



## **The Wisconsin Forward Exam is coming soon.....**

**When: March 20- April 28, 2023**

### **What is the Wisconsin Forward Exam?**

The Wisconsin Forward Exam is designed to gauge how well students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. These standards outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready. The Forward Exam is administered online in the spring of each school year:

### **Who takes it?**

- Grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
- Grades 4 and 8 in science
- Grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies.

### **What does this mean for my child?**

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment that gauges your child's achievement in the content areas tested compared to other students in the state. Along with local measures such as report cards, school-wide assessments, and other information about your child's progress in school, the results from the Forward Exam provide insight into how well your child is doing on a broad measure of achievement.

### **What are the test times for 2022?**

The estimated time for test administration in each grade is approximately:

<b>ELA in grades 3-8</b>	130 minutes
<b>Mathematics in Grades 3-5</b>	90 minutes
<b>Mathematics in Grades 6-7</b>	105 minutes
<b>Mathematics in Grade 8</b>	115 minutes
<b>Science in Grades 4 &amp; 8</b>	105 minutes
<b>Social Studies in Grades 4, 8 &amp; 10</b>	70 minutes

\*\*These are estimated times, for the purpose of scheduling, as the Forward Exam is not a timed test.



# Forward Exam

## 2022-23 Information for Families

### What is the Wisconsin Forward Exam?

The Wisconsin Forward Exam is designed to gauge how well students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. These standards outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be college and career ready. The Forward Exam is administered online in the spring of each school year for students in:

- grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics,
- grades 4 and 8 in science, and
- grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies.

Accommodations and supports for students with disabilities and English learners are built into the system so that the progress of students can be accurately measured.



### What does this mean for my child?

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment that gauges your child's achievement in the content areas tested in relation to grade-level standards. It provides a broad measure of achievement that should be used along with

local measures such as report cards, school-wide assessments, and other information about your child's progress in school.

### When does the Forward Exam take place?

The Forward Exam will be given in schools between March 20 and April 28, 2023. Schools are permitted to select their own testing dates within this window.



The estimated time for test administration in each grade is approximately:

- 130 minutes for ELA,
- 90-115 minutes for mathematics,
- 105 minutes for science, and
- 70 minutes for social studies.

These estimated times are for the purpose of scheduling, as **the Forward Exam is not a timed test**. It is important to note that students may take more time or less time to complete the test based on effort and ability levels.



## What type of scores will be provided?

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment that provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Students receive a score based on their performance in each content area. Each score will fall in one of four levels:

**Advanced** – Student demonstrates **thorough** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.

**Proficient** – Student demonstrates **adequate** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.

**Basic** – Student demonstrates **partial** understanding of and ability to apply the

knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.

**Below Basic** – Student demonstrates **minimal** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.



## Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

The Online Tools Training (OTT) gives students the opportunity to practice using the tools available on the Forward Exam and allows them to familiarize themselves with the question types and testing platform. An Item Sampler is also available which includes a sampling of the type of content and questions students will encounter on the exam. The OTT and Item Samplers are not scored, and do not cover the full range of content on the exam.



The OTT and Item Sampler are intended to provide students with examples of test questions and practice taking an online test.

The Text Dependent Analysis (TDA) Sampler contains samples of TDA test questions, stimulus passages, and student responses at each grade and score point. The TDA sampler helps students prepare for the essay portion of the Forward Exam which requires students to read a passage and then respond to a writing prompt.

These practice tests are available for student use online in the classroom or at home at <http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward/sample-items>.

For more information about the Forward Exam contact the Office of Educational Accountability at [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov) or visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward>.

Test date: March 7, 2023

All juniors will be taking the ACT at the high school. There is no registration necessary, this will all be taken care of by the school.

For those interested in doing a retake you can register online for the ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

**Free ACT Test Preparation Resources:**

ACT is now offering a free online test prep. This can be accessed at <https://academy.act.org/>.

- Know exactly what you missed and what you didn't with a score report
- Access related resources to improve your skills based on what you missed
- Retake the test as many times as you want

Students, teachers, and parents can create an account. This account allows students to track their progress and keep moving forward in their test preparation. Short quizzes are designed to help students identify the content they have mastered and to clarify areas where more focus is needed. If students have already taken the ACT or PreACT they can simply enter their scores and custom playlists will be automatically created.

Links to practice tests and exemplar items for the ACT can be found at the [DPI ACT Practice Tests/Sample Items website](https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act/practice-test) (<https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act/practice-test>)

 Freshman and Sophomore Students

Test window: March 20-April 28

PreACT Secure is taking the place of ACTAspire for Freshman and Sophomore students. PreACT Secure is a summative assessment given to 9th and 10th grade students aligned to the ACT and the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards. PreACT Secure measures what students have learned in the areas of English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Here is some information for practice: [PreACT Secure practice tests](#)

**For more information, please visit: <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment>**

# ACT High School Assessments

## 2022-23 Information for Families

### What are the ACT High School Assessments?



ACT, Inc. has provided testing services for more than 50 years. Their assessments have evolved to reflect the nation's view of education to embrace lifelong learning and prepare students to be college and career ready after high school graduation. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) contracted with ACT, Inc. starting with the 2014-15 fiscal year to

comprehensively assess Wisconsin high school students:

- 9th and 10th grade students will take the **PreACT Secure** assessment in the spring.
- 11th grade students will take **The ACT® with writing** in the spring.

#### The PreACT Secure

PreACT Secure assesses student readiness in English, Mathematics, Reading and Science.

#### The ACT® with writing

The ACT with writing consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science; and a 40-minute essay test that measures student writing skills.

### How are the test results used?

All students in grades 9-11 will be given these assessments except for approximately 1% of students with significant cognitive disabilities who will be tested with an alternate assessment. This system of assessments will allow teachers to measure a student's growth throughout high school.

DPI will also use The ACT® with writing for the high school accountability measure in order to determine the extent to which schools and districts across the state meet proficiency standards.

### What type of scores will be provided?

**PreACT Secure** scores are reported on a two-digit scale, 1 to 36, with 35 being the highest score. These scores will predict future ACT scores.

**The ACT® with writing** scores range from 1 to 36 for each of the subtests and one overall score called a composite. Students will also receive a writing score ranging from 2 to 12. Scores can be used by students for college admission, scholarships, course placement,

and NCAA eligibility. Students have the option to send their scores to up to four colleges free of charge, complete a voluntary pre-test survey, and opt-in to having ACT provide their information to colleges, universities, financial aid and scholarship agencies, and organizations that provide educational programs.



Each ACT score will fall in one of four Wisconsin performance levels:

- **Advanced** – Student demonstrates **thorough** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.
- **Proficient** – Student demonstrates **adequate** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.
- **Basic** – Student demonstrates **partial** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.
- **Below Basic** – Student demonstrates **minimal** understanding of and ability to apply the knowledge and skills for their grade level that are associated with college content-readiness.

## What learning standards do the ACT High School Assessments measure?

ACT and DPI work together to ensure that the ACT assessments measure what students have learned through the Wisconsin Academic Standards. Students taught to the Wisconsin Academic Standards should be well prepared to be successful with the ACT assessments.

The Wisconsin Academic Standards define the knowledge and skills students should take away from their K-12 schooling to be successfully prepared for postsecondary and

career opportunities. The Wisconsin Academic Standards are available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/standards>.



## Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

Practice tests and sample test questions are available from ACT. Actual test questions are not released.

- **PreACT Secure:**  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/PreACT/practice-test>
- **The ACT®** with writing practice tests and sample writing prompts:  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act/practice-test>

For more information about PreACT Secure visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/PreACT>.

For more information about The ACT visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/act>.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Educational Accountability at [osamail@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:osamail@dpi.wi.gov).



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**

Pre**ACT** Secure