

# ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

Issue LI, September 2019



## OSA/OEA Updates...

### Note from the Assessment Director



Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you had a fantastic summer.

Thanks to the Wisconsin educators who have participated in the Forward Exam Item Review, Science Standard Setting, and Alignment Study meetings. Educator involvement in these crucial steps of the development process helps improve the quality of our assessments as well as serve as excellent professional development for the participating educators.

We will continue to share the information regarding the upcoming spring assessments with you through the DAC Digests. The Forward Exam, ACT, ASPIRE, and DLM assessments will be administered during spring 2020. ACCESS for ELLs will be administered this winter.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) will be launching an assessment e-learning series for schools and educators this fall. The series includes three modules, Assessment Literacy, Data Literacy, and Strategic Assessment Systems. The modules can be accessed via slides to be used as a district-wide, school-wide, or small group PLC learning experience or, individually via an online learning platform.

Thank you for all the great work you do for our students' education. We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

*Viji Somasundaram*

Director, Office of Student Assessment (OSA)

## OSA Calendar...

### Important Dates

2019	
September 6	NAEP age 13 School Coordinators deadline to register for MyNAEP and complete the <i>Provide School Information</i> form
September 9	DLM Instructions and Assessment Planner opens
September 10	NAEP age 13 schools deadline to submit student list "e-files"
September 12	Public release of statewide assessment data for the spring 2019 Forward Exam, ACT, ASPIRE, and DLM
September 30 – November 5	ACCESS - Private School Pre-ID Upload Window (Districts)
October 4	Annual DAC and DTC update forms due to OSA
October 14- December 20	NAEP window for 13-year-olds (select schools only) each school has one specific test date
Mid October	NAEP age 9 school coordinator mailings sent to schools
November 1	NAEP age 9 School Coordinators deadline to register for MyNAEP and complete the <i>Provide School Information</i> form.
November 4	ACT PAnext Test Administration portal opens
November 4	ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system opens
November 5	ACCESS - DPI uploads Public school Pre-ID file
November 8	NAEP age 9 schools deadline to submit student list "e-files"
November 12	<b>ACCESS Test Setup Opens in WIDA AMS</b>
November 21	Forward District Technology Coordinator (DTC) training webinar.
November 26	<b>ACCESS - districts receive materials and additional material orders window opens</b>
November 30	ACT deadline for schools to choose materials shipment dates
December 2	ACCESS testing window opens
2020	
January 6-March 13	NAEP window for 9-year-olds (select schools only)
January 31	ACCESS testing window Closes
March 3	ACT with writing – grade 11
March 3-13	ACT with writing – grade 11 for students testing with accommodations
March 16-May 22	NAEP window for 17-year-olds (select schools only)
March 17	ACT with writing makeup day – grade 11
March 23-May 1	Forward - ELA and mathematics grades 3-8, science grades 4 and 8, and social studies grades 4, 8, and 10
March 23-May 1	DLM - ELA and mathematics grades 3-11, science grades 4 and 8-11, and social studies grades 4, 8, and 10
April 6-May 6	ACT Aspire – grades 9-10

*Dates may be subject to change. Check the OSA calendar webpages for the most current dates throughout the year.*

### Forward Exam Update



Forward Exam student and summary reports were released to districts via eDIRECT July 8. Hard copies of individual student reports (ISRs) for the exam were delivered to districts by August 5. Forward data is under embargo until the DPI press release. **However, ISRs should be shared with parents as soon as possible once received.** A sample ISR cover letter is available on the [Forward Exam Data and Reporting webpage](#). Reporting of all assessment results regarding student data must meet FERPA requirements. The 2018-19 assessment data in the secure portal remain under embargo until the press release.

The Forward Exam New Item Review was held this summer. Approximately 75 Wisconsin educators were selected from an applicant pool to participate in the review. During this important step in the development of the Forward Exam, educators reviewed all newly created items for content, grade level appropriateness, link to the correct standard, bias and sensitivity issues, and cognitive complexity prior to placement on the exam. This great opportunity allowed educators to be a part of the assessment development, have detailed input about the items on the Forward Exam, and take knowledge back to their district about the item review process. Applications will be available at the end of April to participate in the 2020 item review. Information will be provided in the DAC Digest, May Newsletter, and the [Forward Exam Educator Involvement webpage](#).

The [Forward Exam calendar webpage](#) will be updated with the 2019-20 test administration timeline/key dates by the end of September. Please refer back to the calendar webpage regularly for any updates.

A Forward Exam Technology Training webinar will take place in November. More information will be available in the DAC Digest as the training approaches.

Please be sure all staff have access to the **2020 version** of the [Forward Exam Accessibility Guide](#). It is critical that all staff, particularly Special Education teachers, and IEP teams, be aware of the allowable supports and accommodations for the Forward Exam.

DRC previously announced that 2018-19 would be the last academic year districts would be able to use the Testing Site Manager (TSM) for online testing. DRC has been working to transition to Central



Office Service (COS) Service Device from the TSM. If you have not already done so, please migrate the TSMs to the COS Service Device in your configurations and

retire all of your TSMs. If you still have a TSM (for Forward or ACCESS) installed after August 30, you will receive an error message when you attempt to open INSIGHT. Contact the [DRC helpdesk](#) for more information.

### DAC and DTC Update Forms

Be sure to submit your annual DAC and District Technology Coordinator (DTC) update forms no later than October 4. The information provided is used to:

- ensure DACs and DTCs are on the email lists which will provide them with regular assessment updates throughout the year.
- upload DAC information into eDIRECT to ensure DACs have 2020 permissions to the portals.

DACs should remove eDIRECT access for individuals who are no longer employed by the district and adjust user roles to sync with staffing changes.

## ACT High School Assessments Update



For the 2019-20 school year, grade 11 students will be required to complete the ACT with writing

(paper and pencil) in the spring. Students in grades 9 and 10 will be required to complete the ACT Aspire Early High School assessment (online) in the spring. The assessment dates can be found at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act/calendar>.

Aspire is transitioning away from the current Aspire portal. Starting in fall 2019, Aspire administration tasks will be housed in PearsonAccessNext. The Avocet resource library and Aspire Training Management System (TMS) websites have been discontinued. Resources are consolidated on [ACT's Wisconsin website](#). DPI will continue to link all ACT and Aspire resources for state testing on the [DPI's ACT Suite of Assessment webpages](#).

Required tasks for administration of the ACT test will begin in early November. The Test Accessibility and Accommodations system (TAA) as well as Pearson Access<sup>next</sup> (PANext) for ACT will be available at that time. Schools and districts will receive further communications about these processes, including a checklist of important tasks and deadlines, later this fall.

Results from the 2018-19 administration of the high school assessments were received in school districts in spring/early summer. Student reports for 2019 Aspire testing are posted to the Aspire portal. Schools should download the reports as soon as possible if they have not done so already. 2019 Aspire reports are available in the current [Aspire portal](#) until September 30.



## Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



DLM has revamped the instructional side of the Student Portal to help teachers plan instruction

around the Essential Elements. The Instructional and Assessment Planner (formerly the Instructional Tools Interface) will also help teachers monitor student progress with testlets based on the targeted Essential Elements. In order to use the planner, students should be rostered, teachers trained, and first contact surveys entered. We encourage interested teachers to check out these resources!

What can your district be doing this fall to prepare for DLM testing? Please ensure that the 2018-19 Individual Student Reports have been distributed to families. It isn't too early for DACs to update their contact information with OSA and for test administrators to plan for the required training through Moodle and complete their test security agreements. This year's updated Kite Student Portal will need to be installed. For a detailed calendar and more information please see the DLM web page or contact Mike Peacy.

Please contact [Mike Peacy](#) with any questions that you may have about the DLM assessment.

## ACCESS for ELLs® Update



WIDA is rolling out six eLearning courses this fall, which are free for every educator in Wisconsin.

They are designed for both ESL and non-ESL staff, and cover a wide variety of topics such as Doing and Talking STEM and Foundational Concepts for K-12 Educators. Districts are encouraged to make WIDA Secure Portal accounts for staff who could take advantage of these courses. They will need the eLearning permission turned on in order to access the courses through Canvas.

WIDA will be releasing a new edition of their standards for the 2020-21 school year. These will tie more directly to academic content standards, come with new supporting materials, and will focus on the key language uses Explain, Argue, Inform, and Narrate. Look for previews and chances to provide feedback later this Fall and Winter.

## Assessment of Reading Readiness Update



For the 2019-20 school year, the requirement remains to assess each 4-year-old kindergarten to 2nd grade student in a school district or in a charter school for Reading Readiness annually. [Wis. Stats. 118.016](#) requires each school

board and the operator of each charter school to select the appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals to be used. The school board or operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge.

In addition to the requirement to administer a literacy screener, the following conditions apply:

- DPI shall pay to the school board or operator the per pupil cost of the selected assessment.
- The school board or operator of the charter school shall report the results of a pupil's assessment to the pupil's parent or guardian.
- The school board of the school district or operator of the charter school in which the pupil is enrolled shall provide a pupil whose assessment indicates that he or she is at risk of reading difficulty with interventions or remedial reading services, as described under [Wis. Stats. 121.02\(1\)\(c\)](#).

More information on the Reading Readiness requirements can be found at: [Reading Readiness Overview](#). In addition, an FAQ section can be found at: [Reading Readiness FAQ](#).



## NAEP Update



Schools selected for **NAEP 2020** will be receiving mailings, if they haven't already, with information for designated School Coordinators about pre-assessment tasks. Because this year's

assessment is the Long-Term Trend test, there are different test windows for each age group, and therefore different timelines and deadlines based on the test window. The age 13 test window is first: October 14 through December 20. Schools with selected age 13 students should have received their School Coordinator mailings already and should be working on the pre-assessment tasks now. The age 9 test window is January 6 through March 13; these schools will receive the mailings in late October. The age 17 test window is March 16 through May 22; these schools will receive their mailings in December.

**NAEP 2019** state results in reading and mathematics for grades 4 and 8 are expected to be released in October or November this year. Stay tuned to see how Wisconsin students performed compared to their peers nationally. Milwaukee Public Schools participated in NAEP's Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA); those district results should be released at the same time to compare urban districts around the nation.

The **NAEP 2018** Technology and Engineering Literacy Report Card was released in the spring. These are national results which compare 8<sup>th</sup> grade performance in 2018 to 2014 and show that 8<sup>th</sup> graders have increased their proficiency in Technology and Engineering Literacy. For more information, please visit [The Nation's Report Card](#). NCES just released a report using **NAEP 2017** data: and Mapping State Proficiency Standards Onto NAEP Scales. In this report, states' proficiency standards (i.e., proficiency "cut scores" on state accountability assessments) were mapped onto NAEP's proficiency scale. Wisconsin had some of the highest proficiency standards in the country as compared to NAEP. To read more about the report, visit [The Nation's Report Card website](#).

If you have any questions please contact [Angela Dugas](#), Wisconsin's NAEP State Coordinator.

## Fall Release of Assessment and Data Literacy Learning Modules



DPI Instruction will be launching an assessment learning series for schools and educators this fall. The modules are designed to provide flexible learning opportunities for pre-service teachers, veteran teachers,

administrators, and school board members. The modules will be housed within the [Strategic Assessment Systems website](#) as well as WISELearn. They will be offered in two mediums based on the specific needs of the user, either as slides with a facilitator's guide to be used as a district-wide, school-wide, or small group PLC learning experience or individually via an online learning platform.

The e-learning series includes three modules, Assessment Literacy, Data Literacy and Strategic Assessment Systems. Each module is broken down into smaller units of study. The units serve as a la carte professional development opportunities that can be taken in any order, at any point in time based on the specific needs of the user. Each unit contains a brief description, specific learning targets, intended audience, and an estimated completion time so the user can ensure they are getting the specific professional development opportunities they need to advance their learning.

### The modules will include:

Assessment Literacy
Introduction to Assessment Literacy
Know What and Why You are Assessing
How am I Assessing?
Analyzing Standards and Instructional Planning
Create and Communicate Learning Standards
Eliminating Barriers
The Role of the Student

Data Literacy
Introduction to Data Literacy
Effective Data Use
Data-Literate Educators
Strategic Assessment Systems
Introduction to Strategic Assessment Systems
Formative Assessment
Interim Assessment
Summative Assessment

A specific release date coming this Fall. Please contact [Dana Sommerfeld](#) or [Lauren Zellmer](#) with questions regarding these modules.



## State Accountability Updates

The Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) is conducting final preparations to start running 2018-19 School and District Report Cards, including the two versions of accountability report card for private schools participating in the choice programs (Private School – Choice Students Report Card and Private School – All Students Report Card).



Accountability Report Cards will be released on a similar timeline as prior years. As always, preliminary secure report cards will be available in SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange. We anticipate the preliminary secure release will take place on Tuesday, October 1. Please make sure you have [access to SAFE](#) prior to the secure release. The release of preliminary report cards in SAFE opens the report card inquiry period. The inquiry period is an opportunity for schools and districts to review their data and open an inquiry with OEA should they believe their data was not accurately reported to DPI. The public release of the report cards will be in mid-November. When specific dates have been determined, we will update the report card timeline and announce it in the DAC Digest.

If you have questions about the report cards, please contact us at [reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov).



## Federal Accountability Updates

DPI is again planning a coordinated, joint release of federal identifications for ESSA and IDEA. More information about this release will be forthcoming in the Fall, but there are two timely updates: first, the release of preliminary ESSA Accountability Reports and IDEA LEA Determinations is currently planned for early December, similar to last year. There is no inquiry period for ESSA Accountability; corrections resulting from report card inquiries are incorporated into ESSA accountability calculations. OEA, Title I, and Special Education staff do, however, plan to hold technical assistance calls to discuss the ESSA and IDEA reports again like last year. The final public release is scheduled for February.

Second, in anticipation of this joint notification, please note the identification timeline for ESSA, particularly that Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) identifications take place every three years, while TSI identifications are annual. Schools identified as CSI or ATSI based in December 2018 will retain that status until they demonstrate progress to exit. Details about exit criteria will be released this Fall, and schools with CSI and ATSI identifications will receive an Exit Progress Report in addition to their ESSA Accountability Report as part of the joint federal notification packet.

If you have any questions about ESSA accountability or plans for the joint federal notification packet, please email [oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov).



**“We just received our state assessment scores, how can I use a variety of student assessment data to help me plan instruction that fits students’ needs throughout the year?”**

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction recommends that districts, schools, and educators use a [strategic assessment system](#) to gather various types of data that will provide a broad overview of the learning progress students are making. Strategic assessment systems should include formative, interim, and summative assessments that occur throughout the school year within the classroom. Each type of assessment provides teachers with different types of learning data that can be used to guide student learning and plan instruction.



To see what a strategic assessment system might look like within a classroom, follow Ms. G and her students as they engage in assessment throughout the school year ([Ms. G's Year in Assessment](#)) within different grade levels (elementary, middle and secondary) and different content areas (ELA, Math, Physical Science). This resource was built by a team of content, student learning, and assessment consultants to provide

educators with an example they can use to guide the implementation of strategic assessment practices within their own classroom, school, or district.

## FAQ ...

**Reminder** – Each assessment has an FAQ webpage with scenarios/issues related to that specific assessment  
[ACT/Aspire/WorkKeys FAQ](#)                      [Forward Exam FAQ](#)                      [DLM FAQ](#)

- Q. When is the deadline to submit accommodations and EL supports for the grade 11 statewide ACT test?**  
School officials must submit accommodations and EL supports through the Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) system by January 17. This is a firm deadline for students to be able to use accommodations and supports on the statewide grade 11 ACT.
- Q. Is there be a sample letter available to send home to parents with Individual Student Reports (ISRs)?**  
Yes, each assessment has a sample parent letter (updated for 2019) that may be used to accompany ISRs when sent home to parents/guardians. These letters are accessible via the specific assessment’s data and results web page.
- Q. Where can I find information about testing data and reporting?**  
Each assessment has a data and results webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment’s data and results may be found on those pages.

## Building Assessment and Data Literacy Report Card Updates

There are no planned calculation changes for the state accountability report cards this year. However, Aspire data will be included in calculations for the first time, and this could be a big change for districts and schools with grades 9 and/or 10. Assessment data from 2018-19 have been available (and are still under embargo) in WISEdash for Districts since July 29<sup>th</sup>. This is a good opportunity to build some data literacy about Aspire in the report cards, and there are three things to understand:

- In order to include Aspire in the report cards, DPI needed to align Aspire cut scores with those of the Forward and ACT assessments.** This means that there are now two sets of Aspire cut scores: those with DPI performance levels and those with Aspire readiness benchmarks.

*Data to explore:* In WISEdash for Districts, you can see how many students are in the different performance levels with the DPI performance levels applied.



- Aspire will be included anywhere achievement data are used in the report cards.** This means Aspire data will be part of Student Achievement, School/District Growth, and Closing Gaps calculations.

*Data to explore:* How might your school or district’s points-based proficiency rate change when Aspire results are included? Remember, points-based proficiency assigns points based upon the performance level of each student’s results, in the following manner:

Performance Level	Points
Advanced	1.5
Proficient	1.0
Basic	0.5
Below Basic	0.0

Also remember that Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) results will be included for grades 9 and 10 in Student Achievement and Closing Gaps priority areas, so include those results in your analysis. (Growth calculations do not include DLM data.)

- Many high schools will now have a growth score, and this means variable weighting will apply.** State statute requires report cards to adjust the weighting of the Student Achievement and School/District growth based upon the percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged in the school or district.

*Data to explore:* Use this [report card weighting calculator](#) to anticipate what weighting structure will apply for your school or district, now that Aspire data are included and you may have a growth score for the first time. You will need to know the percentage of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in your school or district. The report cards use the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of September count from 2018-19, and you can find that enrollment information in the [WISEdash Public Portal](#) (filter for your district/school).



We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. As the Office of Student Assessment (OSA) and Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) work to improve and refine this communication tool, we appreciate feedback and suggestions on the layout and content. Please contact Assessment at [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov) and Accountability at [oeamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeamail@dpi.wi.gov).

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