

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

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Contact: Tom McCarthy, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

State results issued for Badger Exam

Online assessment administered to more than 360,000 students in grades 3 through 8

MADISON — Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) results for public school students in grades three through eight showed that 51.2 percent were proficient or advanced in English language arts and 43.7 percent scored at the proficient or advanced levels in mathematics for the 2014-15 statewide exams.

“Overall results for the WSAS are a good starting point for Wisconsin’s more rigorous testing program,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Though the Badger Exam is a one-year event, our new Forward Exam will be administered this spring and will provide an opportunity to improve over time.”

Both the Badger and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) exams, which made up the WSAS for grades three through eight, are aligned with Wisconsin Academic Standards adopted in 2010. In mathematics, students in grades three and four had stronger overall proficiency levels than students

2014-15 Wisconsin Student Assessment System Results

Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on the Badger and Dynamic Learning Maps Exams

	English Language Arts	Mathematics
Grade 3	51.7	51.4
Grade 4	50.4	47.6
Grade 5	54.5	40.4
Grade 6	46.4	41.1
Grade 7	51.6	43.0
Grade 8	52.7	39.0
ALL STUDENTS	51.2	43.7

in higher grades. This may possibly be attributed to full implementation of the Wisconsin Standards for Mathematics, which served as the foundation for mathematics instruction since these students began school.

Assessment results by race and ethnicity show achievement gaps that have been evident on other state and national exams. Gaps also are apparent for English language learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students and their peers. (See attached table)

“These achievement gaps are most troubling,” Evers said. “We are using data from our statewide assessments and other resources to identify schools that are successful with various low-achieving groups so we can learn about their strategies, share those practices across the state, and ensure every student graduates college and career ready.”

(more)

The Badger Exam, an online assessment in English language arts and mathematics, and the DLM were administered last spring to 367,327 students statewide. Just over 1 percent of those students (4,724) took the DLM, which measures the academic progress of students with significant cognitive disabilities. Participation in these two WSAS exams was 97 percent with 10,090 students not tested in English Language Arts and 10,469 not tested in mathematics. Of the not tested students, 7,535 were opted out in both subjects by their parents or guardians.

The Badger Exam and DLM replaced Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE) and the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities (WAA-SwD) for students in grades three through eight. There are significant differences

between the Badger and WKCE exams, which negates comparing results to prior years. (See sidebar)

WSAS results are reported across four performance levels — advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic — that are anchored in college and career readiness expectations. The Badger Exam was developed through the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

Legislation adopted as part of the 2015-17

state budget prohibits the Department of Public Instruction from using exams developed by the consortium. Data Recognition Corporation has been contracted to provide the Forward Exam, which will be a custom assessment with test items developed and reviewed by Wisconsin educators. The state has a six-year contract with the company for test development, administration, and scoring and reporting.

Differences Between Badger and WKCE	
Badger	WKCE
Online	Paper and pencil
Administered in spring	Administered in fall
Based on Wisconsin Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics	Based on Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics
Selected response, constructed response, and technology enhanced items	Selected response and some constructed response items
Broken down by 7 racial and ethnic groups (U.S. Census 2010)	Broken down by 5 racial and ethnic groups
Socio-economic status based on multiple sources to account for Community Eligibility Programs	Socio-economic status based on eligibility for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals

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ATTACHMENT: A table with additional information about statewide student performance on the Badger and Dynamic Learning Maps exams follows.

NOTES: Public schools and school districts have received their Wisconsin Student Assessment System results (Badger and DLM exams) through the Department of Public Instruction data portal. Statewide and district-level results are not yet available in the WISEdash Public Portal. Please contact area schools or districts for local results. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_02.pdf.

2014-15 Wisconsin Badger and Dynamic Learning Maps Exams

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced

	Enrollment Counts								English Language Arts								Mathematics							
	Grade	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	ALL	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	ALL	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	ALL		
All Students		61,042	60,924	61,563	60,857	60,879	62,062	367,327	51.7	50.4	54.5	46.4	51.6	52.7	51.2	51.4	47.6	40.4	41.1	43.0	39.0	43.7		
American Indian		758	770	759	759	774	761	4,581	33.8	33.6	34.5	28.7	32.3	35.3	33.0	35.1	29.9	22.7	18.4	22.6	19.6	24.7		
Asian		2,382	2,358	2,342	2,221	2,153	2,258	13,714	45.2	50.2	53.1	44.5	52.5	57.5	50.5	50.6	48.4	41.9	41.7	47.9	46.0	46.1		
Black		5,990	5,780	5,766	5,641	5,712	5,710	34,599	19.8	20.2	21.7	16.5	22.2	24.2	20.8	19.2	14.8	9.9	9.8	10.6	9.2	12.3		
Hispanic		7,528	7,081	6,980	6,752	6,512	6,560	41,413	35.3	33.5	34.7	27.7	35.3	36.7	33.9	32.6	27.1	20.4	20.5	23.3	20.0	24.2		
White		42,283	43,077	43,922	43,865	44,129	45,233	262,509	60.0	57.7	62.4	53.7	58.3	58.9	58.5	60.0	55.9	48.0	48.8	50.5	45.8	51.4		
Pacific Islander		50	57	34	50	33	48	272	50.0	50.9	52.9	40.0	48.5	50.0	48.5	40.0	49.1	26.5	30.0	45.5	31.3	37.5		
Two or More		2,001	1,764	1,708	1,540	1,529	1,455	9,997	49.1	46.0	52.2	43.2	47.0	47.8	47.7	45.3	41.9	35.1	35.3	35.1	32.4	38.0		
Unknown Race		50	37	52	29	37	37	242	28.0	40.5	30.8	17.2	29.7	18.9	28.1	30.0	29.7	13.5	27.6	13.5	8.1	20.2		
English Language Learners (ELL)		4,892	4,003	3,181	2,688	2,660	2,974	20,398	21.6	14.5	11.0	7.8	11.2	16.5	14.6	23.0	13.6	7.5	6.6	8.7	8.9	12.6		
English Proficient		55,494	56,430	57,835	57,656	57,653	58,701	343,769	54.6	53.1	57.0	48.3	53.6	54.7	53.6	54.2	50.2	42.4	42.8	44.8	40.7	45.8		
Unknown ELL Status		656	491	547	513	566	387	3,160	33.8	34.2	37.3	33.7	35.3	36.7	35.1	32.5	28.5	22.1	23.6	20.0	19.6	24.8		
Students with Disabilities		8,097	7,849	8,520	8,336	8,423	8,306	49,531	26.8	24.3	22.2	15.9	16.1	18.0	20.5	28.0	23.4	16.0	13.6	12.5	10.0	17.2		
Students without Disabilities		52,307	52,596	52,484	52,014	51,915	53,378	314,694	55.8	54.5	59.9	51.4	57.6	58.3	56.2	55.3	51.4	44.5	45.7	48.2	43.7	48.1		
Unknown Disability Status		638	479	559	507	541	378	3,102	32.3	32.8	34.3	32.0	34.0	33.9	33.2	32.8	29.4	20.8	23.7	19.8	18.3	24.6		
Economically Disadvantaged		27,824	22,392	26,246	25,390	25,119	21,181	148,152	35.9	37.1	37.3	29.0	35.1	38.1	35.3	35.2	33.5	23.1	22.8	25.2	23.6	27.3		
Not Economically Disadvantaged		32,256	37,849	34,476	34,678	34,878	40,301	214,438	66.0	58.7	68.1	59.6	64.1	60.7	62.7	66.1	56.3	54.0	54.9	56.5	47.4	55.6		
Unknown Economic Status		962	683	841	789	882	580	4,737	29.6	29.4	32.6	27.8	30.2	29.8	29.9	29.5	25.8	18.9	19.6	16.6	16.4	21.4		

Summary files provide a snapshot of Badger and DLM performance and are as up-to-date, complete, and accurate as possible based on the currently available data and the processes DPI has put in place for aggregating them; however, these data are not yet certified and are subject to change.