School Aspire (formerly Explore) at 9th, ACT Early High School Aspire (formerly Plan) PLAN (10th), ACT and WorkKeys (11th) will be given in 2014-15.
- ACT Early High School Aspire online assessment (formally Explore and Plan) will begin in 2014-15. The ninth grade assessment will be given in the Fall and the Spring. All other ACT assessments will be given in the spring.
- The ACT college entrance examination and the WorkKeys set of assessments (Applied Math, Locating Information, and Reading for Information) will be given in spring to all 11th graders.

Contact Information...

Office of Educational Accountability (OEA)

Laura Pinsonneault, Director
laura.pinsonneault@dpi.wi.gov

Alexis Bourgeois, Data/Reporting
alexis.bourgeois@dpi.wi.gov

Katherine Durlacher, Statistics
katherine.durlacher@dpi.wi.gov

Jason Engle, Data/Statistics
Par.Engle@dpi.wi.gov

Amy Marsman, Standards Consultant
amy.marsman@dpi.wi.gov

Justin Meyer, Statistics
justin.meyer@dpi.wi.gov

Alison O'Hara, Statistics
alison.o'hara@dpi.wi.gov

Sarah Zambito, Data/Statistics
sarah.zambito@dpi.wi.gov

Office of Student Assessment (OSA)

Troy Couillard, Director
troy.couillard@dpi.wi.gov

Phil Olsen, Assistant Director
philip.olsen@dpi.wi.gov

Jihan Bekiri, ASSETS
jihan.bekiri@dpi.wi.gov

Angela Dugas, NAEP
angela.dugas@dpi.wi.gov

Kristen Burton, WAA-SwD/ ELL
kristen.burton@dpi.wi.gov

Audrey Lesondak, ELL Consultant
audrey.lesondak@dpi.wi.gov

Jayson Chung, Statistics/Data
jayson.chung@dpi.wi.gov

Viji Somasundaram, WKCE
visalakshi.somasundaram@dpi.wi.gov

Phil Cranley, Statistics
philip.cranley@dpi.wi.gov

Jennifer Teasdale, WKCE/Website
jennifer.teasdale@dpi.wi.gov

Duane Dorn, Standards Consultant
duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov

Tony Evers, State Superintendent

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