

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUPACA

SERIES 300 INSTRUCTION

CODE: 346-R1

ANNUAL NOTICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

This notice is intended to notify parents and guardians of students attending school in the School District of Waupaca and the public of the state and district-required assessments that are being administered to students in the District. Students with disabilities and English Learners must participate in the required assessments, with appropriate modifications where necessary, or in alternative assessments as deemed necessary or appropriate consistent with legal requirements.

Student Academic Assessments Required by State and Federal Laws

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all states to test all students in English language arts and mathematics in grades 3-8 and to test all students in science at least once in grades 3-5 and once in grades 6-9. Wisconsin state statutes also require districts to test students in social studies. These tests together create the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS). The District administers the following WSAS assessments to students in the District:

- **ACT Aspire – Early High School:** ACT Aspire Early High School is a summative assessment that measures what students have learned in the areas of: English, Reading, Math, Science, and Writing. ACT Aspire is an online assessment. Only a small number of students who require testing in a specialized format such as Braille or large print materials, or those students who require American Sign Language translation will be tested with a paper and pencil test. ACT Aspire Early High School scores predict how a student will perform on both the ACT and ACT WorkKeys when they reach 11th grade. Students who need academic interventions or challenges can be identified earlier in their high school careers.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED – During the month of April each year. Students spend less than a day completing this test.

- **The ACT with writing:** The ACT tests include: Reading, Math, English, Science, Writing. The ACT with writing is a paper and pencil test. The ACT with writing helps students understand what they need to learn next so they can build rigorous high school course plans and identify career areas that align with their interests. Wisconsin high schools will be certified as ACT state testing sites. Scores from the administration of the ACT with writing (if taken with ACT Standard Time or ACT-approved accommodations) can be used by students for a variety of purposes including college admission, scholarships, course placement, and NCAA eligibility.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED – During the month of March each year. Students spend less than a day completing this test.

- **ACT WorkKeys** – The ACT WorkKeys tests included in the state administration are: Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information. The ACT WorkKeys system is a paper and pencil assessment used to help students understand how they can improve their career readiness skills and helps employers determine whether individuals are qualified for positions. Students can earn National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) which are recognized by business and industry nationwide. Through obtaining a National Career Readiness Certificate, students have a clear way to demonstrate their abilities to future employers.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED – During the month of March each year. Students spend less than a day completing this test.

- The [Wisconsin Forward Exam](#) is administered to students in grades 3-8 in English language arts and mathematics, and in grades 4 and 8 in science and social studies. The Forward Exam is a computer-administered, summative assessment that provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin State Standards. It includes multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and a writing prompt in the English language arts section. Forward Exam results provide information about student performance which allows: (1) students to reflect on their achievement, (2) teachers to target instruction to student needs and reflect upon their own instructional practices, (3) administrators to more fully understand what students know and can do in order to guide curriculum and professional development decisions, and (4) parents and guardians to understand what their child knows and is able to do in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED: The Forward test window is open from late March through early May. Students generally test for a portion of their day during one week of this window.

- All students are administered the above-mentioned assessments, with or without accommodations, except students with significant cognitive disabilities who are administered an alternative assessment – the [Dynamic Learning Maps \(DLM\)](#). The DLM is administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities in the subject areas of English language arts and mathematics at grades 3-8, Science at grade 4 and 8, and in Social Studies in grades 4 and 8. This online assessment is delivered via the computer; however, some students may need their teacher to present the items to them and to enter the student's response into the online platform. The DLM system is designed to map a student's learning throughout the year and uses items and tasks that are embedded in day-to-day instruction. The assessment results give teachers the opportunity to see what students know during the year when teachers still have time to change instruction to better support student learning.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED: The dates for administration of the DLM are generally the same as for the Forward.

Parents receive detailed student reports at parent-teacher conferences.

School level summary reports of the state-mandated academic assessment results are available to the public on the Department of Public Instruction's website at [WISEdash Public](#). Individual student reports will be sent to the parents.

Other Student Assessments Required by State and Federal Laws

- **Reading Readiness Assessment**

As required by state law, the District administers a reading readiness assessment (the [Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening - PALS](#)) to students in grades 4-year-old kindergarten. PALS is a research-based screening, diagnostic, and progress monitoring tool. District teachers use this screening tool to identify students at risk of developing reading difficulties, diagnose students' knowledge of literacy fundamentals, monitor progress, and plan instruction that targets students' needs. Student data collected from the screening tool

provides a direct means of matching literacy instruction to specific literacy needs. Students in grades K-2 are screened with the STAR Early Literacy computerized inventory.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED: Reading Readiness Assessments are administered in Fall and Spring each year.

- **English Learner Assessments**

As required by state and federal laws, the District administers the following required assessments to English Learners:

- The [W-APT™](#) is administered to students newly enrolled in the District who have been identified through the enrollment process, and in accordance with District procedures, as English Learners. This English language proficiency “screener” assessment helps the District determine whether or not a child is in need of English language instructional services, and if so, at what level.
- The [ACCESS for ELLs®](#) assessment is administered, with or without accommodations, to students in grades K-8 who have been identified as English Learners, including those who receive special education services. This online assessment is administered annually to English Learners to measure English language proficiency and to ensure that they are progressing in achieving full English proficiency. ACCESS for ELLs® assessment results: (1) help students and families understand students’ current level of English language proficiency along the developmental continuum; (2) serve as one of multiple measures used to determine whether students are prepared to exit English language support programs; (3) generate information that assists in determining whether English Learners have attained the language proficiency needed to participate meaningfully in content area classrooms without program support; (4) provide teachers with information they can subsequently use to enhance instruction and learning in programs for their English Learners; and, (5) provide the District with information that can be used in evaluating the effectiveness of the District’s English Learner/bilingual programs.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED: The Access is administered between December and February each year.

- The [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™](#) assessment is administered to students in grades 1-8 who are identified as English Learners and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs® assessment. The assessment results are used to monitor student progress on an annual basis, establish when English Learners have attained English language proficiency according to state criteria, inform classroom instruction and assessment, and aid in program decision making.

TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED: Administered between December and February each year.

District-Required Student Assessments

- All students in Grades 3-10 in the School District of Waupaca complete the STAR Reading and Math Assessments each Fall and again in Spring to measure their personal growth in these subjects. STAR assessments are computer based and take less than one hour

each. Students and parents receive individual growth reports. Students in grades K-9 are also given writing inventories at regular increments throughout the school year.

Student Participation in Assessments and “Opt-Out” Information

Parents and guardians of students attending school in the District may request information regarding student participation in any of the state or District-required assessments, including any parental rights they may have to opt their child out of taking a required assessment, from the building principal. The building principal shall provide the requested information in a timely manner.

ADOPTED: 080817

REVISED:

REVIEWED:

LEGAL REFERENCE:

CONTRACT REFERENCE:

CROSS REFERENCE:

The School District of Waupaca is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The School District of Waupaca does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.