

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PITTSVILLE BOARD POLICY

## INSTRUCTION

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

#### ANNUAL NOTICE OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

346-EXHIBIT

This notice is intended to notify parents and guardians of students attending school in the Pittsville School District 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 once in high school, and to test all students in science at least once in grades 3-5, once in grades 6-9, and once in grades 10-12. Wisconsin state statutes also require certain testing in grades 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11 including periodic testing in social studies. The tests that address these state and federal requirements comprise the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS). The District administers the following WSAS assessments to students in the District:

- The [Wisconsin Forward Exam](#) is administered to students in grades 3-8 in English language arts and mathematics, in grades 4 and 8 in science, and in grades 4, 8 and 10 in social studies. The Forward Exam is a computer-administered, summative assessment which provides information about what students know and what students can do in relation to the Wisconsin State Standards. The assessment includes a variety of different question/item types, including multiple-choice, and short-answer questions. Forward Exam results provide valuable information about student performance for individual students, District educators, and other stakeholders.

**TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED:** Annually, the state establishes the testing window, which typically runs 6 weeks and begins in mid-March.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Typically, individual student reports are available from the state in late July and are sent home with students when they return in the fall. Release of District and state averages and scores typically happen in October of the following year.

- [ACT Aspire™](#) is administered to students in grades 9 and 10. This summative, online assessment measures what students have learned in the areas of English, reading, mathematics, science, and writing. The scores on this assessment are used to predict how a student will perform on both the ACT® and ACT WorkKeys® when they reach 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

**TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED:** Annually, the state establishes the testing window, which typically runs 6 weeks and begins in mid-March.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Typically, individual student reports are available from the state in late July and are sent home with students when they return in the fall. Release of District and state averages and scores typically happen in October of the following year.

- The [ACT® Plus Writing](#) assessment is administered to students in grade 11. This paper and pencil assessment tests students' skills and knowledge in reading, mathematics, English, science, and writing. This assessment 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. The scores from the administration of the ACT® Plus 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 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility.

**TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED:** Annually, the state determines the testing date and an alternate date. This typically happens near the end of February to early March.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Typically, student individual scores will be available to them 3-6 weeks following administration. District and state scores and averages are typically available in the fall of the following year.

- The [ACT WorkKeys®](#) assessment is administered to students in grade 11 and tests students in applied mathematics, locating information, and reading for information. This paper and pencil assessment is 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.

**TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED:** Annually, the state determines the testing date and an alternative date. This date usually immediately follow the ACT administration date.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Scores are typically reported to the high school prior to the end of that school year. Individual score sheets are given to the students.

- 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 in grades 3-11, science in grades 4 and 8– 11, and social studies in grades 4, 8, and 10. This online assessment is delivered via the computer; however, some students may need their teacher to present the items to them and 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:** Annually, the state establishes a window for administration, it is typically 6 weeks and commences mid-March.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Individual student reports are available from the state in late June. Release of District and state averages and scores typically happens in October of the following school year.

School level summary reports of the results of the WSAS academic assessments are available to the public on the Department of Public Instruction’s website at [WISEdash Public](#). State assessment timelines for the next school year can normally be found on the [Assessment in Wisconsin](#) page on the DPI’s website.

**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 through grade 2. 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

**TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED:** The STAR Early Literacy Assessment is given three times annually, fall, winter, and spring of the school year.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Assessment results will be provided to parents after results become available.

- **English Learner Assessments**

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

- The [WIDA Screener](#) is an online test 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. For such newly-enrolled students who are in kindergarten, the District uses the [Kindergarten W-APT or WIDA MODEL for kindergarten assessment](#). These English language proficiency “screener” assessments help the District to determine whether or not a child is in need of English language instructional services, and if so, at what level.

**TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED:** Students will spend one hour or less to complete the assessment. The assessment will be administered shortly after student enrollment and/or by September 30 of the current school year.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Results will be utilized by the ELL teacher.

- The [ACCESS for ELLs®](#) assessment is administered, with or without accommodations, to students in grades K-12 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:** Typically, the testing window opens on December 1 and closes on the last day of January.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Results will be sent home in the spring.

- The [Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™](#) assessment is administered to students in grades 1-12 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:** Typically, the testing window opens on December 1 and closes on the last day of January.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Results will be sent home in the spring.

- **High School Civics Test**

As required by state law, the District administers a civics test to high students, which is comprised of 100 questions that are identical to the 100 questions that may be asked of an individual during the process of applying for U.S. citizenship by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Successful completion of this civics test is a requirement for high school graduation in the District. A student may retake the civics test until the student obtains the passing score. For students with disabilities who have an individualized education program (IEP), this requirement shall be modified or waived to the extent provided by the student’s IEP and/or by applicable law.

**TIME PERIOD ADMINISTERED:** The test will be administered to students during their junior year.

**DISSEMINATION OF ASSESSMENT RESULTS:** Results will be on the student’s report card as WI Civics Exam and a pass/fail.

**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.

*Approval of Updates:*

*July 13, 2020*