ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 57, September 2021

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF Public Instruction

Updates…

Note from the Director

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a strong start to the 2021-22 school year.

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 2022. ACCESS for ELLs will be administered this winter.

Please submit your district's annual District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Update forms to OEA by October 30. This form is required for both new and returning DACs, even if the information has not changed. The information provided in the DAC Update form ensures DACs receive regular assessment and accountability updates as well as access to the testing vendor portals for 2021-22.

Thanks to the Wisconsin educators who have participated in the Forward Exam Item Review meetings. Educator involvement in test development helps improve the quality of the Wisconsin assessments. 2021-22 assessment dates are now available on the assessment webpage under Wisconsin State Assessment Timelines.

Thank you for your continued excellence and the many ways you work to support and inspire the students of Wisconsin. We look forward to working with all of you this school year.

Viji Somasundaram

Director, Office of Educational Accountability

Calendar…

Important Dates

2021	
Date	**Event**
October 15	NAEP - Schools Participating in NAEP Complete the Provide School Information Form on MyNAEP
October 22	ACCESS - Deadline for SIS Changes to be Reflected in Roster
October 27	ACCESS - Non-Public Pre-ID Upload Window Closes (LEAs)
October 27	ACCESS - Public Pre-ID Loaded (DPI)
October 30	Annual DAC and DTC Updated Forms Due to OEA
November 1	ACCESS - WIDA AMS Test Setup Open
November 1	ACT - PearsonAccess^{next} (PAnext) Open
November 11	Forward – Technology User Guide Available
November 17	Forward - Technology Training Videos Available
November 24	Forward – DACs Receive Permissions for 2022 DRC INSIGHT Portal
November 29	ACCESS - Districts Receive Materials
November 29	ACCESS - Additional Material Window Open
December 1	**ACCESS for ELLs Test Window Open**
2022	
January 10 – March 18	**NAEP Age 9 Long-Term Trend Test Window (for Selected Schools Only)**
January 24 – March 4	**NAEP Grades 4 and 8 Test Window (for Selected Schools Only)**
January 28	**ACCESS for ELLs Test Window Closes**
March 8	**ACT Test Window 1 (paper administration) ***
March 8-11 & 14-18	**ACT Test Window 1 for Students Testing with Accommodations (Paper Administration) ***
March 8-10 & March 15-17	**ACT Test Window 1 (Online Administration and Online Accommodations) ***
March 21 – April 29	**Forward Test Window – ELA and Mathematics Grades 3-8, Science Grades 4 and 8, and Social Studies Grades 4, 8, and 10**
March 21 – April 29	**DLM Test Window – ELA and Mathematics Grades 3-11, Science Grades 4 and 8-11, and Social Studies Grades 4, 8, and 10**
April 4 - May 4	**ACT Aspire Testing Window - Grades 9-10**

**For Additional ACT test windows see the ACT Calendar webpage.*

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

Forward Exam Update

Forward Exam student and summary reports were released to districts via the DRC INSIGHT Portal June 24. Hard copies of Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for the exam were delivered to districts by July 21. Forward data is under embargo until the DPI press release. **However, ISRs should have been distributed to families as soon as possible after received in the district**. Reporting resources are available on the Forward Exam Data and Reporting webpage.

The Forward Exam New Item Review was held virtually 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 and grade-level appropriateness, link to the correct standard, bias and sensitivity issues, and cognitive complexity prior to placement on the exam. The educators played a critical part in the development of the assessment by providing important insights and detailed edits to the items for the Forward Exam.

The Forward Exam calendar webpage has been updated with the 2021-22 test administration key dates. Please refer back to the calendar webpage regularly for any updates.

Please be sure all staff have access to the **2021 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.

ACT High School Assessments Update

2020-21 ACT and ACT Aspire reports were provided to school districts in late spring. Reports are still available in PAnext. Schools should download the reports as soon as possible if they have not done so.

Eleventh (11) grade students will be administered the ACT® with writing in spring 2022. Dates for the spring 2022 ACT assessment can be found on the ACT Calendar webpage. During the spring 2021 administration, DPI offered the ACT with writing in both paper and online formats for the first time. Online ACT testing allows districts more administration flexibility, including additional testing dates. Approximately 24% of students tested online this past year. The ACT with writing will again be offered in both paper and online formats for spring 2022.

The Test Accessibility and Accommodations system (TAA) for ACT opened on September 13 and is accessed through Success.ACT.org. Additional required tasks for ACT will begin in early November, with PearsonAccess^{next} (PAnext) opening on November 1. Schools and districts will receive communications about testing tasks and training opportunities in the fall.

Students in grade 9 and 10 will be required to complete the ACT Aspire® (online) assessment in the spring. Dates for Aspire testing can be found on the Aspire Calendar webpage.

2021-22 ACT and Aspire resources will be made available on the Wisconsin ACT Website as well as the corresponding DPI ACT and Aspire webpages.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) provides the Instructional and Assessment Planner (formerly the Instructional Tools Interface) to help teachers monitor student progress with testlets based on targeted Essential Elements. The Planner is used to help guide instruction and can also be used as an alternate to district wide interim or benchmark testing. In order to use the planner, students should be rostered, teachers trained, and first contact surveys entered. We encourage interested teachers to check out this resource.

2020-21 DLM student and summary reports were released to districts via the KITE Educator Portal in July. The Individual Student Reports should have been distributed to families as soon as possible after received in the district.

To prepare for spring DLM testing, DACs should be sure to complete the annual DAC Update form by October 30. Test administrators should plan to complete the required training (via Moodle) and test security agreements. The updated Kite Student Portal will need to be installed for 2021-22. Visit the DLM calendar webpage for upcoming key test administration dates. For more information about DLM visit the DLM webpage or contact Mike Peacy.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update

Supplements to the EL Policy Handbook, including information on WIDA's new Screener for Kindergarten and Screening Students with Disabilities, are now available. Please bookmark that page as it will continue to be updated as new documents are made available.

The 2020-21 ACCESS for ELLs results are available in WISEdash for Districts. On-track information is available, but student growth percentiles (SGPs) were not calculated for either the academic content assessments or ACCESS this year.

Wisconsin officially adopted the WIDA 2020 ELD Standards in May. Over the next few years we will be rolling out the new standards, starting with a state-wide awareness campaign. For more information, or if you wish to be involved, please visit the English Language Development Standards webpage.

WIDA Professional Development is available to all educators in the state of Wisconsin. Districts may add accounts in the WIDA Secure Portal for any staff who need Professional Development (PD). Courses are designed for ESL teachers, academic classroom teachers, and administrators. In addition to the free eLearning courses available, a limited number of WIDA facilitated PD courses are also available. Contact Amy Maciolek for more information.

Assessment of Reading Readiness Update

For the 2021-22 school year, the requirement remains to annually assess each 4-year-old kindergarten to 2nd grade student in a school district or in a charter school for reading readiness. 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:

- The department 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).

Additional guidance that district or school staff should consider includes:

- **When to Screen**: DPI does not have a state mandated screening window. Districts are free to establish their own screening window. Keep in mind that some vendors may utilize a screening window and have established benchmarks based on students being screened during the vendor-prescribed window.
- **How Often to Screen**: Districts are required to screen each student at least once per year. There is no upper limit on the number of times a student may be screened.
- **Virtual Screening**: Each district is authorized to determine the method in which screening may take place. Several vendors allow for virtual administration of their screener. Users of purchased screeners should verify with the vendor the conditions upon which virtual screening should occur.
- **Who Should Administer**: It is highly recommended that classroom teachers administer the screening to each student. Classroom teachers typically have received training and have the most experience with administering a Reading Readiness screener. In general, the most accurate and informative results will be obtained when the classroom teacher administers all parts of the screening.
- **Sharing Data with DPI**: For districts that share PALS or MAP screening data with DPI for use with WISEdash For Districts, a new Local Assessment Data Use agreement will need to be completed.

More information on the reading readiness requirements is available at Reading Readiness Overview. If you have additional questions, please contact Duane Dorn.

NAEP Update

NAEP 2022 preparations are underway. Districts and schools selected to participate this school year have been notified and are working to complete pre-assessment tasks. NAEP 2022 assessments include grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics, which will provide results for the nation, states, and the districts participating in the Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) program. There are also national-level grade 8 U.S. History and Civics tests, as well as age 9 Long-Term Trend Reading and Mathematics assessments.

NAEP 2020 Long-Term Trend results are expected to be released on October 14, 2021. These assessments were completed for ages 9 and 13; age 17 was scheduled later in the school year and was canceled due to nation-wide school closures. Visit The Nation's Report Card site for more information about this assessment, which has measured students' progress since the 1970s.

State Accountability

OEA staff are preparing for the preliminary secure release of 2020-21 school and district report cards. The secure release of preliminary report cards is planned for early October. As always, preliminary secure report cards will be available in SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange. Please make sure you have access to SAFE prior to the secure release.

The release will open an inquiry period in which schools and districts can work with OEA to address possible data submission errors. Final secure and public releases of the report cards are planned for mid-November. Please review the upcoming DAC Digests for information on report card timelines.

If you have questions about state report cards, please contact reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov.

Federal Accountability Update

In April, the U.S. Department of Education granted a federal ESSA waiver requested by DPI that suspends all ESSA accountability requirements for 2020-21, including basing achievement on at least 95 percent of students, and using the Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency Indicator. It also delays 2020-21 long term goals and Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, and Targeted Support and Improvement identifications by one year.

Please note that these waivers only apply to the federal ESSA accountability system. ESSA accountability reporting is part of a coordinated Joint Federal Notification effort in support of continuous improvement in schools and districts. IDEA determinations, another part of Joint Federal Notifications (which are released in coordination with ESSA identifications), are not impacted by this waiver. OEA is planning to release Progress to Exit Reports and District Summary Reports as part of Joint Federal Notifications this year.

If you have questions about ESSA accountability, please contact oeamail@dpi.wi.gov. For questions about IDEA determinations, please contact the DPI Special Education team.

2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Winners

Did you know that OEA works with the State Superintendent's office to nominate public schools in Wisconsin for National Blue Ribbon Schools awards from the U.S. Department of Education? This year, eight Wisconsin public schools received National Blue Ribbon School honors. You can see the full list of awarded schools and read more through the DPI News Release. Congratulations to the 2021 National Blue Ribbon Schools!

FAQ …

Reminder – Each assessment has an FAQ webpage with scenarios/issues related to that specific assessment: ACT FAQ, DLM FAQ, Forward FAQ, Aspire FAQ, ACCESS for ELLs FAQ.

Q. Will there be a sample letter available to send home to parents about upcoming assessments?
Yes, there is a sample letter available about upcoming assessments available on the DAC Resources webpage. There is also an informational for brochure for families about each assessment available under each assessment's resource page. These resources are available in English, Spanish, and Hmong.

Q. My school was selected to participate in NAEP this year. Do we have to participate?
Your school is required to participate if your district receives Title I funds. In accepting the federal funds, one of the assurances your district agreed to was for your schools to participate in grades 4 and 8 reading and mathematics NAEP if selected.

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.

Q. Where can I find testing calendars or timelines with key dates?
Each assessment has a calendar webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment's key dates, deadlines, publication releases, etc., may be found on those pages.

Q. Do I need to submit a DAC or DTC update form if nothing has changed?
Yes, an update form needs to be completed annually even if no change has occurred

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OEA has created two webpages to keep you updated and informed. Please bookmark these pages and the main DPI COVID-19 page, which contains COVID-19 information for schools beyond assessment and accountability.

COVID-19 – Accountability Updates and Resources webpage with summary information on the impact of COVID-19 on school accountability in Wisconsin.

COVID-19 – Assessment Updates and Resources webpage that provides assessment related COVID-19 updates, resources, and FAQs.

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