

ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 69, September 2024



Updates...

Note from the Director



Welcome back! We hope you have all had a refreshing summer and a successful start to the

2024-25 school year.

I would like to thank the Wisconsin Educators who took time out of their schedules this summer to participate in the Forward Exam and ACT educator involvement opportunities. The work of educators at these events is incredibly valuable to the development and reporting of the assessments and our students.

The 2024-25 statewide assessment dates are now available on the [Assessment in Wisconsin webpage](#). The Forward Exam, ACT, PreACT Secure, and DLM assessments will be administered during spring 2025. ACCESS for ELLs will be administered this winter. Please bookmark the [Office of Educational Accountability webpage](#) for general information, timelines, trainings, and resources related to assessment and accountability in Wisconsin.

If you have not already done so, please submit your district's annual [District Assessment Coordinator \(DAC\) Update form](#) to OEA by October 7. This form is required for both new and returning DACs.

Thank you for all you do to support and inspire the students of Wisconsin. We look forward to collaborating with you throughout the year.

Viji Somasundaram

Director, Office of Educational Accountability

Calendar...

Important Dates

2024	
Date	Event
September 9	DLM - Instruction and Assessment Planner opened
September 16	ACT - Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) opened
September 27	ACCESS - Private School Pre-ID Upload Window opens
September 30	NAEP - High School Transcript Study (HSTS) phase 2 due (<i>selected schools only</i>)
October	NAEP - Field Test schools notified of selection for phase 2 (<i>selected schools only</i>)
October 7	NAEP - Age 13 Long-Term Trend Assessment Window opens (<i>selected schools only</i>)
October 7	Annual DAC and DTC Update forms due
October 10	ACCESS - Preliminary Statewide Pre-ID Roster upload
November 11	Forward - Technology User Guide available
December 1	Early Literacy Assessment - Statewide Screening Window opens
December 4	Forward - Technology Training Videos available
December 13	NAEP - Age 13 Long-Term Trend Assessment Window closes (<i>selected schools only</i>)
2025	
March 15	Early Literacy Assessment - Statewide Screening Window closes

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



Forward Exam Update



OEA would like to thank all educators who participated in the 2024 Forward Exam New Item Review, Rangefinding, and Standard Setting that took place this spring and summer. We strongly encourage educators to apply to participate in the following 2025 Forward Exam educator involvement opportunities:

- Alignment Study (early 2025) - An independent and diverse group of Wisconsin educators and national experts review the questions on the exam to ensure they align to the Wisconsin academic standards. The group makes sure there are enough questions, coverage across standards, and ranges of difficulty for each objective.
- Item Review (summer 2025) - Wisconsin educators review all new test questions created for the exam for content, grade level appropriateness, alignment to correct standard, cultural inclusivity, and bias/sensitivity issues prior to placement on the exam.

More information about these events will be available on the [Forward Exam Educator Involvement webpage](#) by winter.

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) were delivered to districts at the end of August. If you have not yet sent ISRs to parents/guardians (either in hard copy or via your secure parent portal), please send those out as soon as possible.

The updated English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) are now available on the [Forward Exam Data and Results webpage](#). PLDs show the progression of grade-level knowledge and skills expected across the performance levels of Developing, Approaching, Meeting, and Advanced, based on the Wisconsin Academic Standards.

The [Forward Exam Calendar webpage](#) has been updated with the 2024-25 test administration key dates. Please refer to the calendar webpage regularly for any updates.

Schools should ensure all staff have access to the 2024-25 version of the Forward Exam Accessibility Guide. The guide, along with other accessibility resources, is available on the [Forward Exam Accommodations and Supports webpage](#).

Questions regarding the Forward Exam may be directed to [Alison O'Hara](#) or [Jennifer Teasdale](#).




The ACT with writing Update

ACT® Eleventh grade students will be administered The ACT® with writing in spring 2025. Dates for the spring 2025 ACT assessment can be found on the [ACT Calendar webpage](#). As in previous years, districts will have the choice to administer the ACT on paper or online. Online ACT testing allows districts more administration flexibility, including additional testing dates. Over 70% of students tested online this past year.

As of September 16, schools can start requesting student accommodations and English learner supports for the 2025 ACT in ACT's Test Accessibility and Accommodation System (TAA). The 2025 ACT Accessibility Supports Guide and additional accommodation resources can be found on the [DPI ACT Accommodations and Supports webpage](#).


ACT is sunsetting the test administrative platform PearsonAccess^{next}. This year, the ACT and PreACT Secure assessment will be managed in ACT's new administrative platform, ACT Now. The new platform is expected to open for 2025 assessments in November. More information, training and resources will be available later this fall. Questions about the ACT may be directed to [Nikki Braconier](#).

PreACT Secure Update

 Students in grades 9 and 10 will be required to complete the PreACT Secure (online) assessment in the spring. Dates for the PreACT Secure testing can be found on the [PreACT Secure Calendar webpage](#).

The 2025 PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide has been posted to the [DPI PreACT Secure Accommodations and Supports webpage](#). Schools will begin entering accommodations into ACT Now once students are rostered in January. Questions about PreACT Secure may be directed to [Nikki Braconier](#).

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update

 DLM is the statewide assessment for the most significantly cognitively disabled students in grades 3-11. In addition to the annual assessment, DLM also provides an Instruction and Assessment Planner to help educators monitor student progress on targeted Essential Elements. The Planner is used to help guide instruction and can be used as an alternate to district-wide interim or benchmark testing. We encourage interested educators to check out this valuable resource.

During the first part of the school year, districts and schools should be rostering (uploading) their students and updating their users in KITE Educator Portal. Completing these tasks early allows educators adequate time to begin their required annual DLM training, submit test security agreements, finish first contact surveys, and access the Instruction and Assessment Planner.

In July, 2023-24 DLM student and summary reports were released to districts via the KITE Educator Portal. Visit the DLM calendar webpage for key test administration dates. More information about DLM is available on the [DLM webpage](#). Questions about DLM may be directed to [Michael Peacy](#).

ACCESS for ELLs® Update



Last winter, we administered the [new Alternate ACCESS](#) for English Learners (ELs) with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Over the summer, WIDA held a standard setting to create cut scores for the assessment. The new assessment has an expanded score range, which allows for a much more robust assessment of language proficiency, which means we will be able to set exit criteria for the Alternate ACCESS this fall.

The Alternate ACCESS is a different test from the ACCESS for ELLs test, aligned to different standards, with different underlying scale scores. However, it is likely that the exit criteria for the Alternate ACCESS will be very similar to our existing exit criteria, as it is now reported on the familiar English language proficiency (ELP) 1-5 scale. DPI staff are currently assessing the impact data and discussing parallels to the exit criteria for the ACCESS for ELLs and plan to share updated Alternate ACCESS exit criteria within the next few months.

WIDA is currently recruiting for a K-1 field test, designed to robustly link the new Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs test to the grades 1-12 ACCESS for ELLs test. If you have ELs in grades K-1 you can learn more about the upcoming field test on [WIDA's Kindergarten ACCESS webpage](#). Questions about the Alternate ACCESS or the ACCESS for ELLs may be directed to [Jesse Roberts](#).



Reading Readiness – Early Literacy Assessment Update



DPI has selected aimswebPlus by Pearson for [early literacy screening](#) in 4K through grade 3. Visit the [Wisconsin-specific aimswebPlus webpage](#) for all resources, including training and customer service contact information, related to administering early literacy screening.

For more information about Act 20 in Wisconsin, visit www.dpi.wi.gov/wi-reads.

For the 2024-25 administration only, screening with aimswebPlus is required twice for 5K-grade 3 (mid-year and in the spring). Only one 2024-25 administration is required for 4k (in the spring). For subsequent years, the early literacy screening for 5K-grade 3 will require three administrations (fall, mid-year, and spring) and two administrations for 4K (fall and spring). Exact assessment windows are established locally based on guidance from Pearson and state statute. More information about establishing early literacy screening windows is available on the [Early Literacy Assessment webpage](#).

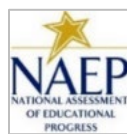
Districts should prepare for the mid-year screeners (December 1 - March 15) by:

- Ensuring their assessment coordinator has access to the aimswebPlus portal.
- Creating user accounts for teachers (test administrators).
- Entering students (roster) into the aimswebPlus portal.
- Assigning students to teachers in the aimswebPlus portal.
- Training teachers to administer the aimswebPlus screener.

Information about the 2024-25 Act 20 reporting requirements will be available in early 2025.

More information about the new requirements can be found at [WI Act 20 FAQ](#). Direct questions about the early literacy assessment and ACT 20 to early.reading@dpi.wi.gov.

NAEP Update



NAEP 2024-25 is already underway. Wisconsin has schools participating in Long-Term Trend (LTT) assessments for age 9, age 13, and age 17 as well as schools that have been selected for the NAEP Field Test in grades 4, 8, and 12. The first test window is the LTT age 13 assessments, which begin in early October. More information about the NAEP assessments this year can be found on the [NAEP website](#). Questions related to NAEP may be directed to [Angela Dugas](#).



Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series Update



Last year, OEA and the CESAs partnered to offer the free Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series to improve the quality of classroom assessments that illuminate students' strengths and areas of growth and improve educators' ability to use assessment data effectively to plan instruction and determine specific student needs. Five different assessment related topics were offered including: Creating Equitable and Meaningful Classroom Assessments, Project Based Assessment, Performance Tasks, Assessing Writing Across Grade Levels and Content Areas and Analyzing Formative, Interim and Summative Assessment Data.

Over 620 educators and leaders from 65 districts across the state participated in this learning. LEAs were able to send different teams to each in person learning session based on district needs. In addition, each district received five days of coaching from

(continued on page 5)

Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series Update (continued from page 4)


CESA consultants to implement the assessment strategies learned within the sessions. Professional learning from the previous year will be posted on the [Strategic Assessment Systems webpage](#) this fall.

This free professional learning series is being offered again during the 2024-25 school year. This year, the professional learning topics include Classroom Assessment and Data Use, Performance Tasks, Educator Created Interim Assessments, and Formative Assessment Practices.

CESA are recruiting districts now. Please visit the [Free Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series webpage](#) for more information and registration information for each CESA.



State Accountability Updates

 OEA staff are preparing for the preliminary secure release of 2023-24 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 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 school and district report cards, please contact reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov.

2024 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. Congratulations to the 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools.



We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. Questions may be directed to the [Office of Educational Accountability](#).

FAQ...

Reminder – Each assessment has an FAQ webpage with scenarios/issues related to that specific assessment:
[ACCESS for ELLs FAQ](#), [ACT FAQ](#), [DLM FAQ](#), [Forward Exam FAQ](#), [Pre ACT Secure FAQ](#).

Q. Is there a resource that shows the 2024-25 schedule for all statewide assessments?

There is a 2024-25 Statewide Assessment Schedule available on the [Assessment webpage](#) under Wisconsin State Assessment Timelines.

Q. When will training begin for the new ACT Now platform?

ACT Now resources and training will be available later this fall and will be announced in the DAC Digest and through ACT program emails.

Q. Where can I find the technology requirements for each assessment?

Each assessment has a technology requirements webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment's technology requirements and resources may be found on those pages.

Q. Are districts permitted to administer the PreACT Secure and ACT on the same day?

Yes, DPI allows testing of multiple assessments on the same day. If a district considers testing PreACT Secure and ACT on the same testing day, DPI strongly recommends consulting with district and school technology coordinators to ensure each school has ample technology (i.e., computers, adequate bandwidth) to complete online testing successfully.

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. Is there a resource that shows 2024-25 reporting timelines for all statewide assessments?

There is a vendor-based reporting timeline available on the [Assessment webpage](#) under Wisconsin State Assessment Timelines.

Jill K. Underly, PhD., State Superintendent



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