

# ASSESSMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY NEWSLETTER

Issue 65, September 2023



## Updates...

### Note from the Director



Welcome back to school! We hope you enjoyed the hot summer temperatures and had time to relax and re-energize. The 2023-

24 school year looks to be off to a great start.

I would like to thank the Wisconsin Educators who took time out of their schedules this summer to participate in the Forward Exam New Item Review. The work of educators at this event is incredibly valuable to the development of the assessment and our students. For more information about Forward Exam educator involvement opportunities, refer to the Forward Exam Update in this newsletter.

The 2023-24 statewide assessment dates are now available on the [Assessment in Wisconsin webpage](#) under the heading Wisconsin State Assessment Timelines. The Forward Exam, ACT, PreACT Secure, and DLM assessments will be administered during spring 2024. ACCESS for ELLs will be administered this winter. Please bookmark the [Office of Educational Accountability website](#) for general information, timelines, trainings, and resources related to assessment and accountability in Wisconsin.

Please submit your district's annual District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Update form to OEA by October 6. This form is required for both new and returning DACs.

Thank you for all you do to support and inspire the students of Wisconsin. We look forward to collaborating with you throughout the year.

*Viji Somasundaram*

Director, Office of Educational Accountability

## Calendar...

### Important Dates

2023	
Date	Event
September 11	DLM – Instruction and Assessment Planner opened
September 11	ACT – Test Accessibility and Accommodations portal opened
September 29	ACCESS – Private school pre-ID upload window opens
October TBD	Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) – Public release of summary test score data
October 12	ACCESS – Preliminary statewide pre-ID roster upload
October 14-15	DLM – Best Practices for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Training
October 20	Forward – Registration deadline for 2024 District Assessment Coordinator in-person training
October 26	ACCESS – Final statewide pre-ID Roster uploaded
October 26	ACCESS – Materials and pre-ID labels generated
November 2	ACCESS – WIDA AMS test setup available
November 6	ACT – PearsonAccess <sup>next</sup> portal opens
November 11	Forward – Technology User Guide available
November 28	ACCESS – Districts receive materials
November 28	ACCESS – Additional material ordering window opens
December 4	ACCESS – Test window opens
Late December	Forward – New practice test available
2024	
January 5	Forward - DRC INSIGHT Portal Guide available

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

## Forward Exam Update



OEA would like to thank all educators who participated in the Forward Exam New Item Review that took place this summer. Educators from all around the state reviewed and provided critical input

on newly developed Forward Exam test questions for future use. We encourage you to apply to participate in the following 2024 educator involvement opportunities:

- Rangefinding (spring 2024) - Wisconsin educators will review and approve scoring guides, select anchor, training, and qualifying papers used by evaluators to score the Forward Exam short write tasks.
- Standard Setting (spring 2024) - Wisconsin educators will recommend cut scores for the Forward Exam in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The cut scores separate students into 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.
- Item Review (summer 2024) - Wisconsin educators review all new 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 these events will be available on the [Forward Exam Educator Involvement webpage](#) by winter.

Individual Student Reports (ISRs) were delivered to districts over the summer. If you have not yet sent ISRs to parents/guardians (either in hard copy or via your secure parent portal), please send those out as soon as possible.

The 2023-24 Accessibility Guide is now available on the [Forward Exam Accommodations and Supports webpage](#). There have been some significant updates to the Accessibility Guide for 2023-24 which include

Text-to-Speech (TTS), Stacked Translation (Spanish), Closed Caption, Listening Script, and Magnifier Tool. There have also been some minor updates throughout the guide. Please review the updated Accessibility Guide thoroughly prior to the 2024 test administration.

The spring 2024 Forward Exam for ELA and Mathematics at grades 3-8 will be aligned to the new Wisconsin Standards for ELA (adopted in 2020) and Mathematics (adopted in 2021). There have been some changes to the ELA test design. These changes include:

- Three ELA test sessions instead of four. The test sessions will be:
  - Session 1 - Reading Comprehension
  - Session 2 - Language Arts/Writing
  - Session 3 - Language Arts/Writing
- The listening session has been removed.
- The Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) has been removed and replaced with two one-paragraph, mode specific, writing tasks in test sessions 2 and 3, in addition to the language arts and writing questions.

Updated Forward Exam Practice Tests will be available in December on the [Forward Exam Practice Tests webpage](#) to help students prepare. More information about the newly aligned assessments will be communicated over the next several months.

Questions regarding the Forward Exam may be directed to [Alison O'Hara](#) or [Jennifer Teasdale](#).



## The ACT with writing Update

**ACT**® 2022-23 ACT and PreACT Secure reports were provided to school districts in late spring. Reports are still available in PANext and in the [ACT Online Reporting Platform](#) (Success).

Eleventh grade students will be administered the ACT® with writing in spring 2024. Dates for the spring 2024 ACT assessment can be found on the [ACT Calendar webpage](#). As in previous years, districts will have the choice to administer the ACT on paper or online. Online ACT testing allows districts more administration flexibility, including additional testing dates. Over 50% of students tested online this past year.

Schools are able to start requesting student accommodations and English learner supports for the 2024 ACT now. The 2024 ACT Accessibility Supports Guide and additional accommodation resources can be found on the [DPI ACT Accommodations and Supports webpage](#). Additional required tasks for ACT will begin in early November, with PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup> (PANext) opening on November 6. Questions about The ACT may be directed to [Nikki Braconier](#).

## PreACT Secure Update

**PreACT**® Students in grades 9 and 10 will be required to complete the PreACT Secure (online) assessment in the spring. Dates for the PreACT Secure testing can be found on the [PreACT Secure Calendar webpage](#).

The 2024 PreACT Secure Accessibility Supports Guide will be posted to the [DPI PreACT Secure Accommodations and Supports webpage](#) in November. Schools will begin entering accommodations into the PreACT Secure online portal once the portal opens for 2024 testing. Questions about PreACT Secure may be directed to [Nikki Braconier](#).



## Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Update



**DYNAMIC**™ LEARNING MAPS Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) is the statewide assessment for the most significantly cognitively disabled students in grades 3-11. In addition to the annual assessment, DLM also provides an Instruction and Assessment Planner to help educators monitor student progress on targeted Essential Elements. The Planner is used to help guide instruction and can be used as an alternate to district wide interim or benchmark testing. We encourage interested educators to check out this valuable resource.

During the first part of the school year, districts and schools should be rostering (uploading) their students and updating their users in KITE Educator Portal. Completing these tasks early allows educators adequate time to begin their required annual DLM training, submit test security agreements, finish first contact surveys, and access the Instruction and Assessment Planner.

2022-23 DLM student and summary reports were released to districts via the KITE Educator Portal in July.

Visit the [DLM calendar webpage](#) for key test administration dates. More information about DLM is available on the [DLM webpage](#). Questions regarding DLM may be directed to [Mike Peacy](#).

## ACCESS for ELLs® Update



This year WIDA will begin using the newly updated Alternate ACCESS for ELLs. If you will be administering the Alt-ACCESS to students, please note the training has been updated.

WIDA has refreshed its [on-demand eLearning courses](#) provided in the WIDA Secure Portal. These professional learning courses run from two to 10 hours and are free to any educator in the state of Wisconsin. If staff in your district need professional development, please create accounts as needed.

Students who have exited English learner (EL) status should retain “ELP 6 - Former EL” as a designation for the remainder of their school careers. If students are later reported as “ELP 7 - Never EL”, the WISEdata Portal will now flag this with a warning. In conjunction with future WISEdash for Districts filter upgrades, this better tracking of Former ELs will allow for an analysis of their long-term outcomes, such as performance on the ACT, graduation rates, etc. We hope that this will expand the ways districts can look at the effectiveness of their language instruction programs, to ensure the long-term success of their ELs.

Questions regarding ACCESS and finding or using EL data in WISEdash for Districts may be directed to [Jesse Roberts](#).



## Assessment of Reading Readiness Update



For the 2023-24 school year, the requirement remains to annually assess each 4-year-old kindergarten to 2nd grade student in a school district or in a charter school for Reading Readiness. [Wis. Stats. 118.016](#) requires each school board and the operator of each charter school to 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\(1\)\(c\)](#).

Districts that wish to share MAP screening data with DPI will need to complete the [Local Assessment Data Use Agreement](#). Completion of this process will allow the MAP vendor to automatically share data with DPI for use with WISEdash For Districts.

Additional guidance that district or school staff should consider and more information on the Reading Readiness requirements is available on the [Reading Readiness Overview webpage](#). Questions may be directed to [Duane Dorn](#).

### State Accountability Updates



OEA staff are preparing for the preliminary secure release of 2022-23 school and district report cards. The secure release of preliminary report cards is planned for early October. As always, preliminary secure report cards will be available in SAFE, the Secure Access File Exchange. Please make sure you have [access to SAFE](#) prior to the secure release.

The release will open an inquiry period in which schools and districts can work with OEA to address possible data submission errors. Final secure and public releases of the report cards are planned for November. When specific dates have been determined, we will update the report card timeline and announce it in the DAC Digest.

Questions about school and district report cards may be directed to [reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:reportcardhelp@dpi.wi.gov).

### Federal Accountability Updates



The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to identify schools and student groups for support and improvement. 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. Please see the [email to District Administrators](#) from Deputy State Superintendent John Johnson for more information on this new timeline.

For more information on ESSA accountability, please see the [Office of Educational Accountability ESSA webpage](#). Questions about ESSA accountability may be direct to [oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:oeaemail@dpi.wi.gov). Questions about IDEA accountability may be directed to the [Special Education team](#).

### Update Regarding the Assessment Analysis Dashboard in WISEdash for Districts



The Assessment Analysis dashboard is now available in WISEdash for Districts. This dashboard allows schools and districts to explore assessment performance information that is used in state and federal accountability systems (state [school and district report cards](#) and federal [Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) accountability](#)). It shows how many students are in each Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) performance level for a given school year, across grades and assessments. The new dashboard is found in the Advanced Analysis area of WISEdash for Districts under Assessment Analysis. For more information about this dashboard, please see the [About the Data page](#). Please note that this dashboard is only available securely to school and district staff with access.

### 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Winners



Did you know that OEA works with the state superintendent's office to nominate public schools in Wisconsin for [National Blue Ribbon Schools awards](#) from the U.S. Department of Education? This year, eight Wisconsin public schools received National Blue Ribbon School honors. Congratulations to the 2023 National Blue Ribbon Schools!



## FAQ...

**Reminder** – Each assessment has an FAQ webpage with scenarios/issues related to that specific assessment:

[ACCESS for ELLs FAQ](#), [ACT FAQ](#), [DLM FAQ](#), [Forward Exam FAQ](#), [Pre ACT Secure FAQ](#).

**Q. Where can I find a list of the 2024 statewide assessment dates?**

The 2023-24 statewide assessment timelines are available under Wisconsin State Assessment Timelines on the [Assessment webpage](#).

**Q. Where can I find assessment calendars or timelines with key dates?**

Each assessment has a calendar webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment's key dates, deadlines, publication releases, etc., may be found on those pages.

**Q. Where can I find information about assessment training opportunities?**

Each assessment has a training webpage in its submenu that is specific to that assessment. More information about each specific assessment's training opportunities may be found on those pages.

**Q. What options are available to schools for Wisconsin's statewide ACT make-up testing?**

If the school is administering the ACT on paper only, then make-up testing should be scheduled for the next available ACT paper test date (i.e., March 28 or April 9). Schools may also opt to administer online make-up tests to the students originally scheduled for paper testing. All online testing, scheduled or make-up, must be administered during the scheduled online ACT testing windows.

We hope you find this newsletter and its contents beneficial. Questions may be directed to the [Office of Educational Accountability](#).

Jill K. Underly, PhD., State Superintendent



This publication is available from:  
Division of Student and School Success  
Office of Educational Accountability  
(608) 267-1072

<https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/correspondence>

September 2023 Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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