

# News Release

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## Participation rates up for online statewide testing

*Forward provides baseline for college and career-ready expectations*

MADISON — Participation improved for the second year of online statewide testing in grades three through eight with the first administration of the Wisconsin Forward Exam, which replaced the 2014-15 Badger Exam developed through the SMARTER multi-state assessment consortium.

Statewide, 382,836 public and private school students took the Forward Exam. Overall, participation went from 97.3 percent of public school students on the Badger Exam to 98.8 percent for the Forward Exam. For private choice school students, participation went from 92.2 percent in 2014-15 to 93.6 percent for 2015-16.

“I am hopeful that this will be the last time for a very long time that we are transitioning assessments for our kids,” said State Superintendent

<b>Wisconsin Student Assessment System</b>		
Participation Rates for Online Assessments		
	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
	Badger Exam	Forward Exam
<b>Public</b>	97.3	98.8
<b>Choice</b>	92.2	93.6

Tony Evers. “The Forward Exam provides us with a new baseline as we work to prepare all Wisconsin kids for college and career. Successful administration of this exam was due to the high-quality teachers, administrators, and educational staff members who devote themselves to the children in Wisconsin’s schools.”

Last spring, nearly 100 educators from around the state participated in a standard setting process for the Wisconsin Forward Exam. Standards and benchmarks for each subject area were informed by performance levels for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation’s Report Card. Educators reviewed each Forward Exam test item and established proficiency levels to meet Wisconsin classroom expectations. Given the difference in tests and cut scores, comparisons of Forward Exam school- and district-level achievement should not be made to results from the Badger Exam or Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE).

The Forward Exam is made up of subject area tests in English language arts and mathematics for grades three through eight; science for grades four and eight; and social studies for grades four, eight, and 10.

(more)

Approximately 4,500 public school students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades three through eight took the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) exams. No private choice students took the DLM.

Results showed that 41.7 percent of public and private choice students scored in the proficient or advanced performance levels in English language arts. In mathematics, 41.3 percent of students were proficient or advanced and in science, 49.1 percent of students were proficient or advanced. The 369,409 public school students who took the Forward and DLM exams had

overall proficiency of 42.5 percent in English language arts, 42.3 percent in mathematics, and 50.1 percent in science. Overall choice students had a proficiency

<b>Wisconsin Student Assessment System - Forward and DLM</b>				
Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced				
2015-16	Enrollment	ELA	Math	Science
<b>All Students</b>	382,836	41.7%	41.3%	49.1%
<b>Public</b>	369,409	42.5%	42.3%	50.1%
<b>Choice</b>	13,427	19.1%	14.0%	21.6%
<b>Note:</b> No private school choice students took the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM). Choice data includes parental opt-outs.				

rate of 19.1 percent in English language arts, 14.0 percent in mathematics, and 21.6 percent in science. Nearly 5 percent of the 13,427 choice students who were enrolled in the Milwaukee, Racine, or Wisconsin parental choice programs were opted out of the Forward Exam.

“We set a high bar when it comes to what we expect of our students,” Evers said. “As such, earning marks of proficient or advanced on the Forward Exam means a student has demonstrated skills that are at or above what is expected of them at a given grade.”

Forward results for public school students by race and ethnicity showed achievement gaps that have been evident on other state and national measures. Gaps are also apparent for English language learners, students with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged students and their peers. (See attached table.) This was the first year that private choice schools used the WISEdata system, thus Forward Exam results for those schools disaggregated by student subgroups are unavailable this year.

“I remain troubled by the achievement gaps that persist in Wisconsin,” Evers said. “As a state and within our communities, we must work together to raise awareness of this problem and implement policy-driven solutions. It is not an issue of one student or one school district, it is an issue that impacts us all.”

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**NOTES:** Tables with additional information about Forward and DLM testing follow. Additional information about assessment data for public schools and districts is in the [WISEdash Public Portal](#). Data for private choice students is available on the [Parental Choice Program website](http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/parental-choice-program/data) at <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/parental-choice-program/data>. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016\\_101.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2016_101.pdf).

# 2015-16 Wisconsin Forward Exam and Dynamic Learning Maps Performance

## Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Public School Students	Enrollment Counts							English Language Arts							Mathematics							Science		
	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	ALL	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	ALL	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	ALL	4th	8th	ALL
All Students	62,611	61,304	61,169	61,821	61,308	61,196	369,409	43.3%	43.5%	42.6%	42.7%	41.9%	41.1%	42.5%	48.3%	44.7%	44.4%	43.1%	39.2%	33.7%	42.3%	51.4%	48.9%	50.1%
American Indian	767	772	789	755	761	773	4,617	25.9%	24.5%	23.1%	21.6%	22.5%	24.8%	23.7%	30.9%	23.3%	24.0%	20.0%	16.4%	14.5%	21.5%	31.7%	28.2%	30.0%
Asian	2,445	2,440	2,389	2,364	2,264	2,207	14,109	41.6%	39.4%	45.1%	39.0%	46.1%	43.5%	42.4%	47.0%	43.9%	48.1%	46.1%	40.7%	40.5%	44.4%	44.4%	44.3%	44.4%
Black	6,059	5,985	5,735	5,660	5,570	5,653	34,662	15.1%	13.9%	14.4%	13.2%	14.6%	13.6%	14.1%	16.0%	12.1%	11.4%	10.4%	8.0%	7.0%	10.9%	16.2%	13.5%	14.9%
Hispanic	7,705	7,558	7,120	6,939	6,848	6,610	42,780	26.5%	26.4%	25.5%	23.3%	25.7%	25.5%	25.5%	28.4%	24.3%	24.3%	22.1%	19.2%	15.9%	22.6%	31.1%	27.3%	29.3%
Pacific Isle	56	46	61	35	40	34	272	33.9%	45.7%	39.3%	51.4%	50.0%	38.2%	42.3%	39.3%	41.3%	49.2%	37.1%	40.0%	32.4%	40.8%	54.3%	41.2%	48.8%
White	43,239	42,388	43,163	44,210	44,190	44,300	261,490	50.9%	51.6%	49.6%	50.1%	48.2%	47.4%	49.6%	57.1%	53.8%	52.7%	51.0%	46.9%	40.0%	50.2%	45.1%	42.3%	43.7%
Two or More	2,284	2,072	1,881	1,796	1,593	1,576	11,202	39.8%	38.5%	38.6%	39.7%	37.2%	35.0%	38.3%	43.1%	36.9%	36.0%	38.4%	31.5%	27.0%	36.1%	61.1%	57.5%	59.5%
Unknown Race	41	43	31	62	36	43	256	9.8%	20.9%	16.1%	25.8%	19.4%	18.6%	19.1%	19.5%	30.2%	12.9%	25.8%	16.7%	11.6%	20.3%	23.3%	16.3%	19.8%
English Language Learners (ELL)	5,654	4,773	3,363	2,742	2,651	2,603	21,786	19.8%	13.4%	7.3%	3.2%	6.9%	5.5%	11.1%	23.4%	15.8%	10.8%	6.7%	6.0%	4.8%	13.4%	18.3%	7.6%	14.5%
English Proficient	56,916	56,487	57,775	59,014	58,615	58,549	347,356	45.7%	46.1%	44.7%	44.5%	43.5%	42.7%	44.5%	50.8%	47.2%	46.4%	44.8%	40.7%	35.0%	44.1%	54.2%	50.8%	52.5%
Unknown ELL Status	41	44	31	65	42	44	267	9.8%	22.7%	16.1%	26.2%	16.7%	20.5%	19.5%	19.5%	31.8%	12.9%	24.6%	14.3%	13.6%	20.2%	25.0%	18.2%	21.6%
Students with Disabilities	8,338	8,480	8,443	8,461	8,400	8,457	50,579	18.5%	17.4%	14.3%	12.1%	12.1%	10.6%	14.2%	23.5%	20.0%	16.9%	12.7%	9.5%	7.0%	14.9%	24.2%	14.9%	19.6%
Students without Disabilities	54,232	52,780	52,695	53,295	52,866	52,695	318,563	47.1%	47.7%	47.2%	47.5%	46.7%	46.0%	47.0%	52.2%	48.7%	48.8%	47.9%	44.0%	38.0%	46.6%	55.8%	54.4%	55.1%
Unknown Disability Status	41	44	31	65	42	44	267	9.8%	22.7%	16.1%	26.2%	16.7%	20.5%	19.5%	19.5%	31.8%	12.9%	24.6%	14.3%	13.6%	20.2%	25.0%	18.2%	21.6%
Economically Disadvantaged	27,072	26,368	25,038	24,478	23,546	23,165	149,667	27.9%	27.0%	26.5%	25.1%	25.9%	25.5%	26.4%	31.5%	26.8%	26.9%	24.4%	21.2%	17.6%	25.0%	34.5%	31.4%	33.1%
Not Economically Disadvantaged	35,497	34,892	36,100	37,278	37,720	37,987	219,474	55.1%	56.0%	53.8%	54.2%	52.0%	50.7%	53.6%	61.2%	58.2%	56.6%	55.3%	50.5%	43.6%	54.1%	64.1%	59.6%	61.8%
Unknown Economic Status	42	44	31	65	42	44	268	9.5%	22.7%	16.1%	26.2%	16.7%	20.5%	19.4%	19.0%	31.8%	12.9%	24.6%	14.3%	13.6%	20.1%	25.0%	18.2%	21.6%

NOTE: These data include students who took the DLM. Participation ranged from 661 in fourth-grade science to 816 in eighth-grade English language arts.

## Family Income for Choice Eligibility – 2015-16

Program Eligibility Based on Income for a Family of Four with Married Parents

Federal Free Meals	Federal Reduced-Price Meals	Milwaukee Choice (MPCP)	Racine Choice (RPCP)	Statewide Choice (WPCP)
\$31,525	\$44,863	\$79,696	\$79,696	\$51,828

NOTE: For the Wisconsin Student Assessment System, public school students whose family income falls within the guidelines for free or reduced-price school meals are considered low income.