

Wisconsin School
Administrators
Alliance



DRAFT

State Assessment Recommendations

The Wisconsin School Administrators Alliance is an alliance of:
The Association of Wisconsin School Administrators
The Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators
The Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials
The Wisconsin Council of Administrators of Special Services

2010

Background:

On August 27, 2009, State Superintendent Tony Evers stated that the State of Wisconsin would eliminate the current WKCE to move to a Balanced System of Assessment. In his statement, the State Superintendent said the following:

New assessments at the elementary and middle school level will likely be computer-based with multiple opportunities to benchmark student progress during the school year. This type of assessment tool allows for immediate and detailed information about student understanding and facilitates the teachers' ability to re-teach or accelerate classroom instruction. At the high school level, the WKCE will be replaced by assessments that provide more information on college and workforce readiness.

By March 2010, the US Department of Education intends to announce a \$350 million grant competition that would support one or more applications from a consortia of states working to develop high quality state assessments. The WI DPI is currently in conversation with other states regarding forming consortia to apply for this federal funding.

In September, 2009, the School Administrators Alliance formed a Project Team to make recommendations regarding the future of state assessment in Wisconsin. The Project Team has met and outlined recommendations what school and district administrators believe can transform Wisconsin's state assessment system into a powerful tool to support student learning.

Criteria Underlying the Recommendations:

- Wisconsin's new assessment system must be one that has the following characteristics:
- Benchmarked to skills and knowledge for college and career readiness
- Measures student achievement and growth of all students
- Relevant to students, parents, teachers and external stakeholders
- Provides timely feedback that adds value to the learning process
- Efficient to administer
- Aligned with and supportive of each school district's teaching and learning
- Advances the State's vision of a balanced assessment system

Recommendations:

1. For grades 3 through 7, change from once-a-year testing to online adaptive testing that students may take multiple times over the course of a school year.

One administration would be used for summative AYP purposes, and districts would have the option to administer the assessment multiple times as a benchmark assessment during the regular school year and also in summer school. The adaptive test would blend a) questions within one grade band (necessary to meet current federal requirements) with b) questions above and below one grade band to provide more useful data for student growth. Special populations could use the assessment outside of its standard grade levels.

A high quality online adaptive assessment in grades 3 through 7 would provide the following:

- Immediate results related to student achievement and growth
- Greater efficiency in administration
- Benchmarks aligned with the 8th grade Explore and 11th grade ACT to provide meaningful information about student progress towards career and college readiness

This adaptive assessment for grades 3-7 would also be available as an option for eighth grade and high school staff to use as needed during the school year with special student populations to help track effects of interventions and student growth.

2. For grade 8, use ACT's Explore assessment (with as minimal wrap around testing as possible).

Explore is designed to help 8th (and 9th) grade students explore a broad range of options for their future. Information from Explore provides valuable achievement information at the end of middle school and prepares students not only for their high school coursework but also for their post-high school choices as well. It marks an important beginning for a student's future academic and career success. Explore can serve as an independent assessment or as the entry point into ACT's College and Career Readiness System (formerly known as "EPAS"- Educational Planning and Assessment System). ACT's College and Career Readiness System in its full utilization includes the use of Explore in 8th and 9th, Plan in 10th and 11th, and ACT at the end of 11th.

Using the Explore assessment in 8th grade would provide:

- A research-based middle school assessment benchmarked for college and career readiness
- Results and diagnostic reports related to student achievement within three weeks
- Students, parents, teachers and external stakeholders relevant information about the students' progress towards being career or college ready
- Will provide powerful growth data when combined with the ACT at the end of 11th grade (and state-funded option for individual school district use of Explore and Plan through ACT's College and Career Readiness System).data.
- Interest inventories and information about students' perceived needs and future plans to aid in career and post-secondary education planning. This would be a useful quality resource in the implementation of the Wisconsin Comprehensive School Counseling Model.

(3)

3. Change from a 10th grade state assessment to the use of ACT as the state test at the end of 11th grade (with as minimal wrap around testing as possible).

Using the ACT to test all students at the end of 11th grade would provide:

- A research-based high school assessment benchmarked for college and career readiness
- Results of student achievement and growth within three weeks
- Students, parents, teachers and external stakeholders with relevant information about student progress towards career and college readiness

In the economy of today and tomorrow, high school graduates need reading and math skills similar to those required for college entrance to qualify for jobs where income is adequate to support a family. This level of reading and math skills is also necessary to succeed in work training programs that advance a career or retrain workers to enter new careers in a changing economy. In addition, this skill level equips graduates to be engaged and contributing citizens in our civic institutions. This has been clearly demonstrated by comparing college entrance and workforce readiness assessments. As educators, we believe it is vitally important we prepare our graduates for successful lives after high school whether they choose to enter college or enter the workforce as their next step in life after graduation.

Key Issues:

We recommend that the State of Wisconsin funds school district optional choice to use of any of the following additional components of ACT's College and Career Readiness System: Explore at the beginning of 9th grade and Plan at the beginning of 10th and 11th grade for school districts that choose to include these as optional additional elements of their local assessment system. Several states already fund this as a voluntary option for their school districts. This would provide districts the choice of having universal linked assessment data to monitor annual student learning growth for each and every grade, from the beginning of 3rd grade through the end of 11th grade.

The grades 3-7, Explore and ACT assessments would be benchmarked and aligned to promote a seamless pathway to career and college readiness (statistically aligned benchmarks, grades 3-11 annual linkage reports. . .).

SAA Assessment Group 2009-10

Nissan Bar-Lev
Director Special Education
CESA 7
530 W. Main Street
Chilton, WI 53014
(920) 849-9384
nbarlev@wi.rr.com

William F. Breisch
Director of Instruction
Monona Grove School District
5301 Monona Dr
Monona, WI 53716-3126
(608) 221-7660 x330
bill_breisch@mononagrove.org

Jeanne-Marie Ciriacks
Curriculum Coordinator
West Bend Jt. School District #1
735 S. Main Street
West Bend, WI 53095-3940

Peggy Jones
Principal
Bonduel Elementary School
PO Box 310
Bonduel, WI 54107-0310
(715) 758-4810
jonespeg@bonduel.k12.wi.us

Douglas W. Keiser
District Administrator
Watertown School District
111 Dodge Street
Watertown, WI 53094
(920) 262-1460 x229
keiserd@watertown.k12.wi.us

Gerald R. Kember
District Administrator
La Crosse School District
807 East Avenue S
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608) 789-7628
gkember@lacrosseschools.org

Katherine L. Klaas
Principal
Horizon Elementary School
625 Heatherstone Ridge
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-4349
(608) 834-7901
klklaas@spasd.k12.wi.us

Pamela Knorr
District Administrator
Walworth School District
121 Beloit Street
Walworth, WI 53184
(262) 275-6896 x204
Pam.knorr@walworth.k12.wi.us

Daniel W. Koch
Principal
Hudson Middle School
1300 Carmichael Rd
Hudson, WI 54016-7711
(715) 377-3820
kochdw@hudson.k12.wi.us

Bonnie L. Laugerman
Principal
Arrowhead High School, N. Campus
800 North Ave
Hartland, WI 53029-1105
(262) 369-3612 x4204
laugerman@ahs.k12.wi.us

John C. Magas
Principal
Wilson Middle School
225 N Badger Ave
Appleton, WI 54914-3832
(920) 997-1488
magasjohn@aad.k12.wi.us

Lee Mierow
Principal
Wrightstown Elementary School
PO Box 128
Wrightstown, WI 54180-0128
(920) 532-4818
mierow@wrightstown.k12.wi.us

Ann Mitchell
Principal
Houlton Elementary
70 Country Road E
Houlton, WI 54082
(715) 377-3850
mitcheae@hudson.k12.wi.us

Theodore C. Neitzke
Asst. District Administrator
West Bend Jt. School District #1
735 S Main Street
West Bend, WI 53095-3940
(262) 335-5407
tneitzke@west-bend.k12.wi.us

Amy Oakley
Dir. of Instr. Svcs.
Fort Atkinson School District
201 Park St
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-2155
(920) 563-7802
oakleva@mail.fortschools.org

John Peterson
Director of Special Education
Fort Atkinson School District
201 Park Street
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538
(920) 563-7804
petersonj@mail.fortschools.org

Ronald Russ
Principal
Nature Hill Intermediate
850 Lake Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
(262) 569-4945
Ronald.russ@oasd.k12.wi.us

Tim Schell
Asst. Dir. Of Instruction
Teaching & Learning Center
101 School Drive
Waunakee, WI 53597
(608) 849-2020
tschell@waunakee.k12.wi.us

Machell M. Schwarz
Principal
Baraboo High School
1201 Draper St
Baraboo, WI 53913-1231
(608) 355-3940 x2010
mschwarz@baraboo.k12.wi.us

Kelly Seichter
Principal
Mineral Point Elementary
611 Cothern Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
(608) 987-2024 x223
Kelly.Seichter@mp.k12.wi.us

Martin F. Van Hulle
Principal
Pewaukee High School
510 Lake St
Pewaukee, WI 53072-3698
(262) 691-2100 x6015
vanhmar@pewaukee.k12.wi.us

Joan Wade
Administrator – CESA 6
2300 State Road 44
Oshkosh, WI 54904
(920) 236-0512
jwade@cesa6.k12.wi.us

Wendell Waukau
District Administrator
Menominee Indian School District
PO Box 1330
Keshena, WI 54135
(715) 799-3824
wwaukau@misd.k12.wi.us