

**PUBLIC INSTRUCTION****EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
& STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

Newsletter - Issue XXVI, May 2013

OEA/OSA Updates...**Smarter Update**

The Smarter Balanced Consortium is planning on releasing a full set of "Practice Tests" that are built to adhere to Smarter Balanced test blueprints. The items for the practice tests will be drawn from across the pilot test modules now being used in the scientific sample and will be available at the end of May after the completion of the pilot tests. The Practice Test will be open and available from the Smarter website throughout the summer and into next school year. Access to the Practice Tests will not require a password or special ticketing, making it accessible to all who are interested. The Practice Tests will provide a better and more comprehensive look for teachers, schools, parents, and others at what the Smarter Balanced assessments will entail.

The Practice Tests will:

- Be available for grades 3–8 and 11 in both English language arts and mathematics;
- Follow the planned Smarter Balanced test blueprints, making the Practice Test experience very similar to the assessment experience in 2014-15;
- Afford teachers, administrators, and parents access to items planned and designed for the Smarter Balanced assessment;
- Allow students to access the tests over the summer, with the Practice Test available right up to rollout of the operational assessment;
- Use the full array of item types including performance tasks; and
- Make available versions that demonstrate several accommodations:
 - Text-to-speech,
 - Item-level pop-up Spanish glossaries for construct irrelevant terms (math tests only),
 - Braille, and
 - American Sign Language (ASL).

Accommodated forms will be released in phases across the grade/content combinations.

OEA/OSA Calendar...**Important Assessment Dates**

2013	
May 16	ACCESS District Data Correction Window Closes
May 24	PALS Spring Testing Window Closes
May 31	Deadline for ordering PALS materials for 2013-14 via online system
June 1-30	Notification to schools selected to participate in NAEP 2014
June 14	Required Annual District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Update form due from all districts
September 13	Braille/Large Print Order Forms Due
September 30	Required Annual DAC Confidentiality Agreement Form (for 2013-14) due from all DACs
October 28- November 29	WSAS Testing Window – WKCE and WAA-SwD. Testing is not to begin prior to the testing window

Representatives from Smarter Balanced member states met for a three-day convening at the beginning of 2013 to review results from the initial tryouts of the assessment system. Conducted in fall 2012, the Smarter Balanced small-scale trials provided important information about how students respond to assessment items in a real-world, classroom setting. Five-hundred schools in 23 member states including Wisconsin participated in the trials, which were held in 60-90 minute periods and used student responses to evaluate and test automated scoring strategies, including an evaluation of the scoring software used for the assessments.

Schools that participated in the trials reported a smooth and successful experience. Ninety percent of respondents reported that they were able to use the online system with ease, and all students were able to complete the test items. At the convening, a "range-finding" committee meeting brought

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Smarter Update (Continued from page 1)

together 30 scorers from 14 member states to provide input on the scoring software that will be used for the assessments.



Participants worked to ensure that the computer scoring system is able to score students' responses as

accurately as a human scorer. Participants involved in this process included experts from higher education, teachers, consultants, and state department personnel.

Smarter Balanced Governing States adopted preliminary blueprints for the summative assessments of mathematics and English language arts/literacy for grades 3-8 and high school. Developed with broad input from member states, partners, and stakeholders, the test blueprints communicate the content of the test and how that content will be assessed.

The test blueprints include critical information about the number of items, score points, and depth of knowledge for items associated with each assessment target. Specifically, the blueprints identify:

- Content (standards, indicators, claims) to be included for each assessed content area and grade across various levels of the system (student, classroom, school, district, state);
- Emphasis and balance of content, generally indicated as the number of items or percentage points per standard and indicator;
- Item Types, sending a clear message to item developers about how to measure each standard and indicator, and to teach teachers and students about learning expectations; and
- Depth of Knowledge, indicating the complexity of item types for each standard. The test blueprint is essential for both assessment developers and for those responsible for curriculum and instruction.

The blueprints will be used to ensure an adequate pool of items and performance tasks, will provide evidence of alignment to the Common Core State Standards, and will guide the Pilot and Field Tests, score reporting, standard setting, and ongoing research.

Data gathered through pilot and field testing and ongoing simulation studies will inform updates to the blueprints, including setting the weights each content area contributes to the overall composite test score. Governing States may update the blueprints after analysis of pilot and field testing. A final version will be adopted by Governing States prior to full implementation in the 2014-15 school year.

The Smarter Balanced Governing States also voted to accept the recommendations of the Smarter Sustainability Task Force regarding a plan to engage with CRESST at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies as an ongoing affiliate.

Smarter Assessment Educator Involvement Opportunities

Smarter is looking for K-12 and Higher Education educator involvement in numerous projects which will begin over the next several months. These projects include:

- The Formative Digital Library
- Pilot Test Range-Finding
- Pilot Test Data Review
- Field Test Item Writing
- Field Test Item Content Review
- Field Test Stimulus Review
- Field Test Accessibility Review
- Field Test Bias/Sensitivity Review

Wisconsin educators interested in participating in any of these activities are asked to complete the Educator Involvement Application available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_smarterops and submit it to the Office of Student Assessment.



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WSAS Update

The Smarter Balanced Assessment System will be ready to implement in 2014-15. Until that time states must continue to administer their current assessments. For Wisconsin, this means the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) will be used until the Consortium assessments are available.

The 2013-14 Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) test window, which includes both the WKCE and Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD), will be October 28-November 29, 2013. Districts should plan their assessment schedule to complete all testing within these dates.

- All WSAS materials should arrive the week of October 7. The WKCE will be shipped first, followed by the WAA-SwD shipment later that week. All tests should be on site by Friday, October 11.
- WAA-SwD test materials will NOT be separated by schools, but will be shipped to the DAC in each district. The DAC will sort test books based on each school's needs, and will then send the test materials to individual schools within the district.
- The process to order additional materials for both tests will be open from the time test books are received until the end of the test window. Requests for additional materials will only be accepted from the DAC.

Remember to Update Your District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Information



In mid-May, DACs will receive an email regarding the annual update to DAC contact information. It is essential that each district complete and **return the DAC Update form to the Office of Student Assessment by June 14, 2013**, even if the designated DAC remains the same.

Every DAC is also required to complete the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) District Assessment Coordinator

Confidentiality Agreement for the 2013-14 test administration prior to test materials arriving in the district. Be sure to submit the **DAC Confidentiality form by September 30, 2013**.

You can view and print these forms at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/dacforms.html>.

Commercial Testing Company Communications

The Office of Student Assessment has received a number of phone calls from districts regarding communication from a commercial testing company about the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE). We would like to clarify that the use of test question(s) from any previous years' WKCE test administrations is a serious test security violation. Consequences of violations may include invalidation of student test results and could result in civil legal liability for copyright violations. The test questions from the old WKCE tests are considered live items and may be used for the coming year assessment for equating purposes. Please refer to the test security trainings available at the DPI website http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_tsecuritydac and http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_tsecurityprc.

The information contained in the messages from this company about WKCE is incorrect. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) does not endorse commercial testing companies and their products.

Please ensure your district administrator and the building principals are aware of this information. There may be times in the future where commercial testing companies may send out notices that misrepresent certain aspects of the WKCE and WAA-SwD. If you receive such a notice in the future, please contact the Office of Student Assessment at osamail@dpi.wi.gov.



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ACCESS for ELLs® Update

The 2012-13 ACCESS for ELLs® Score Reports were shipped to district offices starting on April 15. Districts have until May 15 to notify MetriTech of any paper report errors that may affect scoring (e.g., the student's grade, school, or student identification is reported incorrectly). ACCESS for ELLs® student data files are now available free to districts from MetriTech via a secure web page. Contact MetriTech Customer Service at (800) 747-4868 or email wida@metritech.com to request access.

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ Update

This year, the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ was implemented as the required assessment for eligible English learners with significant cognitive disabilities. The Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ score reports were shipped to districts starting in mid-April. Interpretive guides for the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ score reports can be found at <http://www.wida.us/assessment/alternateaccess.aspx>.

To determine if a student is eligible to take the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™, Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams may complete the Individualized Education Plan: Participation in Statewide Language Assessment worksheet to determine which language assessment should be used and describe appropriate language accommodations. This worksheet can also be used to support IEP teams' efforts to describe accommodations used for either the ACCESS for ELLs® or the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™. More information can be found on the ELL Frequently Asked Questions page at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_faell. Questions should be directed to Audrey Lesondak at audrey.lesondak@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-5153.



Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update

DLM has revised their proposed schedule for pilot and field testing in order to incorporate more accessibility features for students. Wisconsin educators will have an opportunity to participate in the upcoming DLM activities. More details will be provided as they are made available:

- DLM Field Testing – Spring 2013
- DLM Content Bias and Sensitivity Review - Late Summer/Fall 2013
- DLM Small-scale Pilot Testing - Fall 2013

Professional development materials related to the Common Core Essentials Elements can be found on the DPI website at: http://sped.dpi.wi.gov/sped_assmt-ccee.



DYNAMIC
LEARNING MAPS

ASSETS (Assessment Services Supporting ELs through Technology Systems) Grant

The ASSETS Consortium continues progress in the development of the online English proficiency assessment system. With many project high points, like the Annual Board Meeting and field testing, on the horizon, the past few months have been highly charged with ASSETS developments.

Throughout the month, the ASSETS Subcommittees continued foundational work on topics such as:

- Participating in national discussions regarding English Learner definition and the role of the ELL Definition ASSETS subcommittee,
- Finalizing technology purchasing requirements and key strategies for implementation documents,
- Proposing recommendations for online features available for all students and accommodations for students with disabilities in the online and paper/pencil test environment for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, and
- Discussing the content of score reports and exploring avenues to meet the reporting needs of consortium states.

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ASSETS Grant Update (Continued from page 4)

Lastly, ASSETS completed desktop monitoring from the U.S. Department of Education providing fiscal and programmatic information to date.

Key activities in test development over the last few months have included: revising the Test and Item Design Plan (TIDP) for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and screener, drafting a field testing plan to share with SEAs later this spring, and holding research calls related to interim assessment design. Currently, ASSETS is conducting cognitive laboratories as a part of pilot testing.



World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) and project partners have incorporated the advice of the Accommodations Subcommittee on features that should be built into the test items or system, if possible. WIDA and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) are creating a field test and a recruitment plan which were discussed in further detail during the ASSETS Consortium quarterly call on April 25, 2013.

Over the next month, DPI and WIDA will be setting upcoming priorities for subcommittee work in preparation for the June Board Meeting. The ASSETS team is coordinating a cross-consortia collaboration to focus on technology and implementation issues with representatives from all of the large-scale assessment consortia. WIDA and DPI will continue development of a field testing plan to best prepare the consortium for pilot and field testing. Information for district participation in field testing will be provided in the summer of 2013.



2012-13 Accountability Reports

The 2012-13 School Report Card will incorporate a few changes from last year's inaugural version. OEA is also developing a District Report Card, which will be released along the same timeline as the School Report Cards.

The anticipated School and District Report Card timeline is:

May 2013	Begin communicating "what's new" about the 2012-13 report cards
June 2013	Preliminary notification to schools and districts of potential deductions - preliminary Student Engagement Indicator data
July 2013	Finalize programming of data factored into Accountability Index scores
August 2013	Preliminary report cards released privately (secure release)
September 2013	Final report cards released online (public release)

A number of resources have been created to help users understand the School Report Card and interpret the data which is available at http://acct.dpi.wi.gov/acct_accountability and in Secure Access File Exchange (SAFE). Also available on the accountability reform webpage, is a link to a list of Accountability Trainers who are able to answer questions on the accountability system, the report cards, and using accountability data for school improvement. OEA will continue to work with the Accountability Trainers, and will update the resources on the website. Details will be provided on the adjustments made to the School Report Cards as well as guidance provided around the District Report Card.





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Wisconsin Information System for Education Dashboard (WISEdash) Update

WISEdash, the Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) dashboard reporting tool, allows users to access data on a wide variety of topics. The secured version of WISEdash is accessible to school and district staff through DPI's Secure Home. Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) data for the 2012-13 school year is available in WISEdash. The current dashboards offered through WISEdash include:

- Enrollment and Attendance
- Assessments (including WSAS, ACT, AP, and ACCESS for ELL)
- Student Growth Percentiles
- High School Completion
- Postsecondary Enrollments
- Student Profile
- Student Search



The next topic of data the team is working to integrate into WISEdash is the MAP assessment results. To continue to build and enhance WISEdash as a data analysis tool, DPI convened a workgroup with the CESA Support Network. This workgroup, WISExplore, is working to improve student outcomes through designing, developing, piloting, and disseminating a data inquiry process for practitioners throughout the state of Wisconsin. More details will be provided as this project moves forward.

In addition to providing secure access to education data, DPI also recognizes the need to provide redacted and protected education data to the public using a consistent set of technologies and tools. In the fall of 2013 DPI is planning to

release a public version of WISEdash to parents, districts and schools, media, legislators, community groups, and researchers. The dashboards that will initially be available include: Enrollments, Attendance, WSAS, ACT, and AP. All data will be summarized and redacted.

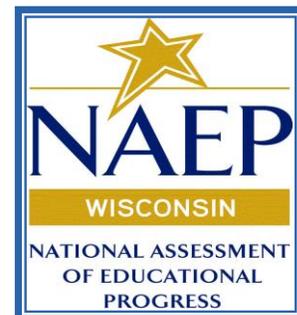
For more information about WISEdash visit:
http://wise.dpi.wi.gov/wise_dashhome.

To see a video tutorial about the secured version of WISEdash visit:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCwJX6N7zCk&feature=youtu.be>.

NAEP Updates

Results from the NAEP 2013 administration should be available in the fall of 2013. Stay tuned to see how Wisconsin and Milwaukee students performed compared to their peers in other states and large urban districts.

NAEP 2014 will be a national year. Fewer schools in Wisconsin will be selected compared to state NAEP years, and the assessment will yield national results only. Districts will be notified in May or early June if they will have schools sampled for this next NAEP administration. Building principals in selected schools will receive information in June about the upcoming assessment.



PALS Update

The spring administration window for PALS-K opened April 29, and will close on May 24, 2013. The spring administration is required for all kindergarten (5K) students. Teachers need to choose two weeks within the window to administer the screener to their students.

The optional mid-year administration of PALS-K was provided to over 20,000 students in 210 districts. The results from this

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administration are currently being used by teachers to provide targeted instruction to students that are in need of extra assistance.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is preparing for the second year of administration of PALS for kindergarten students by asking districts to complete the order form that was recently sent to each district assessment coordinator (DAC). In addition to the requirement to administer this screener for kindergarten students, DPI is anticipating legislation that will allow or require districts to administer a reading screener at 4K and 1st grade, in addition to 5K for the 2013-14 school year and for 4K, 1st grade, and 2nd grade for the 2014-15 school year. Once legislation is finalized, DPI will notify districts with the specific requirements for administration.



The PALS Wisconsin Resource Center (<http://www.palswisconsin.info>) serves as the portal for information on required training, policy issues, and other information relevant to the administration of the PALS screener. Please utilize the portal as your first stop if you have any questions about PALS.

For additional assistance or to request Braille or Deaf/Hard of Hearing PALS-K materials, contact Duane Dorn at duane.dorn@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 267-1069. Schools that elect to use the Spanish language version in addition to the English

language version may contact PALS at pals-sp@virginia.edu. DACs may contact PALS at 888-728-7257 with questions about the online training and the online score entry and reporting system, while teachers should contact PALS at support@palshelp.com.





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“How can I predict my accountability scores for 2012-13?”

OEA encourages districts to examine their data in light of the four Priority Areas and three Student Engagement Indicators in the report cards. Are students improving compared to prior years (Student Growth)? How are subgroups performing in our school and how has their performance changed over time (Closing Gaps)? What are attendance and graduation rates for all students and our subgroups (On-Track)? Note that these important questions can be asked

and answered using data in WISEdash secure and, in some cases, on WINSS. Also note that it is not necessary to know your school's specific score in order to ask and discuss these important topics that affect local planning.

For schools that are working to predict scores, the Technical Guide may be of assistance. OEA would like to point out, however, that we do expect some changes in the accountability calculations for the 2012-13 release (see the article on page 9 of this newsletter). As a result, predicting your scores now may not reflect the updated calculations. Instead, we encourage a focus more on data analysis that can improve outcomes for students rather than a focus on accountability determinations.

FAQ...

Q. Why should I complete a DAC Update form?

The Office of Student Assessment and Educational Accountability communicate the up-to-date information regarding the assessment and accountability updates to the DAC through email. The testing contractor sends the test books, test publications, reports, and other testing materials to the DAC mailing addresses. It is important to complete the DAC Update forms so that the OSA and OEA staff and the test contractor have the current, accurate contact information for all DACs.

Q. What is a performance task on the Smarter Assessment?

Performance tasks challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to real-world problems. They can best be described as collections of questions and activities that are coherently connected to a single theme or scenario. These activities are meant to measure capacities such as depth of understanding, research skills, and complex analysis, which cannot be adequately assessed with selected- or constructed-response items. Performance tasks in reading, writing, and mathematics will be part of the Smarter Balanced summative assessment.

Q. Where can I find more information about the Smarter Practice Test?

Information is available about the Smarter Practice Test at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test/>.

Q. What if the handwriting is not well-written and difficult to read? Are the responses still scored?

Yes. All responses are scored. However, if some of handwriting is illegible, the response may be difficult to understand and that could affect the score. When a response is not legible, a scribe may print the intended word(s) directly above the student's written word.

Q. How can I volunteer to participate in the development activities for the Smarter Assessment?

Smarter is looking for K-12 and Higher Education educator involvement in numerous projects which will begin over the next several months. Wisconsin educators interested in participating in any of these activities are asked to complete the Educator Involvement Application available at http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_smarterops and submit it to the Office of Student Assessment.



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Building Assessment Literacy...

What Changes Will There Be In The Accountability Report Cards This Year?

There will be some minor adjustments to the Accountability Index for the 2012-13 school year. Additionally, DPI will be producing District Report Cards for the first time. Details about the evolution of the accountability system are provided below.

2012-13 School Report Cards

There are three changes to the School-level Accountability Index. First, scores for the Closing Gaps Priority Area will no longer be based on within-school comparisons between target and comparison subgroups. Instead, as long as a school has 20 students in the target subgroup (non-white racial or ethnic groups, economically disadvantaged students, English learners, or students with disabilities), that subgroup will be compared to the state average of the comparison subgroup (white, non-economically disadvantaged, English proficient, and students without disabilities). Rather than comparing scores from the Student Achievement Priority Area, rates of growth across three years will be processed and a school will be awarded credit if its target subgroup population(s) have an equal or higher rate of growth across years to the comparison subgroup at the state level. A hold-harmless feature will be implemented for subgroups with three-year average proficiency rates above 90%. In these cases, regardless of the amount of positive growth, the subgroup would receive the maximum number of points. These changes allow more schools to have scores, giving many schools with homogenous populations a better opportunity to demonstrate progress.

Second, the Absenteeism Student Engagement Indicator will see a couple minor adjustments. Previously, a student needed a minimal enrollment of at least 20 school days to be included in the absenteeism calculation. That number is being adjusted to 45 school days in order to build greater stability into the measure. Additionally, as with the Test Participation Student Engagement Indicator, DPI will provide calculations for both the current year and a multi-year average. Schools missing the target for both the current year and the multi-year calculation will receive a deduction. This reflects the goal of identifying chronic issues of absenteeism.

Finally, non-tested students will be included in calculations in the same manner that they were for AYP determinations. In sum, test participation calculations will not change from last year, but the denominator of the achievement calculation will no longer include non-tested students. In other words, because all students enrolled at the time of testing are expected to participate in the WSAS (with a few exceptions), all non-tested students (including parent opt outs and tests that were invalidated) are included in test participation calculations, possibly resulting in a deduction. However, non-tested students will not be included in achievement calculations.

2012-13 District Report Cards

For the first time since establishing the new statewide accountability system, DPI will be providing District Report Cards. District report card calculations will be made by aggregating student data to the district level, as if the district were one large school. District report cards will not be based on school-level report card results. District and School Report Cards will include the same Priority Areas and Student Engagement Indicators as are used in school report cards. At the district level, both attendance and graduation rate will be included in the On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness Priority Area. District Report Card supplemental pages will include more supplemental data than the School Report Cards such as summaries of how schools in the district performed.



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Release Timeline

School and District Report Cards will be released at the same time. DPI intends to follow the same procedures as last year, with a secure release of PDF report cards via SAFE (the Secure Access File Exchange) followed by a public release on the DPI website. Timeline details will be released before the end of the school year. Check the OEA calendar for more information.

OEA expects to release updated Interpretive and Technical Guides as well as new support materials in June. We will also be working with the Accountability Trainers to ensure they have the most up-to-date information about any updates to the Accountability System.



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 would appreciate feedback and/or suggestions on the layout and content. Please contact OEA and OSA at: oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov.



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