

Where can I find sample or practice test questions?

An Online Tools Training (OTT) is available to students at

<http://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward/sample-items>.

The OTT is intended to give students the opportunity to practice with the tools available on the Forward Exam, as well as to be exposed to the testing environment. It also gives students a chance to work with the different item types they will encounter on the exam. The OTT is not scored, nor is it intended to provide practice on test *content*.



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Wisconsin Forward Exam

Information for Families 2015-16



For more information contact
the Office of Student Assessment at
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What is the Wisconsin Forward Exam?

Students will take the Wisconsin Forward Exam during the last eight weeks of the school year. This new assessment will be used to gauge how well students are mastering the Wisconsin State Standards. The Forward Exam is given at:

- 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.

Students will take the Forward Exam online. The Exam includes:

- **multiple-choice questions:** the student selects the correct answers from answer options;
- **short answer questions:** the student provides a brief explanation in response to the question;
- **writing:** the student provides a response using basic writing skills to summarize, compare, and make inferences about ELA passages.

Accommodations and supports for students with disabilities and/or English language 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 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?

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

- 2 hours and 20 minutes for ELA,
- 1 hour and 45 minutes for Mathematics,
- 1 hour and 40 minutes for Science, and
- 1 hour and 30 minutes for Social Studies.

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

How are the test results used?

The Forward Exam results provide information about student performance which allows:

- **students** to reflect on their achievement
- **teachers** to target instruction to student needs and reflect upon their own instructional practices,
- **administrators** to more fully understand what students know and can do in order to guide curriculum and professional development decisions,
- **parents** to understand what their child knows and is able to do in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies. and
- **all stakeholders** to check how ready ALL students are for college and career, especially those groups that have historically been left behind.

When does the Forward Exam take place?



The Forward Exam will be given in schools between March 28 - May 20, 2016. Schools are permitted to select their own testing dates within this window.

What type of scores will be provided?

The Forward Exam is a summative assessment which provides information about what students know and can do in relation to the Wisconsin State 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.