



# The DAC Digest

Assessment & Accountability Updates

December 13, 2023

## Assessment

### New:

#### Performance Levels Survey

OEA is surveying District Administrators, DACs, and a variety of other stakeholder groups related to options for modifying the current performance level terminology (advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic) to better reflect an asset-based, growth mindset. Research suggests that a growth mindset is associated with students' feelings of encouragement and motivation. Using language that promotes a growth mindset can improve learning by changing the conversation with students, families, and educators.

The [survey was sent to District Administrators on December 8](#), and to DACs and other external stakeholder groups on December 11. Please consider completing the survey and/or passing it along to interested individuals in your district. The survey should take under five minutes and the completion deadline is December 22.

### Reminder:

#### District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Confidentiality Agreement

DACs from districts administering the ACCESS for ELLs who have not already completed the 2023-24 [DAC Confidentiality Agreement](#) should do so now and submit to OEA as soon as possible. The form may be completed electronically and signed electronically using Acrobat Reader. Be sure to read the terms for each assessment and select the appropriate options on the ACT agreement prior to signing. The entire document needs to be submitted to OEA once signed. If your district is not administering the ACCESS for ELLs for 2023-24, be sure to submit your form by March 1. All other confidentiality forms (SACs, DTCs, STCs, etc.) remain individual forms, but may be completed electronically, and once completed are to be retained at the school/district level.

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## Accountability

### Reminder:

#### 2023-24 JFN Release Timeline

Beginning in the 2023-24 school year, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) reports will be available in February and April as part of the Joint



Federal Notification (JFN) packet. This new timeline differs from years past, in which the preliminary JFN release typically took place in December. Please see the [email to District Administrators](#) from Deputy State Superintendent John Johnson for more information on this new timeline.

If you have questions about ESSA accountability, please contact [oeamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeamail@dpi.wi.gov). For questions regarding IDEA accountability, please contact the [Special Education team](#).

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## ACCESS for ELLs

### Reminders:

#### Student Transfers

If you have a student transfer into your district from another Wisconsin district, please complete the [Student Transfer Request for ACCESS for ELLs form](#). We will transfer their registration to your district, and the student will not need to be administered any domains they have already completed.

#### Materials

Additional materials may be ordered through the WIDA AMS portal, and they will be delivered in about two business days.

#### WIDA AMS Updates

For help navigating, click the question mark icon at the top right, or from the My Applications menu at the top select DRC Customer Service > WIDA AMS Knowledge Articles. WIDA and DRC also offer webinars on a variety of topics, with a full list of upcoming and recorded webinars located on the [Webinars webpage](#) in the WIDA Secure Portal.

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## ACT

### New:

#### Video American Sign Language - Available Spring 2024

ACT is currently working to develop Video American Sign Language (VASL) for all content areas as an authorized accommodation for students with hearing impairments. VASL will be available for spring 2024 testing for both paper and online testing. More information on how VASL will be administered to students will be available early next year. Please review the revised [ACT Accessibility Supports Guide](#) for additional information on VASL.

#### Accommodation Requests Reminder

The deadline to submit requests for spring 2024 testing is **January 19**. DPI strongly encourages schools to **enter requests into the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) now** to avoid delays and allow time for reconsideration if needed. Please refer to [Step 3: Accommodation, on the Wisconsin ACT webpage](#) for accommodation and EL support resources and training.

### Online Testing Site Readiness Service

This year, ACT will provide Wisconsin schools with an optional Online Testing Site Readiness Service. This helpful service will allow districts to connect directly with an ACT Customer Support Specialist trained in the technical requirements and support of online administration. This service is optional and interested districts will need to opt-in with ACT. Additional information and instructions on how to participate will be sent to DACs on Tuesday, December 19. DPI encourages districts to take advantage of this opportunity to ensure they are ready for online testing.

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## PreACT Secure

### New:

#### Accommodation Supports Guide and Video American Sign Language

The 2024 PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide is now available and has been posted to the [Wisconsin PreACT Secure webpage, Step 3](#). Video American Sign Language (VASL) will also be available for the PreACT Secure spring administration for online testing only.

As a reminder, PreACT Secure accommodations do not need prior approval from ACT and staff will enter student accommodations directly into the [PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> portal](#). Testing staff can begin entering accommodations for students on January 29, 2024. Additional information will be disseminated in January.

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## DLM

### New:

#### DLM Recruitment

DLM, with the aid of teachers throughout the consortium, has completed the writing and review of the new Science Essential Elements. The next step in the process is to do an external review of the new learning maps. Two external reviews of maps are being planned for some time in mid-April, May or early June. Exact dates are yet to be determined. Recruitment will begin in early 2024, and DLM is seeking panels to cover a broad range of experience and expertise across science domains, grade bands, and special education. If interested, complete a profile on the [ATLAS recruitment site](#). If you are interested or have any questions please feel free to reach out to [Michael Peacy](#).

### Reminders:

#### Training

Teachers and Test Administrators should begin working on their training for 2023-24.

#### First Contact Surveys (FCS) and Personal Needs and Preference Profiles (PNP)

The FCS and PNPs must be completed for students to receive testlets. The FCS and PNP can be completed now and should be completed by a person who knows the students' abilities well.



### Users and Rosters

Please make sure that all Test Administrators and students have been added and updated on Educator Portal. Please also confirm users are up to date and any users that do not require access are removed.

### Instruction and Assessment Planner

The Instruction and Assessment Planner is open and can be used to assess the students with the most significant cognitive disabilities throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding the Instruction and Assessment Planner, please contact [Mike Peacy](#) or [Iris Jacobson](#).

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## Forward Exam

### Reminders:

#### Educator Involvement Opportunities

DPI is currently recruiting a diverse group of Wisconsin educators from all over Wisconsin (including English learner and special education teachers) to participate in three separate Forward Exam Educator Involvement Opportunities. These events are all important steps in the development and scoring of the Forward Exam. This is a great opportunity to be a part of the Forward Exam development and scoring, have detailed input on the exam, and take knowledge back to your district about the processes.

- **Rangefinding** - Participants will review student writing responses to finalize the short write rubrics, approve scoring guides, and select anchor, training, and qualifying papers used by evaluators to score the Forward Exam new ELA short write tasks.
- **Standard Setting** - Participants will recommend cut scores for the Forward Exam in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The cut scores separate students into one of the four achievement levels, which provide clear indicators of a student's level in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards and indicate if they are on track for future learning.
- **New Item Review** - Participants will review new ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies 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 each opportunity, including how to apply, is available on the [Forward Exam Educators Involvement webpage](#). Educators interested in one or more events need to submit only one application. There is a question in the application which asks the applicant to select the educator involvement opportunities they would like to participate in and may select all that apply. **Please share this information with the educators in your district.**

## 2024 DRC INSIGHT Portal Permissions

DRC has assigned DACs permission to access the 2024 DRC INSIGHT Portal. DACs do not need to assign permissions to other users until January or February 2024. Information about how to assign users will be provided in the DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide, available on January 8. DACs who did not receive the email from 'noreply@datarecognitioncorp.com' with the subject line "Your DRC INSIGHT Portal Account Has a New Profile", please contact the [DRC Help Desk](#) at (800) 459-6530.

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## NAEP and International Assessments

*(for schools selected to participate in 2023-24 assessments only)*

### Reminders:

#### NAEP Assessment Planning Tasks Now Open

NAEP School Coordinators can now access the Assessment Planning Tasks in the [NAEP Assessment Management System \(AMS\)](#). Registered School Coordinators should have received an email from westatstudies.com the morning of December 4 notifying them of the tasks that include:

- Schedule the Assessment Planning Meeting
- Provide Student Information
- Assessment Logistics
- Notify Parent/Guardians
- Manage Questionnaires

#### Internet Connectivity Survey Deadline Extended to December 8

The deadline for technology teams to complete their Internet Connectivity Surveys has been extended from December 1 to December 8. This survey will determine whether NAEP can use school-based internet for testing. DACs can review the statuses of their district's surveys in the [NAEP Assessment Management System \(AMS\)](#).

### Reminder:

#### NAEP High School Transcript Study Open Through January 31

The NAEP High School Transcript Study (HSTS) data collection is now open in the [NAEP Assessment Management System \(AMS\)](#). HSTS Coordinators will complete the course catalog submission and the transcript information survey, which are open through the **end of January**. The last step of the HSTS is the student transcript submission which will open in the summer of 2024.

See the [NAEP webpage](#) for grade levels and content areas assessed, dates, additional information, and resources; and contact [Angela Dugas](#) with any questions. If there are issues with the [NAEP AMS](#), please contact the NAEP Help Desk at [NAEPHelp@westat.com](mailto:NAEPHelp@westat.com) or (800) 283-6237. To reset your password for the NAEP AMS, click "Learn more about how to log in" and then click "Forgot password".

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## Reading Readiness

### Reminder:

For detailed information about requirements for screening go to the [Assessment of Reading Readiness Overview webpage](#).

## Other Related Information

### Reminders:

#### Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Sessions

The Office of Educational Accountability has partnered with CESAs to offer a free Assessment Professional Development and Coaching Series focusing on classroom level assessment and data use. The series includes 12 days of professional learning and five in-district coaching sessions. Visit the [Assessment Professional Learning and Coaching Series website](#) or contact your local CESA office for more information and to apply for this professional learning and coaching series.

## New Resources

As new resources are posted to our website, we will include them here for your convenience for a few weeks. This is NOT an exhaustive list but meant to highlight resources with significant relevance to our upcoming test windows.

Resource	Description	Assessment
<a href="#">ACT Accessibility Supports Guide (revised)</a>	Guide to all accommodations and supports offered on ACT.	ACT
<a href="#">PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide</a>	Guide to all accommodations and supports offered on PreACT Secure.	PreACT Secure
<a href="#">Student Transfer Request for ACCESS for ELLs form</a>	Request transfer of students into your district.	ACCESS

## Important Dates to Remember

Be sure to refer to each specific assessment calendar for a complete list of key dates.

Date	Event	Program
January 8	DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide and Test Administration Manual available	Forward



Date	Event	Program
January 8	DAC and Test Administrator training videos available	Forward
January 8	Updated Student and Administrator Tutorials available	Forward
January 10	First of three DAC, SAC, and DTC Q&A Webinars (see <a href="#">Forward Exam Calendar webpage</a> for additional two webinar dates)	Forward
January 10	Attend ACT online testing/Technology Readiness training	ACT
January 17	Attend Wisconsin Specific ACT Office Hour	ACT
January 19	Deadline to submit accommodations/supports in TAA	ACT
January 22	PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> (PAnext) opens for 2024	PreACT Secure
January 26	Additional Materials window closes	ACCESS
January 29	NAEP testing window opens (for selected schools only)	NAEP
January 29 -31	<b>Verify</b> ACT Student Rosters in PAnext	ACT
January 29	Student Rosters available in PAnext	PreACT Secure
February 2	Test window closes	ACCESS



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