

Office of Educational Accountability

Newsletter - Issue VII, September 2008

OEA Updates...

New District Assessment Coordinators

Each year, many Wisconsin districts designate a new District Assessment Coordinator, or DAC, who serves as the central point of contact and the coordinator for statewide testing in their district. If you have been designated as the new DAC for your district there are several things that you should do.

- ✓ Complete the "DAC Update Form" located at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/daccontact.html>. This form provides us with your email address which is important in receiving timely information related to testing and accountability.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with OEA's website (located at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea>), specifically information posted in the DAC Corner. A master calendar of activities is posted under "DAC Responsibilities."
- ✓ Secure access to the Online Reporting System (ORS), which is a secure, password-protected site where you can view Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) results. If you need assistance (username and/or password), contact Amy Marsman at (608) 264-9546 or amy.marsman@dpi.wi.gov.
- ✓ After logging onto ORS, check who has an account in your district and whether any of these accounts should be changed or deleted if someone has left the district and no longer requires access.

Welcome to your role as a new DAC. Don't hesitate to contact OEA staff if you have any questions at any time throughout the year. We appreciate all the work you do!

2008 Testing Window

The Fall 2008 testing window for the WKCE and the WAA-SwD is October 27 – November 28. Testing may only begin on or after October 27, 2008. For future testing dates go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/calendar.html>.

DPI recommends that schools try to complete the majority of testing within the first two weeks of the window, leaving the remaining time for make-up sessions.

OEA Calendar...

Assessment Windows for 2008-09

2008	
October 27 – November 28	WSAS Testing window (WKCE &WAA-SwD)
December 1 – February 13	ACCESS for ELLs™ Testing window
2009	
January 26 – March 6	NAEP Testing window

Other Important Dates

2008	
September 26	Pre-test workshop via Mediasite
September 15	Braille and Large Print Edition Orders due
September	Submission for 2007-08 Year End ISES/WSLS records for ELL AMAO
September 30, 4:00 PM	Deadline to update ALL WSLS records and ISES "Grade Level Placement" field for WKCE test labels
October 15	Deadline for schools participating in NAEP to complete the School Data Collection Form
October	Preliminary Notification to districts and consortia missing ELL AMAOs
October 30, 4:00 PM	Final day to update WSLS records
October-November	30-day appeal period to identify data errors
November	Final AMAOs available
November 1	Deadline for schools participating in NAEP to submit their student e-file
November 24, 8:00 AM	Deadline to review and revise all ISES records before lockdown
December 8	Deadline for DACs to arrange for pick up of WKCE test materials
2009	
January	Publication of progress and attainment of English Language Proficiency in WINSS
January 7	Record Editing System (RES) training via mediasite
January 14 –23	Record Editing System Window

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Students Moving During the Testing Window

The Office of Educational Accountability has created a document outlining how the mobility of students during the testing window impacts participation and accountability. This tool has been designed to assist districts and schools in following the appropriate protocol when students move between districts. This document is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/pdf/07stdsmov.pdf>.

Delivery of Testing Materials

WSAS testing materials will be delivered October 6-10, 2008. WKCE and WAA-SwD materials will be delivered together in a single shipment. Boxes containing WAA-SwD materials will be differentiated by a two-inch blue dot on the outside of the package. The DAC is responsible for sorting and distributing all test materials to schools as soon as possible. Be sure to inventory all materials and report any shortages to CTB/McGraw-Hill. Shortage reports should only come from the DAC.

Reminder to UPDATE WSLS Data

The Department of Public Instruction creates student demographic pre-ID labels for WSAS test booklets. The labels are created using WSLS and ISES databases and will be shipped to districts before the fall 2008 test window. In order to make this process as easy as possible during the busy testing window, please do the following:

1. Update ALL WSLS records and ISES "Grade Level Placement" field before **4:00 PM on September 30, 2008**.
2. Update all WSLS records before **4:00 PM on October 30, 2008**.
3. Verify and lock all ISES records before **8:00 AM on November 24, 2008**.

Assessments for English Language Learners Update

English Language Learners will be participating in the WKCE with accommodations as needed. The Decision Flowchart outlining participation and AYP information for English Language Levels 1 and 2 is available on the following site <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/doc/ell1-2wsas.doc>. The state of Wisconsin will again offer Spanish and Hmong translation scripts for the WKCE. The aim of these scripts is to better help students demonstrate what they know on the WKCE without the interference of language. Students whose native language

is Spanish or Hmong will be given the choice to use all or parts of the translation accommodation, which includes a content-specific bilingual glossary of commonly used testing terms, translation of the test directions, and a written translation script of math, science and social studies test items. DPI recommends that educators also consult the [Assessment Accommodations Matrix](#) in order to create the most appropriate testing situation for their students.

Changes to the Assessment Accommodations Matrix

To request accommodations that are not listed on the Accommodations Matrix use the *Accommodations Request Form* located at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/dacforms.html>. This form should be completed and submitted to DPI any time a school or district proposes to use testing accommodations for any student that does not appear on the list of DPI-approved accommodations. This list can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/accom08.pdf>.

It is important that schools and districts closely review the Assessment Accommodations Matrix. Schools and districts should monitor the use of accommodations to ensure that those listed on IEPs and 504 plans are consistent with those being provided in the classroom and during testing.

NEW ACCESS for ELLs™ Test Administration Training

For the 2008-09 testing cycle, WIDA will no longer be using the UW-Oshkosh Desire2Learn (D2L) platform for the ACCESS for ELLs™ Training. The new training course is now accessible via the WIDA Consortium website (www.wida.us).

District Assessment Coordinators and/or Title III Directors will be responsible for ensuring that all users are enrolled. To create accounts for your district's test administrators, simply visit www.wida.us and click the "Training Course Home" button in the top left corner of the page. Enter your W-APT™ username and password and click the "Create an ACCESS for ELLs™ Training Account". The WI Department of Public Instruction distributed updated logins to each district's DAC on August 22, 2008.

Alternatively, district facilitators may decide to distribute the login information to everyone in the district who needs an account page of the training website, allowing teachers to enroll themselves. After reaching the account creator, you may proceed to enter the user's personal information. Once you have submitted the form, the

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account will be immediately activated. The individual will receive an email containing his or her login information. If users do not see the message, please ask them to check their spam or junk mail folders and/or check with a technical coordinator to be certain that your system is not blocking messages from help@wida.us or widahelp@wcer.wisc.edu.

NEW Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs™

The newly-revised Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs™ standards-based, criterion referenced assessment used to meet federal accountability requirements will be administered this upcoming year.

Since much of Kindergarten learning takes place through hands-on activities, the new Kindergarten language proficiency test incorporates the use of picture cards that allow for a variety of new test item types including matching, identifying, and describing activities. The interactive nature of the tests encourage all students to accurately demonstrate their level of English language proficiency.

Research supports that PreK-K English language learners are developmentally distinct from ELLs in Grades 1 and 2. For this reason, the 2007 Edition of the WIDA English Language Proficiency (ELP) Standards includes a separate PreK-K grade level cluster for the first time. This mirrors TESOL's ELP Standards (2006). The new assessments are aligned to the model performance indicators of the new PreK-K grade level cluster.

Features of the new K assessment:

- Include high-interest, age-appropriate stories
- Centered around engaging, child-friendly graphics—in color!
- Thematically integrated throughout the language domains (Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing)
- Improved item types involving the use of manipulatives
- Result in a composite proficiency level score (1-6) on the WIDA scale

Training will be available this spring on both the WIDA website and through DVD presentations.

NEW Option for the Kindergarten W-APT screener (MODEL)

A new option is available for screening preK-K students aligned with the WIDA standards and linked with the new

Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs™. The new interactive screener, model, will be available to districts in a kit that will include hands-on activities.

The MODEL screener will assess students in the four language domains of: listening, speaking, reading and writing and students will be able to score a 1-6 ELP level. The MODEL screener will be available to all districts in mid-October at an additional charge to districts. The previous Kindergarten W-APT will remain on the WIDA website as a free service to districts. More information will be available on the DPI and WIDA websites when it becomes available.

Accountability for the Progress and Attainment of English Language Proficiency

The accuracy of students' WSLs/ISES records are important for both the Year-End and 3rd-Friday-in-September Count-Date collections. In order to calculate the progress and attainment of English Language Proficiency - Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) for Districts and Consortia, current grade level placements and English Language Proficiency (ELP) codes should be complete and up-to-date.

ELL Students with an Overall Composite score from the most recent ACCESS for ELL™ test administration have ELP codes that are automatically calculated if the student name, WSN, and DOB were correctly submitted. Updates for reclassified ELL students and/or ELL students without the ELP codes should be assigned manually at this time. Pay particular attention to verifying information for ELL students without overall composite scores and those students that have been reclassified as fully English Proficient (ELP Level 6) during the school year. DACs should work with ELL and ISES coordinators to insure the accuracy of ELP fields.

Commercial Products Promoting Test Prep

The Office of Educational Accountability has received a number of phone calls from districts asking about the validity of commercial test prep products designed to enhance student performance on the WKCE. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not endorse these products. It is recommended that schools limit the amount of instructional time spent on specific test preparation activities, instead, time is better spent on solid instructional activities that prepare students to demonstrate proficiency on grade level expectations. Suggestions for test preparation are available at the OEA website "DAC Corner":

<http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/dacnwltrs.htm>.

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“Where can I find the complete 2008-09 Testing Timeline?”

The 2008-09 test timeline, including the test window, the date by when the test materials will be available in the districts, the deadline for registering online for test material pick-up, and other important dates are available on the OEA website at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/calendar.html>.

FAQ...Test Participation

Q. Do I need to test a foreign exchange student?

Yes. You must test all students enrolled. Because the student is probably not a Full Academic Year Student, the student counts for AYP only as a test participant and is not calculated into reading and mathematics proficiency rates.

Q. Where can I find the 2008-09 test administration times?

The timing for the 2008-09 test administration for all grades is available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/wkce.html> at the bottom of the WKCE web page in the bulleted list.

Q. Why is it important to return the test materials on time?

The scoring of test materials will commence only after the receipt of all the test materials. Delays in scoring can lead to delays in receiving test reports, so it is important for all districts to register for pick-up of test materials by December 8.

Q. Is our district responsible for testing private school students?

No. Your district may not test private school students. Every year private schools have the opportunity to purchase the WKCE directly from CTB/McGraw-Hill. Private schools receive Individual Profile Reports (IPRs) for students but do not receive comparative information to public school students. For additional information regarding testing of Non-Public Schools go to <http://dpi.wi.gov/oea/privatesch.html>.

Q. When is parent opt-out allowable?

When a parent or guardian requests that the student be excused from participating in the WKCE, this request must be honored at grades 4, 8, and 10, per Wis. Stats. 118.30 (1r) 2.3. This request may come at anytime during the testing window. While not directly addressed by state statutes, districts may choose to honor parent requests to excuse their child from WKCE testing at grades 3, 5, 6, and 7, or the WAA-SwD at grades 3-8, and 10 at their discretion on an individual basis. All students excused by parent opt-out count as “not tested” students for determining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Q. Do I need to test a student who was expelled or suspended from school for the duration of the testing window?

Yes. The district/school is responsible for testing any expelled or suspended student who remains enrolled in the district during the testing window. They should be considered the same as any other student in your school.

Q. Am I accountable for testing a student housed in a juvenile facility (adjudicated student)?

Yes. All students enrolled at the time of testing must be assessed. If a student is not tested he/she counts as a non-test participant for AYP.

Q. Do I have to test students who participated in the WKCE last year and are still enrolled in the same grade this year?

Yes. The WKCE must be administered to all students enrolled in grades 3-8 and 10, no matter how many times a particular student has participated in the past. Some students will take the WKCE at the same grade level for consecutive years.

Q. Who is responsible for testing students attending alternative schools or technical colleges?

The school district of enrollment is responsible for testing these students.

Q. Are districts expected to test all students with disabilities?

Yes. State and federal law requires districts and schools to test all students, including students with disabilities. Students with disabilities may take the WKCE with accommodations or may take the WAA-SwD if the student qualifies.

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Building Assessment Literacy...

How do I decide which assessment to give a student?

The decision regarding which set of standards should be used to guide content-based instruction for a student with a disability is made as part of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team process. When developing and/or reviewing the student's Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (Model IEP Form I-4), use this decision guide to determine which standards will guide the content-based instruction for the student. When the term *general education curriculum* is used in the Model IEP Forms, it is in reference to a curriculum aligned with the Wisconsin Model Academic Content Standards; when the term *alternate* or *replacement curriculum* is used in the Model IEP Forms, it is in reference to a curriculum aligned with the Wisconsin Extended Grade-Band Standards. If the decision is made that the student will be instructed using the Wisconsin Model Academic Content Standards, then the student will take the WKCE with or without accommodations. If the decision is made that the student will be instructed using the Extended Grade Band Standards, then the student will take the WAA-SwD.

Which set of standards should be used to guide content-based instruction?

IEP Teams should start considering these questions no later than the end of 1st grade, so that instruction can be provided in 2nd grade. One way to assist the IEP Team in the decision-making process is to compare the curricular expectations across grades in the Assessment Frameworks and the Extended Grade Band Standards. Then consider the following question:

Does the student's present level of academic and functional performance permit participation and completion of general education curriculum (with accommodations and/or significant program modifications if needed)?

YES

NO

Provide grade level academic content-based instruction aligned with the Assessment Frameworks based on the **MODEL ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS** and participate in the WKCE

Provide grade-level academic content-based instruction aligned with **EXTENDED GRADE BAND STANDARDS** and participate in the WAA-SwD

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