ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OSA/OEA Updates...

Note from the Assessment Director

Welcome to the December Newsletter! The assessment calendar kicks off with the preparation work for various assessments during this time. As in the previous years, the test window for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 will begin in December, followed by the ACT, Forward Exam and DLM assessment in March, and ACT ASPIRE in April. Trainings and manuals will become available on a rolling basis and will be announced through the weekly DAC Digest and the specific assessments' calendar webpages. Many thanks to the Wisconsin educators for your ongoing collaboration with the Office of Student Assessment (OSA). Thank you for your careful attention to the information in the DAC Digests and your participation in the OSA Office Hours.

As a reminder, the new assessment learning series featuring Assessment Literacy, Data Literacy and Strategic Assessment System is now available on the Strategic Assessment Systems Professional Learning website, or WISELearn.

Viji Somasundaram
Director, Office of Student Assessment

OSA Calendar...

Important Dates

2019	
December 2	ACCESS testing window opens
December 5	ACT Test Administration Q&A Session 1
December 20	NAEP window for 13-year-olds opens (select schools only)

2020	
January 6-March 13	NAEP window for 9-year-olds (select schools only)
January 13	ACT Aspire - PearsonAccessNext portal for Aspire opens
January 13	Forward – Braille order window opens, DRC INSIGHT Portal (eDIRECT) Guide available, Test Administration Manual available, DAC and Test Administrator trainings available, Tutorials available, updated Online Tools Training available.
January 13	ACT deadline for district to ensure SIS is up-to-date for grade 11 students
January 14	ACT - DPI uploads student data to PAnext TAA accommodations deadline
January 22	Forward - State Data Upload of Student Data into The DRC INSIGHT Portal.
January 23	ACT Test Administration Q&A session 2
January 24	ACCESS - Additional Material Orders Window Closes
January 31	ACCESS testing window Closes
February 4	ACT Aspire Technology Readiness Q&A
February 6	ACT Aspire Test Administration Q&A
February 7	ACCESS - Deadline for DRC to receive materials
February 12	Forward – Q&A webinar
February 17-28	Forward – Optional Add Accessibility Features Window in DRC INSIGHT Portal.
February 28	ACT Aspire - Deadline to import PNP accommodation requests for paper testing
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
March 31	ACT with writing emergency day – grade 11
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

The 2019-20 Forward Exam Accessibility Guide was released in August. The Accessibility Guide provides information about the universal, designated supports, and accommodations that are available during the administration of the Forward Exam. The guide includes descriptions of each accessibility feature and guidelines for their use. Please be sure to get a copy of this resource into the hands of your classroom teachers and IEP/504 teams.

DRC assigned DACs permission to access the 2020 DRC INSIGHT Portal (eDIRECT) in early November. DACs are responsible for assigning 2020 permissions for School Assessment Coordinators (SACs) and new District Technology Coordinators (DTCs). They must also remove permissions from (make inactive) any individuals in the DRC INSIGHT Portal who are no longer employed by the district, and adjust user roles to sync with staff changes. Permissions for district and school staff users do not need to be added until January or February at the earliest. Information about how to assign users will be available in the DRC INSIGHT Portal (eDIRECT) Guide available in January.

District and School Assessment Coordinators (DACs/SACs) should ensure they are assigning the correct level of permissions to only those individuals who need access to the portal. **Be sure to refer to the User Roles and Permissions Matrix in the DRC INSIGHT Portal (eDIRECT) Guide when making these assignments**. For example, only DACs/SACs have permission to enter accessibility features into the portal. Accessibility information should be collected from teachers and special education staff to be entered into the portal by the DAC or SAC.

For 2019-20, we have created DTC trainings. One presentation is intended for new DTCs and any other new technology staff that will be assisting in the setup, configuration, and monitoring of technology. There is a separate training presentation that focuses on updates and system requirements for more experienced DTCs. The DTC trainings, The Technology User Guide, and the Technology Readiness Resources are currently available on the Forward Exam Technology Requirements and Resources web page.

The DAC/SAC Forward Exam Trainings will be posted on the Forward Exam Trainings webpage as recorded presentations on January 13. There will be one presentation specifically for new DACs, and another presentation with updates only, targeted toward more experienced DACs. Optional follow-up Q&A sessions will be offered (see the Forward Exam Calendar). The Test Administrator Training (required for all educators administering the exam) will also be available online on January 13 as a recorded presentation.

The Forward Exam calendar webpage has been updated with the 2019-20 test administration timeline/key dates. Be sure to refer back to the calendar webpage regularly for any updates.

DACs and DTCs should review the system requirements documentation for the 2019-20 administration year and confirm that the district testing devices can support the operating system that is required for running INSIGHT.

Updated Science Item Samplers (PDFs) with three sessions are now available on the Forward Exam Practice Test and Sample Items webpage and will be available in the online item samplers in January. The online ELA Item Samplers will be updated with a TDA added as Session 1, and will also be available in January. The printable TDA Item Samplers (pdf) will be updated and available on the website by the end of December. Updates to the TDA Item Samplers include grade level TDA samples (currently grade band) with additional passages, prompts, and student samples.

ACT High School Assessments Update

In 2020, the initial ACT state test date is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3. School Test Coordinators must manage their school's test participation by selecting the correct testing and shipping dates in the PAnext test administration portal. This is critical because ACT test materials are specific to each test date and can only be used for one test date (or test window in the case of accommodations materials).

ACT has made available free test preparation services for all students. Links to practice tests and exemplar items for ACT and ACT Aspire can be found at the DPI ACT Practice Tests/Sample Items website. Alternate format practice tests may be ordered using the Order Form for Alternate Format Practice Tests. ACT has also launched free, personalized test preparation through the ACT Academy. ACT Academy is free to all students. Having an account allows students to track their progress and keep moving forward in their test preparation. Short quizzes are designed to help students identify the content they have mastered and to clarify areas where more focus is needed. ACT Academy creates automated daily playlists to cover the basic lessons each student needs to master the ACT. After each lesson, a short quiz will determine if the resources given helped the student learn the material. Here is a video to share with students about the ACT Academy.

The window is now open for schools to **submit requests for ACT accommodations**. IEP teams make the determinations on whether students with disabilities will participate in the ACT with or without Local Arrangements and/or Accommodations. Local Arrangements are approved by the School Test Coordinator and do not require an advance request to ACT. Accommodations require a request in advance along with supporting documentation. Accessibility supports are available to English Leaners and must be requested in advance. Please refer to the list of Accommodations, Local Arrangements, and Accessibility Supports for

details. School staff must submit requests and supporting documents via the online Test Accessibility and Accommodations (TAA) System before January 14. If a student has previously approved ACT accommodations, the test coordinator must still manually apply the accommodation to the state testing dates in TAA. Additional resources are posted to the DPI ACT Accommodations and Supports webpage and DPI English Learner Supports webpage for high school assessments.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update

District Test Coordinators should begin adding their student and user data into the KITE Educator Portal. DLM has created online resources to help District Test Coordinators with their upload needs. These short videos will walk you through the required steps found within the Data Management Manual. Should District Test Coordinators need continued assistance, the DLM Helpdesk is available to help with data uploads. Please remember when emailing the Helpdesk not to include personally identifiable information regarding your students. Once students and users are added, users can begin to complete First Contact Surveys and Personal Needs and Preferences Profiles. Test administrators need to complete the required Moodle training before they will be able to administer testlets. The Moodle trainings are currently available on the DLM Moodle training site.

Instruction and Assessment Planner is an optional component of the DLM system and is designed to help inform a student's instruction throughout the school year. The Instruction and Assessment Planer allows educators to select an Essential Element to teach and assess. Educators will also be able to print a report showing a student's progress within the learning maps prior to the spring window. More information about the Instruction and Assessment Planner can be found on the Dynamic Learning Maps webpage.

Please contact Mike Peacy with any questions that you may have about the DLM assessment.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update

WIDA is seeking public comment on a draft edition of their 2020 English Language Development (ELD) standards. This new edition builds on previous versions of their standards while incorporating updates based on educator feedback and the latest language learning research and practice. Throughout 2020 and 2021 WIDA will be providing professional development, webinars, and eLearning courses to help educators transition to the new standards.

The public comment period is open through December 15. Samples of WIDA's draft standards and instructions for how to provide feedback is available at: https://wida.wisc.edu/teach/standards/eld .

Assessment of Reading Readiness Update

The assessment of reading readiness requires each district to screen all 4 year old Kindergarten through 2nd grade students at least once each school year. As the 2019-20 school year is well under way, it is expected that most students will have already been screened at least once. District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) and reading specialists are encouraged to work with their teachers to ensure that all students are screened, results communicated to parents, appropriate interventions or remedial reading services are provided where necessary, and the results for all students be used to help guide instructional practices.
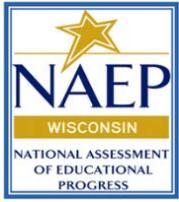
The Department will load 2019-20 PALS, MAP and STAR reading readiness results to WISEdash for Districts. Districts who had student data loaded for these screeners in previous years will continue to have their data loaded in 2019-20. Districts that did not previously sign a data release will need to do so in order to have their data uploaded into WISEdash. Information on data sharing agreements can be found at:

- PALS - https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/reading-readiness/FAQ#data
- MAP - https://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/districts/about-data/map
- Star - https://dpi.wi.gov/wisedash/districts/about-data/star

The Department will be sending out reimbursement forms to the DACs for each district in late February/early March. Districts will be asked to indicate the screener or screeners used at each grade, the number of students screened and the amount the district is seeking for reimbursement. Once all reimbursement requests have been received, department staff will determine whether the appropriation is sufficient to reimburse the full amount requested by each district. If the appropriation is sufficient, each district will be reimbursed the full amount. If the appropriation is insufficient, payments to districts will be prorated. It is anticipated that all payments will be distributed prior to the end of the school year.

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

Thanks again to districts and schools that participated in the 2019 NAEP testing. Results were released last month and show that Wisconsin students remained steady compared to previous years. Many states and the nation saw declines in reading and in grade 8 mathematics. [Read the press release](#), and delve into the results on the [Nations Report Card](#).

NAEP 2019-20 is underway and going well. The 13-year-old test window for the Long-Term Trend assessment is wrapping up in the next few weeks. Age 9 students will test early in the new year, and age 17 students have their test window in the spring. The schools in the sample have done a great job getting prepared for their assessments.

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

Assessment and Data Literacy Learning Modules are Now Available.

Check out the new assessment learning series on the [Strategic Assessment Systems Professional Learning website](#), or [WISELearn](#). 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 modules are 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.

A specific release date is coming this Fall. If you have any questions about these modules, please contact [Dana Sommerfeld](#) or [Lauren Zellmer](#).

State Accountability Updates

The final 2018-19 Accountability Report Cards were released publicly on November 12. As a reminder, all schools and districts are required to share their most recent Report Cards with parents. Further details can be found on the [notification requirements page](#). If there are remaining questions, or if your district would benefit from OEA's assistance in understanding or conveying a message about your report cards, please reach out to us at reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov.

Accountability Advisory Workgroup

OEA is in search of school and district staff to participate in technical planning for school and district report cards as part of an Accountability Advisory Group. This group will engage in technical conversations specific to school and district report card design. Participants will need to be familiar with the report cards and experienced in using data as part of a continuous improvement process.

OEA seeks individuals with varied backgrounds from all school types (public/private, suburban/rural/urban, large/small, charter) and of all grade ranges. **We are particularly interested in having a diverse membership of this group.**

This group will convene in person in January (specific date/location to be announced), followed by at least four weekly virtual meetings. Additional in-person meetings may occur this spring or early summer. If you, or someone you know, fits these requirements and are interested in participating, **please use [this Advisory Accountability Workgroup nomination form](#) to submit nominations.** You can nominate yourself, as well as others! **The deadline for nominations is December 6.**

Federal Accountability

Next month, on December 5, we anticipate releasing preliminary federal accountability identifications in SAFE. This release combines preliminary information for both ESSA and IDEA accountability

Federal Accountability (continued from page 5)

systems, and includes a number of resources to help schools to refine their continuous improvement work.

Starting this year, schools with Comprehensive Support or Additional Targeted Support identifications in 2017-18 will also receive 2018-19 "Progress to Exit Reports". These schools will not be eligible to exit identifications until 2019-20, because exit calculations require two years of data, but the Progress to Exit Reports show how schools have progressed toward fulfilling applicable exit criteria. Please see our Federal Accountability page for more information and resources.

WISEdata Student Snapshot - Date Extended

At the request of school districts, the snapshot for the 2019-20 school year (originally scheduled for December 10) has been postponed until January 28. Data for assessment rosters used to populate the tests portals are created using current (date of the roster creation) data. They are NOT based on snapshot data. To ensure that your assessment rosters will be accurate, please keep your enrollment current at all times.

When the snapshot is taken, districts are certifying the following data are accurate:

- 2018-19 Year End Completion data (used to calculate Graduation Rates, Dropout Rates, Chronic Absenteeism, and Discipline)
- 2018-19 Roster (including Career Education) data
- 2019-20 Third Friday September Enrollment
- 2019-20 October 1 Child Count of students with disabilities

If you haven't already, establish a data team to manage and support a high-quality, accurate WISEdata snapshot and take time to incorporate a careful WISEdata review into your data team's workflow. The following resources are available to help you prepare your data for the upcoming snapshot:

- WISEdata and WISEdash Snapshot Reference Guide
- Snapshot Preparation Guidance page, including a presentation/slide deck
- WISEdata Help page, including in-depth FAQs on roster, discipline, career education, special education, and language instruction collections
- Data element descriptions for WISEdata

If you have questions about the data snapshot, please contact the DPI Customer Services team by submitting a help desk ticket.

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 and Accountability at oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.

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. 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 Information for Families brochure for each assessment available under each assessment's resource page.

Q. If a student is absent for both the initial and makeup ACT test dates, can they test on the emergency test date?
Yes. Schools are expected to use the ACT initial test date for school-wide testing if school is in session, but the makeup and emergency test dates may both be used to give all students an opportunity to test.

Q. Where can I find important testing 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.

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