

The Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) is a comprehensive statewide program designed to provide information about what students know in core academic areas and whether they can apply what they know. The academic standards indicate skills and knowledge necessary to prepare students for success from early school readiness to post-secondary competencies, reflective of both workforce readiness and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. WSAS measures student progress, which gives teachers information as they incorporate the standards in their daily instruction.

WSAS results are also used for:

- Monitoring our curriculum, programs, schools and district progress.
- Determining student eligibility for certain courses and programs.
- Benchmarking student performance against comparable groups.
- Assessing student growth.

The Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires all states to test all students in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. ESSA also requires students be assessed in Science three times over their primary and secondary years. Student performance on these assessments is used for accountability determination at the school, district and state levels. Wisconsin State statute also requires students to take grade 9 and 10 assessments as well as the social studies test. These tests together create the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS).

The following are the required statewide assessments that fall under this policy:

- The [Wisconsin Forward Exam](#) at grades 3-8 & 10
- [Dynamic Learning Maps \(DLM\)](#) at grades 3-11
- [PreACT Secure](#) at grades 9 & 10
- [The ACT with Writing](#) at grade 11

Educators use WSAS results for instructional planning, class placement, and academic screening, and this information will not be available for your student's teachers.

If you wish to excuse your student for testing, you will not receive results of their achievement and growth as measured by WSAS. Students excused from state assessments do not receive negative consequences. During state testing, excused students will, at the school discretion, be supervised in a place where they may read or work quietly on assignments. They will not receive additional instruction outside of their regular class.

To request your student to be excused from state assessments, print out and complete a [Parent Excusal form](#) then return it to your school. Students in grades K4 – 3 and 5-7 can be denied the request to opt-out, per WI Stat. 118.30(2)(b)3. If the request is denied the student will test.

In lieu of opting your student out of testing there are supports available.

- How to help your student with [test anxiety](#).
- How to help your student [prepare](#) for the state assessment.
- What [accommodations](#) can my student have access to during testing?