



Forward Exam

2021-22 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 21 and April 29, 2022. 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 or visit <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/forward>.