ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 56, April 2021

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Updates...

Note from the Director

Thanks to all the district assessment coordinators (DACs), principals, teachers, counselors, program coordinators, and other school and district staff for your work in administering the spring 2020-21 statewide assessments. During the next couple of months, we will be focusing on reporting, Forward Exam item reviews, and contract kick off meetings for the upcoming year.

Wisconsin educators play a significant role in the development of the Forward Exam by participating in New Item Review meetings. Forward Exam New Item Review will be held virtually this summer. Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) staff is currently accepting applications for this important work. Please encourage educators who have the content expertise and experience working with students of diverse cultural backgrounds, students with disabilities, and English learners to apply. More information about the New Item Review and how to apply is available on the Educator Involvement Opportunities webpage.

Thank you for your continued collaboration!

Viji Somasundaram

Director, Office of Educational Accountability

Calendar...

Important Dates

2021	
March 22 – May 14	Forward test window – ELA and Mathematics Grades 3-8, Science Grades 4 and 8, and Social Studies Grades 4, 8, and 10
March 22 – May 14	DLM test window – ELA and Mathematics Grades 3-11, Science Grades 4 and 8-11, and Social Studies Grades 4, 8, and 10
April 5 – May 19	ACT Aspire Early High School Testing Window - Grades 9-10
April 14-27	NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey
May TBD	NAEP – Districts will receive notification of schools selected for NAEP 2022
May 5	ACT – Last Testing Day (paper only)
May 5-7 & 10-11	ACT – Last Accommodations testing window (paper only)
May 7	Forward – Deadline to apply for New Item Review
May 19-June 2	NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey
May 21	ACCESS test window closes
May 28	ACCESS – deadline for returning materials to DRC
June TBD	NAEP – Schools will be notified of selection to participate in NAEP 2022
June 16-29	NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey
June 17-25	ACCESS – Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window
June 24	Forward Exam - Summary and Individual Student Reports available in DRC INSIGHT Portal
July TBD	DLM Item Review
July 6	Aspire – Summary and Individual Student Reports available to districts in the portal
July 15	ACCESS - Summary and Individual Student Reports available in DRC INSIGHT Portal
Mid- July	DLM Summary and Individual Student Reports available to districts in the portal
July 21	ACT - Summary reports available to districts in Success.ACT and PAnext
July 21	Forward – Hard copy Individual Student Reports delivered to districts
August 2-16	ACCESS – Post-Reporting Data Validation Window
August 5	ACCESS – Hard copy Individual Student Reports delivered to districts

For Additional ACT test windows see the ACT Calendar webpage.

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

Forward Exam Update

The 2021 Forward Exam testing window will close May 14. OEA staff appreciate the phone calls and emails from schools and districts asking for clarification, seeking guidance, and reporting irregularities. Your attention to administrative detail and awareness of test security helps to ensure all students have the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. We appreciate the time and effort you put into administering the Forward Exam.

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) and summary reports will be available electronically in the DRC INSIGHT Portal in late June. Hard copy ISRs will be mailed to districts in late July. Be sure to send ISRs out to parents/guardians as soon as possible after receipt either in hard copy or via your secure parent portal.

Districts have the option to request an additional electronic ISR file format delivery, which contains a separate PDF for each student ISR. This format allows for easier upload of the electronic ISRs to their student information system (SIS) or secure parent portal. Complete the request form, between May 3 and June 15, to receive the additional electronic ISR file format delivery.

Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunity - New Item Review Virtual Meeting

DPI is looking to recruit a diverse group of educators from all over Wisconsin (including EL and special education teachers) to participate in the summer "New Item Review" for the Forward Exam. This is a great opportunity to be a part of assessment development, provide valuable feedback, have detailed input about the items on the Forward Exam, and take knowledge back to the district about the process.

For more information about the virtual meetings including dates, logistics, and application information, go to the Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunities webpage. Please share this information with all grade 3-8 and 10 educators in your school/district. Educator input is invaluable during this stage of item development.

Deadline to apply is May 7.
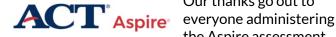
ACT with Writing Update

Thank you to everyone who is administering the ACT assessment this year. We appreciate your continued work and commitment to testing students this season. The final ACT testing window is May 5, with the last accommodations window closing May 11.

ACT mails score reports to students' home addresses 5-8 weeks after answer documents are returned to ACT. Results are also available to students online in the students' MyACT account. Students can use the Using Your ACT Results (also available in Spanish) booklet with their ACT score report to interpret their scores. Students who were unable to create a MyACT account or send their scores to at least one college, will receive an additional opportunity to send their scores to four colleges for free. ACT will include a voucher for sending scores to colleges along with the printed score report that is mailed to students. Instructions for using the voucher will be included with the score report.

As student scores are processed by ACT, schools and districts will be able to see student scores in Success.ACT. High School Check List Report, High School Student Reports, and Student Score Labels will be mailed to schools 5-8 weeks after answer documents are returned to ACT. Aggregate reports by school and district (now called Contract Reports) will be available in Success.ACT and PAnext by mid-July. For a complete list of reporting deadlines and how to access reports, please reference the ACT Score Report Schedule. Resources for how to interpret ACT data can be found on the Wisconsin ACT Website. Information on Wisconsin cut scores and performance levels for ACT with writing can be found on the ACT Data Proficiency webpage.

ACT Aspire Update

Our thanks go out to everyone administering the Aspire assessment this year. Your dedication to student testing is greatly appreciated. The Aspire assessment window will close on May 19.

Aspire testing is off to a great start with several schools already completing testing. ISRs, data files, and dynamic, educator created reports will be available in the Aspire portal in July. Schools should print and distribute the ISRs to students.

Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update

Thank you for your work in administering the DLM this spring. Your phone calls and emails pursuing interpretations and clarifications are appreciated and contributed to a successful administration. We would also like to thank the districts for their participation in teacher surveys and field testing.

Due to the extension of the DLM testing window, individual student and summary reports will be available to districts through the Educator Portal in mid-July.

Every year DLM hosts a virtual Item Review Session in July. During this session panelists will perform content, accessibility, bias, and sensitivity reviews on DLM testlets to assure greatest fidelity to targeted cognition. The July 2021 Item Review educator selection has already taken place. Educators interested in consideration for future Item Review or other involvement opportunities should contact Mike Peacy.

ACCESS for ELLs® Update

ACCESS for ELLs testing has gone smoothly across the state. Thank you to everyone who has been instrumental in implementing testing. Please check the WIDA AMS Materials Accountability Form for each school and ensure that all materials are accounted for. You may retain a few unused materials in case any new students transfer into your district, but please send completed booklets back as soon as possible. Please leave "Do Not Score" codes blank for students who did not come into the school to take ACCESS this year.

With the review and formal adoption of the 2020 WIDA ELD Standards, work will now shift to rolling them out during the 2021-22 school year. Please contact Amy Maciolek or Melissa Vasquez in Teaching and Learning for information regarding the ELD Standards roll-out plans.

At the end of March, WIDA released their new WIDA Screener for Kindergarten. This is an engaging safari-themed assessment designed to get kids moving and encourage them to show what they know and can do in English. Guidelines for using this new tool are now available in a special supplement to our EL Policy Handbook.

We will phase out the K W-APT over the next school year and move to the new screener for enrollment in 2022-23. Feel free to log into the WIDA Secure Portal to go through the training to use this new assessment. You may begin using it for screening once we publish guidance on how to use it.

Assessment of Reading Readiness Update

We would like to thank all districts for completing the Reading Readiness Reimbursement Request form. The Department will be sending out reimbursements to districts in late May/early June.

For the 2021-22 school year, the reading readiness requirement will remain the same. Districts will be required to assess for reading readiness all 4-year-old Kindergarten through 2nd grade students at least once during the school year. Each school board and the operator of each charter school shall select the appropriate, valid, and reliable assessment of literacy fundamentals to be used. The school board or operator shall ensure that the assessment evaluates whether a pupil possesses phonemic awareness and letter sound knowledge.

In addition to the requirement to administer a literacy screener, the following conditions apply:

- The department shall pay to the school board or operator the per pupil cost of the selected assessment.
- The school board or operator of the charter school shall report the results of a pupil's assessment to the pupil's parent or guardian.
- The school board of the school district or operator of the charter school in which the pupil is enrolled shall provide a pupil whose assessment indicates that he or she is at risk of reading difficulty with interventions or remedial reading services, as described under Wis. Stats. 121.02(1)(c).

More information on the Reading Readiness requirements can be found on the Reading Readiness Overview webpage and the Reading Readiness FAQ webpage.

NAEP Update

Thanks to the schools participating in the NAEP 2021 Monthly School Survey. The data collection will continue through June and the monthly results are reported on the [Institute of Education Sciences Monthly School Survey Dashboard](#) shortly after each data collection window closes. This survey is getting a lot of attention around the country as state and national leaders watch the progress of schools reopening.

NAEP 2022 is right around the corner. Assessments that were postponed from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years are scheduled for the upcoming 2021-22 school year ("NAEP 2022"). These will include the age 17 Long-Term Trend Reading and Mathematics assessments, grade 8 U.S. History and Civics assessments, and grades 4 and 8 Reading and Mathematics assessments. We expect that a new sample of schools will be drawn, so some schools originally selected to participate might still be in the new sample. We should receive the new sample of schools in May and will notify districts and then schools as soon as possible.

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

State Accountability

Earlier this year, OEA released secure accountability preview reports directly to schools and districts in [SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange](#). We also posted sample preview reports on the [Accountability Resources webpage](#). As a reminder, preview reports are **not report cards**. These informational reports use data from prior years (i.e., 2018-19 assessment results) to demonstrate future report card updates that our team worked on with our Accountability Advisory Group and other state and national experts and stakeholders.

OEA is continuing to move forward in this work by gathering feedback on the preview reports. We are engaging with stakeholder groups, reviewing preview report survey data, and consulting with experts. Currently, statewide accountability requirements are still active for the 2020-21 school year.

If you have questions about state accountability, please contact us at oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.

Federal Accountability Update

In March, OEA released final ESSA Informational Reports and Progress to Exit Reports in [SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange](#). These reports contain applicable data in absenteeism, graduation, and progress towards English language proficiency. These reports, part of joint federal notifications, are meant to support and inform school and district continuous improvement and are released alongside IDEA LEA Determinations and Racial Disproportionality reports.

The federal ESSA waiver request submitted by DPI to suspend ESSA accountability requirements, including basing achievement on at least 95 percent of students, and to delay 2020-21 long-term goals and Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Additional Targeted Support and Improvement, and Targeted Support and Improvement identifications by one year, has been approved. This waiver has no impact on state report cards or IDEA determinations.

If you have any questions about ESSA accountability, please email oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.

Resource Inequity Data Tool

The 2020-21 Resource Inequity Data Tool is now available in the Secure Access File Exchange (SAFE). This tool helps school and district staff examine the distribution of resources within their schools and align these resources with local equity goals. Specifically, this tool will help school and district staff:

- Examine distribution of resources: staffing, funding, course offerings, instructional materials, and engagement with families.
- Compare school, district, and state data to see where your school and district stand relative to others.
- Ask key questions to find patterns in the data.
- Plan action steps to better align distribution of resources with local goals.

The tool will look similar to last year's version with the most notable change found in the school and district per-pupil expenditure data. These data that were previously reported locally, are reported by DPI for the first time this year using the same data found on WISEdash public. More information on school and district per-pupil expenditure data can be found on the SLR Data Reporting Format page.

The Resource Inequity Data Tool was designed as a resource for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI/ATSI) schools developing improvement plans. Though the tool is specifically targeted to these identified schools, it is also provided to all schools to help identify and address resource inequities.

We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. As the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA) works to improve and refine this communication tool, we appreciate feedback and suggestions on the layout and content. Please contact us for assessment related topics at osamail@dpi.wi.gov and accountability related topics at oeamail@dpi.wi.gov.

FAQ …

Reminder – Each assessment has an FAQ webpage with scenarios/issues related to that specific assessment: ACT FAQ, DLM FAQ, Forward FAQ, Aspire FAQ, ACCESS for ELLs FAQ.

Q. Will there be a sample letter available to send home to parents with Individual Student Reports (ISRs)?
Yes, each assessment will have a sample parent letter (updated for 2020-2021) that may be used to accompany ISRs when sent home to parents/guardians. These letters will be accessible via the specific assessment's data and results webpage.

Q. Are we permitted to post the Forward Exam Individual Student Reports (ISRs) on our secure parent portals?
Yes. You may post the ISRs securely on your secure parent portals.

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 reporting timelines for all statewide assessments?
There is a reporting timeline available on the Assessment webpage under Wisconsin State Assessment Timelines.

Q. If a student who is supposed to take the ACCESS for ELLs remains virtual and does not test, or a parent refuses to allow their student into the school to test, do we fill out a non-tested code in the portal?
No. Leave the non-tested code blank for ACCESS. Return all unused materials at the end of the test window, and shred test tickets and unused Pre-ID labels.

OEA has created two webpages to keep you updated and informed. Please bookmark these pages and the main DPI COVID-19 page, which contains COVID-19 information for schools beyond assessment and accountability.

COVID-19 – Accountability Updates and Resources webpage with summary information on the impact of COVID-19 on school accountability in Wisconsin.

COVID-19 – Assessment Updates and Resources webpage that provides assessment related COVID-19 resources, 2020-21 COVID updates, and a COVID Assessment FAQ.

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This publication is available from:
Division of Student and School Success
Office of Educational Accountability
(608) 267-1072
https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/correspondence
April 2021 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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