



State Accountability Assessments

- **PALS – Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening**
 - Wisconsin statute 118.016(1) requires an early literacy screener to be administered to all four-year-old kindergarten to grade 2 students enrolled in public school districts and charter schools by 2014–15.
 - PALS is required in fall and spring with an optional window in winter.
 - Full Spanish versions are available in K5–grade 2, with a pilot Spanish version available in K4.
 - Students at Milwaukee French or German immersion schools take assessments in their language of instruction.

- **Wisconsin Forward Exam**
 - This online assessment replaced the WKCE/Badger in spring 2016.
 - It measures student performance in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards.
 - English language arts and mathematics are given in grades 3–8.
 - Science is given in grades 4 and 8.
 - Social studies is given in grades 4, 8, and 10.

- **ACT Plus Writing, ACT WorkKeys, and ACT Aspire**
 - ACT Plus Writing is administered to grade 11 students on a statewide testing day measuring college readiness in reading, math, English, science, and writing, and it is used for a variety of purposes including college admission, scholarships, course placement, etc.
 - ACT WorkKeys is administered to grade 11 students on a statewide testing day measuring students’ skills in the areas of applied mathematics, locating information, and reading for information, and it allows students to earn National Career Readiness Certificates.
 - ACT Aspire is administered online to grades 9 and 10 students measuring what students have learned in the areas of English, reading, math, science, and writing, and it predicts performance on the ACT Plus Writing and ACT WorkKeys.

- **Dynamic Learning Maps**
 - DLM is a multiple-state consortium that is providing an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities.
 - DLM is aligned to Wisconsin Essential Elements.
 - Online assessment in ELA and math is administered in grades 3–11.

- **ACCESS for ELLs^[HJ1] 2.0**
 - ACCESS for ELLs addresses the English language development standards Wisconsin uses to instruct and test English language learners.
 - State and federal education laws require that assessments of limited-English-proficient (LEP) students be conducted annually to determine students’ English language proficiency level.



- The majority of the test is taken online in grades 1–12 (the writing portion is online only for grade 3 students and older).
- Students in kindergarten and those with significant disabilities will not be tested on a computer.
- **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**
 - This largest national assessment is administered to select schools in districts that receive Title I dollars.
 - It is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).
 - The district does not choose schools but is given a list of schools for participation.
 - Data is released as *The Nation’s Report Card*.
 - NAEP assesses grades 4 and 8 students in reading and math.
 - Additional subject areas are assessed in select schools and can include science, writing, civics, economics, geography, etc.
 - Accommodations are available for ELLs and students with special education services.
 - Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) – Increased participation allows the district to receive district-level results that can be benchmarked with other large urban school districts across the country.

Response to Intervention Universal Screening and Progress Monitoring Assessments

- **The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)**
 - The Board of Education required that the district universally screen all students in grade 2 for gifted and talented identification as part of Response to Intervention.
 - CogAT is a norm-referenced assessment that measures “learned reasoning abilities”:
 - *Verbal battery* assesses the ability to use search, retrieval, and comparison processes.
 - *Quantitative battery* assesses the ability to reason about patterns and relationships.
 - *Nonverbal battery* assesses the ability to reason with novel questions that use spatial and figural content.
 - Directions are available in Spanish or can be translated into another language.
 - One of the 9 subtests includes words (sentence completion); all other areas do not require reading.
- **STAR**
 - The district’s universal screener and progress monitoring assessment is used to assess students in kindergarten through high school three times per year in early literacy, reading, and math.
 - STAR Early Literacy Spanish, STAR Reading Spanish, and STAR Math Spanish are also available and provide instructional information on student performance in Spanish. National norms are in the process of being created.
 - STAR is sensitive enough to be used for progress monitoring as frequently as once per week.



Other District Assessments

- **Civics Assessment**
 - All students must pass a civics test, which includes the same questions that appear on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services test (Act 55), in order to graduate.
 - This requirement begins with the graduation class of 2016–17.
 - Students with disabilities need only to take the assessment; all others must earn at least a 60%.

- **PSAT**
 - All grades 10 and 11 students take the PSAT.
 - PSAT provides students with practice to help determine what type of preparation they need before taking the SAT as a grade 11 student.
 - Scores on the PSAT in grades 10 and 11 are used to qualify students for scholarships, including National Merit Scholarships.
 - The test results match students to potential Advanced Placement courses.
 - Students will have additional time to prepare for the SAT using tools available for free on Kahn Academy.