

# News Release

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## Results steady for statewide testing

*Public school Forward ELA results up in grades 4-7*

MADISON — Statewide results held steady on the Forward, ACT Plus Writing, and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessments administered during the 2016-17 school year. These exams, part of the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS), are the statewide assessments for the more than 453,000 public and private choice school students enrolled in grades three through eight and grade 11.

Participation was up by 5,713 students statewide from the prior school year, and rates improved slightly for public schools with 98.4 percent of students taking the assessments. Choice schools had a participation rate of 93.1 percent. Results for

Wisconsin Student Assessment System				
Forward, ACT, and DLM Assessments				
Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced				
2015-16	Enrollment	ELA	Math	Science
<b>All Students</b>	447,313	41.5%	40.3%	43.9%
<b>Public</b>	432,853	42.3%	41.2%	44.6%
<b>Choice</b>	14,460	19.1%	13.9%	20.8%
2016-17				
<b>All Students</b>	453,026	42.7%	40.5%	42.3%
<b>Public</b>	436,965	43.5%	41.4%	43.1%
<b>Choice</b>	16,061	20.1%	15.2%	19.2%

choice students showed some fluctuations across the Forward and ACT assessments, though none were significantly different from the prior year. Overall, public school results across the WSAS were steady.

On the Forward Exam, public school students in grades four through seven had increased performance from 2015-16 testing in English Language Arts (ELA). The percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced increased 3.4 points at fourth grade, 4 points at fifth grade, 2.7 points at sixth grade, and 1.6 points at seventh grade. Other changes in proficiency levels for the Forward and DLM across public and private choice school grades and subjects were not significantly different. Public school results disaggregated by race and ethnicity, English language proficiency, as well as disability and economic status, continue to show disparities in achievement.

“We’re seeing some positive student gains in the Forward Exam in English language arts,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers. “Our educators and students are growing more comfortable with the test and have begun to use the information it provides to drive student improvement.”

(more)

This was the second year of the online Forward Exam and the third year of the DLM, given to students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Forward and DLM assessments were administered between March 20 and May 5, for the 371,785 public school and 14,559 private choice school students enrolled in grades three through eight.

This was the third year of administration of the ACT Plus Writing and DLM for the 66,682 public and private choice school students enrolled in 11th grade. Results for all takers show an ACT composite score that was the same as last year: 20.0. Most students took the ACT exam on the statewide testing day, Feb. 28. Those who missed the February date were offered a make-up day on March 21.

In the state’s public high schools, 65,180 students took the 11th-grade exams, with 857 of those students taking the DLM. Wisconsin’s public school composite score was down one-tenth of a point from last year to 20.0. While subscores and proficiency levels showed numeric fluctuations,

<b>Wisconsin's ACT Performance Levels</b>				
	<b>Below Basic</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Advanced</b>
<b>ELA</b>	1-14	15-19	20-27	28-36
<b>Math</b>	1-16	17-21	22-27	28-36
<b>Science</b>	1-17	18-22	23-27	28-36

none of the changes are significantly different. Choice students had an overall composite score of 17.9 compared to 18.1 last year. The ACT is scored on a scale of one to 36.

“Using the ACT as a statewide assessment for 11th-graders gives these students a chance to demonstrate their college and career readiness,” Evers said. “Student performance on this assessment can provide opportunities for further education and training that some kids might not have been considering.”

The Forward Exam is made up of ELA and mathematics exams for grades three through eight, science exams in grades four and eight, and social studies for students in grades four, eight, and 10. The ACT Plus Writing is administered at grade 11 and is made up of ELA (English, reading, and writing), mathematics, and science subtests. The DLM, Wisconsin’s alternate

<b>Wisconsin Student Assessment System</b>		
Participation Rates — All Grades		
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
<b>All Students</b>	98.1	98.2
<b>Public</b>	98.3	98.4
<b>Choice</b>	93.2	93.1

Participation rates include all students who had valid results in the ELA or Math on Forward or DLM in grades 3-8 or the ACT or DLM in grade 11.

assessment, is made up of ELA and mathematics assessments in grades three through eight and grade 11. The DLM science is given in grades four, eight, and 11. The DLM social studies is administered via a teacher rating form.

Statewide, 5,890 public school students took the DLM.

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**NOTES:** Tables providing additional information about WSAS performance follow. Information on public school performance is available by school and by district on the WISEdash Public Portal, <http://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/>. Data on the Milwaukee, Racine, and Wisconsin Parental Choice Programs can be found on the Parental Choice Program data page, <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/parental-choice-program/data>. This news release is available electronically at [https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2017\\_80.pdf](https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2017_80.pdf).

# Wisconsin Forward Exam and Dynamic Learning Maps Performance

## Percentage of Public School Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

2015-16

	Third Grade			Fourth Grade				Fifth Grade			Sixth Grade			Seventh Grade			Eighth Grade			
	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Science	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Science
<b>All Public School Students</b>	62,613	43.3%	48.3%	61,306	43.5%	44.7%	51.4%	61,170	42.6%	44.4%	61,821	42.7%	43.1%	61,308	41.9%	39.2%	61,198	41.1%	33.7%	48.9%
American Indian	781	25.6%	30.9%	772	24.5%	23.3%	31.7%	789	23.1%	24.0%	755	21.6%	20.0%	761	22.5%	16.4%	773	24.8%	14.5%	28.2%
Asian	2,445	41.6%	47.0%	2,440	39.4%	43.9%	44.4%	2,389	45.1%	48.1%	2,364	39.0%	46.1%	2,264	46.1%	40.7%	2,207	43.5%	40.5%	44.3%
Black	6,059	15.1%	16.0%	5,985	13.9%	12.1%	16.2%	5,735	14.4%	11.4%	5,660	13.2%	10.4%	5,570	14.6%	8.0%	5,653	13.6%	7.0%	13.5%
Hispanic	7,705	26.5%	28.4%	7,558	26.4%	24.3%	31.1%	7,120	25.5%	24.3%	6,939	23.3%	22.1%	6,848	25.7%	19.2%	6,610	25.5%	15.9%	27.3%
Pacific Islander	57	33.3%	38.6%	46	45.7%	41.3%	54.3%	61	39.3%	49.2%	35	51.4%	37.1%	43	48.8%	39.5%	34	38.2%	32.4%	41.2%
White	43,240	50.9%	57.1%	42,389	51.6%	53.8%	61.0%	43,163	49.6%	52.7%	44,210	50.1%	51.0%	44,190	48.2%	46.9%	44,301	47.4%	40.0%	57.5%
Two or More	2,284	39.8%	43.1%	2,072	38.5%	36.9%	45.1%	1,881	38.6%	36.0%	1,796	39.7%	38.4%	1,593	37.2%	31.5%	1,576	35.0%	27.0%	42.3%
Unknown Race	42	9.5%	19.0%	44	20.5%	29.5%	22.7%	32	15.6%	12.5%	62	25.8%	25.8%	39	17.9%	15.4%	44	18.2%	11.4%	15.9%
English Learner	5,654	19.8%	23.4%	4,773	13.4%	15.8%	18.3%	3,363	7.3%	10.8%	2,742	3.2%	6.7%	2,651	6.9%	6.0%	2,603	5.5%	4.8%	7.6%
English Proficient	56,917	45.7%	50.8%	56,488	46.1%	47.2%	54.2%	57,775	44.7%	46.4%	59,014	44.5%	44.8%	58,615	43.5%	40.7%	58,550	42.7%	35.0%	50.8%
Unknown EL Status	42	9.5%	19.0%	45	22.2%	31.1%	24.4%	32	15.6%	12.5%	65	26.2%	24.6%	42	16.7%	14.3%	45	20.0%	13.3%	17.8%
Students with Disabilities	8,339	18.5%	23.5%	8,481	17.4%	20.0%	24.2%	8,443	14.3%	16.9%	8,461	12.1%	12.7%	8,400	12.1%	9.5%	8,458	10.6%	7.0%	14.9%
Students without Disabilities	54,232	47.1%	52.2%	52,780	47.7%	48.7%	55.8%	52,695	47.2%	48.8%	53,295	47.5%	47.9%	52,866	46.7%	44.0%	52,695	46.0%	38.0%	54.4%
Unknown Disability Status	42	9.5%	19.0%	45	22.2%	31.1%	24.4%	32	15.6%	12.5%	65	26.2%	24.6%	42	16.7%	14.3%	45	20.0%	13.3%	17.8%
Economically Disadvantaged	27,072	27.9%	31.5%	26,368	27.0%	26.8%	34.5%	25,038	26.5%	26.9%	24,478	25.1%	24.4%	23,546	25.9%	21.2%	23,165	25.5%	17.6%	31.4%
Not Economically Disadvantaged	35,498	55.1%	61.2%	34,893	56.0%	58.2%	64.1%	36,100	53.8%	56.6%	37,278	54.2%	55.3%	37,720	52.0%	50.5%	37,988	50.7%	43.6%	59.6%
Unknown Economic Status	43	9.3%	18.6%	45	22.2%	31.1%	24.4%	32	15.6%	12.5%	65	26.2%	24.6%	42	16.7%	14.3%	45	20.0%	13.3%	17.8%

2016-17

	Third Grade			Fourth Grade				Fifth Grade			Sixth Grade			Seventh Grade			Eighth Grade			
	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Science	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Enrolled	ELA	Math	Science
<b>All Public School Students</b>	62,021	42.2%	48.5%	62,770	46.9%	44.1%	51.2%	61,562	46.6%	44.9%	61,469	45.4%	43.8%	62,342	43.5%	39.2%	61,621	40.8%	34.5%	47.2%
American Indian	696	25.6%	29.6%	782	27.4%	24.4%	30.3%	735	25.9%	21.8%	743	25.4%	23.4%	737	25.9%	19.0%	751	20.9%	14.8%	26.5%
Asian	2,488	38.9%	47.1%	2,457	42.7%	42.2%	43.8%	2,446	42.5%	44.6%	2,373	46.9%	48.2%	2,348	47.4%	41.4%	2,280	42.7%	39.2%	45.1%
Black	6,045	13.7%	16.2%	5,970	16.0%	12.0%	16.4%	5,854	15.9%	12.2%	5,623	15.0%	11.2%	5,643	15.4%	8.1%	5,470	13.4%	7.7%	12.9%
Hispanic	7,980	25.2%	29.5%	7,955	29.1%	23.5%	31.3%	7,831	30.2%	26.3%	7,305	27.2%	23.0%	7,234	26.5%	19.3%	7,158	24.3%	16.4%	26.6%
Pacific Islander	53	32.1%	34.0%	44	29.5%	25.0%	38.6%	52	42.3%	38.5%	63	41.3%	34.9%	45	48.9%	28.9%	46	45.7%	30.4%	39.1%
White	42,235	49.9%	57.3%	43,064	55.4%	53.3%	60.9%	42,357	54.9%	53.7%	43,235	52.9%	52.0%	44,322	50.2%	46.9%	44,078	47.4%	41.2%	55.5%
Two or More	2,501	41.5%	44.7%	2,471	42.4%	37.5%	45.5%	2,271	39.5%	36.6%	2,096	40.3%	37.1%	1,988	38.7%	32.6%	1,800	35.3%	27.8%	41.8%
Unknown Race	23	17.4%	30.4%	27	18.5%	22.2%	22.2%	16	25.0%	18.8%	31	35.5%	19.4%	25	44.0%	36.0%	38	39.5%	28.9%	36.8%
English Learner	5,618	17.4%	23.2%	4,652	13.0%	12.3%	15.0%	3,491	7.6%	10.1%	2,848	5.2%	6.6%	2,704	4.2%	4.1%	2,631	4.1%	3.9%	5.7%
English Proficient	56,378	44.6%	51.0%	58,090	49.6%	46.7%	54.1%	58,050	49.0%	47.0%	58,590	47.3%	45.6%	59,613	45.3%	40.8%	58,951	42.5%	35.9%	49.0%
Unknown EL Status	25	16.0%	32.0%	28	17.9%	21.4%	25.0%	21	23.8%	19.0%	31	35.5%	19.4%	25	44.0%	36.0%	39	38.5%	28.2%	35.9%
Students with Disabilities	8,951	18.3%	23.4%	9,219	18.5%	18.9%	24.7%	9,036	14.9%	15.9%	8,650	11.9%	12.3%	8,732	11.6%	9.4%	8,605	10.0%	6.3%	13.7%
Students without Disabilities	53,041	46.2%	52.7%	53,516	51.8%	48.5%	55.8%	52,510	52.1%	49.9%	52,785	50.9%	49.0%	53,584	48.7%	44.1%	52,973	45.8%	39.1%	52.6%
Unknown Disability Status	29	20.7%	31.0%	35	14.3%	17.1%	22.9%	16	25.0%	18.8%	34	32.4%	17.6%	26	42.3%	34.6%	43	39.5%	27.9%	34.9%
Economically Disadvantaged	27,165	25.3%	30.8%	26,874	29.1%	25.3%	33.3%	25,946	28.4%	26.3%	24,367	26.5%	24.0%	23,964	25.5%	20.1%	23,068	23.3%	16.2%	28.0%
Not Economically Disadvantaged	34,833	55.3%	62.2%	35,869	60.3%	58.2%	64.7%	35,600	60.0%	58.4%	37,071	57.8%	56.9%	38,353	54.8%	51.2%	38,515	51.4%	45.5%	58.7%
Unknown Economic Status	23	17.4%	30.4%	27	18.5%	22.2%	22.2%	16	25.0%	18.8%	31	35.5%	19.4%	25	44.0%	36.0%	38	39.5%	28.9%	36.8%

# ACT Plus Writing and Dynamic Learning Maps Performance

2015-16

2016-17

Public School Students	2015-16								2016-17							
	Student Count	Composite Score*	ELA Score*	ELA Proficiency	Math Score*	Math Proficiency	Science Score*	Science Proficiency	Student Count	Composite Score*	ELA Score*	ELA Proficiency	Math Score*	Math Proficiency	Science Score*	Science Proficiency
All Students	63,437	20.1	18.6	40.8%	20.1	34.8%	20.5	34.0%	65,180	20.0	18.3	39.3%	20.0	35.4%	20.4	31.5%
American Indian	725	17.5	15.9	19.6%	17.4	14.1%	18.1	14.1%	723	17.2	15.1	17.4%	17.1	13.3%	17.6	11.6%
Asian	2,227	20.0	18.6	38.2%	20.7	38.8%	20.8	34.2%	2,373	19.9	18.5	38.3%	20.3	35.9%	20.3	28.2%
Black	5,262	15.8	14.4	11.5%	16.0	6.1%	16.7	6.8%	5,725	15.5	13.7	9.6%	15.8	5.6%	15.9	4.6%
Hispanic	5,891	17.4	16.0	21.7%	17.5	15.4%	18.2	14.9%	6,363	17.1	15.6	19.9%	17.3	14.4%	17.6	12.4%
Pacific Islander	51	18.3	16.5	21.6%	18.0	19.6%	19.7	23.5%	57	19.1	17.6	33.3%	19.3	26.3%	19.2	26.3%
White	47,847	20.8	19.4	47.0%	20.8	40.7%	21.2	39.9%	48,280	20.9	19.1	45.9%	20.8	42.2%	21.3	37.8%
Two or More	1,311	19.7	18.4	35.9%	19.5	28.6%	20.1	29.1%	1,596	19.9	18.2	36.8%	19.4	30.7%	20.2	28.0%
Unknown Race	123	17.2	16.0	23.6%	17.3	13.8%	17.6	16.3%	63	16.0	13.3	6.3%	16.1	6.3%	16.7	6.3%
English Learners	1,401	14.2	11.9	2.9%	15.3	3.3%	15.7	2.8%	1,655	13.6	11.1	2.1%	15.0	2.6%	14.4	1.5%
English Proficient	61,605	20.2	18.8	41.8%	20.2	35.6%	20.7	34.9%	63,462	20.2	18.5	40.4%	20.1	36.3%	20.6	32.3%
Unknown EL Status	431	17.3	15.8	21.3%	17.5	15.1%	17.8	15.3%	63	16.0	13.3	6.3%	16.1	6.3%	16.7	6.3%
Students with Disabilities	7,930	15.5	13.2	10.2%	15.8	5.6%	16.3	6.9%	8,268	15.3	12.9	9.3%	15.7	6.2%	15.9	6.7%
Students without Disabilities	55,066	20.6	19.3	45.4%	20.6	39.1%	21.1	38.1%	56,848	20.6	19.0	43.8%	20.5	39.6%	21.0	35.1%
Unknown Disability Status	441	17.3	15.9	21.3%	17.5	15.0%	17.9	14.7%	64	15.9	13.2	6.3%	16.1	6.3%	16.6	6.3%
Economically Disadvantaged	20,558	17.4	15.9	20.2%	17.6	15.4%	18.2	15.9%	20,975	17.1	15.2	18.0%	17.3	14.6%	17.7	13.1%
Not Economically Disadvantaged	42,447	21.3	19.9	51.0%	21.2	44.3%	21.6	43.0%	44,142	21.3	19.7	49.5%	21.2	45.3%	21.7	40.2%
Unknown Economic Status	432	17.3	15.8	21.3%	17.5	15.0%	17.8	15.3%	63	16.0	13.3	6.3%	16.1	6.3%	16.7	6.3%

\*ACT "score" data includes only those students who participated in the Spring statewide ACT administration.

ACT "proficiency" data includes students who participated in ACT, DLM, and 11th graders who did not participate in the statewide assessment.

## Family Income for Choice Eligibility – 2016-17

Program Eligibility Based on Income for a Family of Four with Married Parents

Federal Free Meals	Federal Reduced-Price Meals	Milwaukee Choice (MPCP)	Racine Choice (RPCP)	Statewide Choice (WPCP)
\$31,590	\$44,955	\$80,401	\$80,401	\$52,263

**NOTE:** For the Wisconsin Student Assessment System, public school students whose family income falls within the guidelines for free or reduced-price school meals are considered economically disadvantaged.