



# **Pupil Assessment**

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This paper provides information on testing programs for elementary and secondary school pupils that are administered or coordinated by the Office of Educational Accountability within the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The first section of this paper provides background and definitions on assessment alternatives; the following sections outline current assessment programs, previous and current assessment initiatives and federal requirements; and the final section discusses funding for assessment initiatives.

#### **Background**

In recent years, pupil assessment has become the focus of broader educational reforms in response to national reports that the academic performance of U.S. pupils has fallen behind that of other countries, particularly in areas requiring more complex thinking skills. There is evidence of persistent gaps in performance between whites and minorities, economically advantaged and disadvantaged pupils, and males and females. As a result, greater emphasis has been placed on the purposes and content of pupil assessments and the consequences of test results for teachers, pupils, schools, and school districts.

There are three primary purposes of pupil assessment: (1) to evaluate the quality and level of pupil achievement and indicate what pupils, teachers, schools, districts, and states can do to improve their performance; (2) to provide accountability information (the relationship between public investment in education and pupil achievement); and (3) to provide information that can be used by teachers and pupils in decisions relating to remediation, program placement, and career paths. Different types of assessments are administered

depending on the kind of information sought. Below is a description, based on information provided from DPI, on the most widely used types of assessment instruments.

Standardized tests. Narrowly defined, standardized tests are tests given to a large number of pupils with identical directions, time limits, and questions. Most standardized tests are purchased from commercial publishers. In the past, multiple-choice and true/false questions have been associated with standardized testing. However, recent developments in the field of educational testing have allowed test vendors to include short answer and essay questions in the standardized test as well. Standardized tests are used to measure knowledge of a particular subject or basic aptitude.

While standardized tests are available in a variety of skill levels and formats, two types of decisions are commonly made with their result: normative decisions and criterion-based decisions. Normative decisions measure a pupil's performance in relation to a norm group. Tests used to make normative decisions or norm-referenced tests (NRTs) compare the rankings of all pupils taking the test. Results from this type of exam are used to determine where pupils score in comparison to all other pupils. Test statistics such as percentiles, norm-equivalent scores, and standardized scores are used to make normative decisions.

The second type of decisions made with standardized tests is criterion-based decisions. Tests used to make criterion-based decisions or criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) measure how well pupils have learned specific curricular material. Unlike NRTs, a pupil's score is not compared to that of other pupils, but to a minimum standard or criterion. Statistics commonly used with CRTs are pass/fail rates and percent of mastery or proficiency. Proficiency categories, like those used in

Wisconsin, reflect criterion-based decisions. Scores are set for each category, from minimal to advanced proficiency, and pupils are placed into these categories based on their performance on the tests.

Standardized tests are widely used for accountability purposes because they allow comparisons among pupils, schools, school districts, and states; are easy to administer and score; and are usually the most cost-effective type of test. However, they are frequently criticized as being culturally and/or economically biased and emphasizing less important factual knowledge and rote memorization skills rather than higher-order skills such as problem-solving, writing, and critical thinking. Another criticism is that the pressure to raise standardized test scores encourages schools to adjust their curricula to focus on test material, or "teach to the test," which results in narrowing the curriculum and further encouragement of memorization skills over more complex thought. Norm-referenced tests in particular have been criticized as providing misleading information if the original norm group's scores are dated. Critics of criterion-referenced tests dispute the use of standards, which they believe may be arbitrary, and the emphasis placed on passing the standard rather than performing as well as possible.

Performance Assessments. To address such criticisms of standardized tests and create assessments which are more authentic and valid, providing better information about the abilities of pupils, some states and school districts developed alternative assessments. These include various methods intended to measure not only knowledge of a particular subject, but also the use of complex reasoning and problem-solving skills. Also called performance-based or outcome-based assessments, performance assessments are designed to require pupils to demonstrate what they know and can do and to integrate interdisciplinary knowledge into the accomplishment of a task. Tasks may include writing exercises, math problems, science experiments, open-ended multiple-choice questions, or a combination. Performance assessments require pupils to produce an original answer, rather than select an answer.

Significant obstacles to the widespread implementation of performance assessments exist. Due to their complexity, performance assessments are more costly and less efficient to develop and score than standardized tests. "Multiple assessments," which are primarily multiple choice, but also combine true/false, short answer, and essay questions into one test, are also available from vendors. The combination of both standardized tests and performance assessments can provide more complete information on a pupil's education.

With the passage of the federal No Child Left Behind Act in 2001, all states were required to implement standardized tests based on each state's academic standards, and Wisconsin was required to make a number of changes to its state assessment program.

### **Current Wisconsin Assessment Programs**

In Wisconsin, one way that students demonstrate their progress toward achieving the state academic standards in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies is through participation in the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS). The WSAS includes both regular assessments -- the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations (WKCE), a criterion-referenced test taken by nearly all students -- and alternate tests, known as the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities. In addition, there is a separate large-scale test [Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELL)] for English language learners to assess their language proficiency.

The following section describes the current Wisconsin Student Assessment System.

Wisconsin Third Grade Reading Requirement. State law requires all districts to annually administer a standardized reading test, developed by DPI, to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade pupils. Wisconsin public schools assessed third graders' reading comprehension each spring from 1989 to 2005 using the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (called the Third Grade Reading Test from 1989 to 1995).

Since the fall of 2005, third graders have been assessed in reading and mathematics with the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations, part of the comprehensive state assessment systems required by the No Child Left Behind Act. Statewide third grade scores for reading and math are shown in Table 1.

Remedial reading services for pupils in kindergarten through grade four are required under state law if: (a) a pupil fails to meet the district's reading objectives; or (b) a pupil fails to meet the minimum performance standard on the standardized state reading test and either the teacher and the pupil's parent or guardian agree that the test results accurately reflect the pupil's ability, or the teacher determines that based upon other objective evidence of the pupil's reading comprehension, the test results reflect the pupil's reading ability.

Knowledge and Concepts Examinations. In 1992-93, DPI was required under state law to make available to districts, at no charge, examinations designed to evaluate the level of knowledge attained by pupils in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. District participation was voluntary in 1992-93 and required beginning in the 1993-94 school year. A third exam, for pupils in fourth grade, was added under 1995 Act 27. School district participation for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade exam was voluntary in 1995-96 and required beginning in the 1996-97 school year.

Beginning in 2005-06, the federal No Child Left Behind Act requires all states to test all students in reading and mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and once in high school (grade 10 under state law). These tests are now known as the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination -- Criterion Referenced Tests (WKCE-CRT) and replaced the WKCE reading and mathematics tests beginning in fall 2005.

Currently, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade knowledge and concepts examinations evaluate the level of knowledge attained by pupils in the areas of mathematics, science, social studies, reading, and language applications. In 2007-08, the WKCE-CRT consisted of multiple choice and short-answer questions. At grades 4, 8, and 10, students also provide a rough draft writing sample.

Under federal law, there are differing requirements for testing limited English-proficient pupils, depending on how long they have been enrolled in U.S. schools. These pupils are also tested for English language proficiency using ACCESS for ELLs.

No Child Left Behind requires that districts must include children with disabilities in the tests, with appropriate modifications where necessary or alternate assessments for those children who cannot meaningfully participate in the regular assessment. If a district excludes certain children with disabilities from the assessment, then a statement explaining why that assessment was not appropriate and how the pupil will be assessed through alternative means must be included in the pupil's individualized educational program. In addition, a statement must be included in a pupil's program indicating any modifications that were made to the pupil's assessment.

Under state law, any 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade pupil may be excused from taking the tests upon the request of the pupil's parent or guardian.

Total WKCE-CRT test time varies by grade, ranging from four to seven hours. In 2009-10, 60,954 4<sup>th</sup> grade pupils (99.5% of the total enrollment), 61,363 8<sup>th</sup> grade pupils (99.3%) and 66,549 10<sup>th</sup> grade pupils (98.2%) completed each subject area test. A three-week testing window is provided to allow local flexibility in scheduling for make-up testing.

In grades 3, 5, 6, and 7, pupils must be tested in reading and mathematics beginning in 2005-06 under federal law. For 2009-10, 60,250 3<sup>rd</sup> grade pupils (99.4% of the total enrollment), 60,186 5<sup>th</sup> grade pupils (99.6%), 60,488 6<sup>th</sup> grade pupils (99.7%), and 60,593 7<sup>th</sup> grade pupils (99.6%) completed the WKCE-CRT.

Since 1997-98, results of the WKCE have been reported by proficiency categories. Separate results are reported for each test area: reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts. The rough draft writing sample scores at grades 4, 8, and 10 are not used for performance scoring purposes. Proficiency categories are listed below.

- Advanced: In-depth understanding of academic knowledge and skills tested on WKCE.
- Proficient: Competency in the academic knowledge and skills tested.
- Basic: Some academic knowledge and skills tested.
- Minimal Performance: Very limited academic knowledge and skills tested.

Proficiency summaries are reported for all students who have been enrolled in the school or district for a full academic year, as well as for a partial year, regardless of disability or English-proficiency status. Previously, scores were reported only for students who took the test. Under the new proficiency levels reporting, those pupils not tested are listed under the not tested category and are not included in proficiency level scoring.

Wisconsin's statewide test results for each subject area of the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade tests for 2009-10 are provided in Table 1. The statewide proficiency scores are reported for all students enrolled. The table shows, for each grade level tested and by each test area, the percentage of students enrolled in Wisconsin public schools that scored at each proficiency level and the percentage of students that were not tested.

In the past, DPI has also provided national percentile rankings for each content area and grade level. National percentile ranks indicate the relative standing of a student compared with other students in the same grade in the nationwide sample. Beginning in 2002-03, Wisconsin began using a combination of off-the-shelf national test items and customized test items to improve alignment between the knowledge and concepts examinations and the state's model academic standards. This change was required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Customized items are not nationally normed, and therefore national percentile ranks are not available.

Schools are held accountable for achievement and progress in each subject area. Low achievement in reading, for example, is not offset by high achievement in math. Prior law prohibited the use of results from assessments to evaluate teacher performance, until the passage of 2009 Act 60. Under Act 60, school districts may use the results of the knowledge and concepts tests to evaluate teachers if the school board has developed a teacher evaluation plan that includes all of the following: (a) a description of the evaluation process; (b) multiple criteria in addition to examination results; (c) the rationale for using examination results to evaluate teachers; and (d) an explanation of how the school board intends to use the evaluations to improve pupil academic achievement. In addition, the development of and any changes to such a teacher evaluation plan is a mandatory subject of collective bargaining. As under prior law, the results of examinations cannot be used to discharge, suspend or formally discipline a teacher or as the reason for the nonrenewal of a teacher's contract.

A district's scores may not be used to determine its general or categorical school aids. The tests are also required, to the extent possible, to be free from bias. DPI currently provides these examinations through a contract with testing vendor CTB/McGraw-Hill.

Under 1997 Act 237, starting in 1998-99 a school board operating elementary grades may develop or

Table 1: 2009-10 Statewide Knowledge and Concepts Exam Results (Percent of Pupils in each Proficiency Level)

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Minimal	Not Tested
3rd Grade					
Reading	43.1%	36.1%	15.1%	5.1%	0.6%
Math	37.7	38.7	8.7	14.7	0.2
4th Grade					
Reading	42.9	38.5	13.2	5.0	0.4
Math	40.8	39.8	8.3	11.0	0.2
Lang Arts	32.8	44.5	17.4	4.8	0.5
Science	24.1	52.9	17.7	4.9	0.4
Social Studies	67.0	25.5	5.3	1.7	0.5
5th Grade					
Reading	37.7	42.5	14.1	5.4	0.4
Math	45.4	32.8	8.6	13.0	0.2
6th Grade					
	45.2	39.1	10.3	5.0	0.3
Reading					
Math	37.1	41.0	10.5	11.3	0.2
7th Grade					
Reading	49.3	36.9	8.6	4.8	0.4
Math	36.5	44.5	10.6	8.2	0.2
1VICEII	00.0	11.0	10.0	0.2	0.2
8th Grade					
Reading	40.4	43.6	10.0	5.5	0.5
Math	29.5	48.4	13.0	8.7	0.3
Lang Arts	27.0	37.6	21.7	13.1	0.7
Science	33.5	46.5	12.2	7.3	0.6
Social Studies	43.9	36.9	12.8	5.7	0.7
10th Grade					
Reading	47.1	29.2	13.7	8.9	1.1
Math	22.4	47.5	14.4	14.7	1.0
Lang Arts	16.2	52.1	21.5	8.4	1.8
Science	37.7	33.8	10.5	16.4	1.5
Social Studies	44.4	30.3	7.0	16.6	1.7

adopt its own examination designed to measure pupil attainment of knowledge and concepts in 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. If a school board develops or adopts its own examination it is required to notify DPI. In addition, the board must provide the State Superintendent with statistical correlations of those examinations with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade knowledge and concepts examinations adopted or approved by the State Superintendent and the federal Department of Education must approve the examination.

#### **State Assessment Initiatives**

Governor's Council on Model Academic Standards. By executive order in January, 1997, the Governor created the Governor's Council on Model Academic Standards. The Council consisted of the Lieutenant Governor who served as chair, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate and Assembly Education Committees, and one public member appointed by the Governor.

As part of the 1997-99 budget (1997 Act 27), a Standards Development Council under the Office of the Governor was statutorily created that was nearly identical to the Governor's Council. Statutorily, the Council was required review to the Governor's proposed pupil academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history. After a series of public meetings, the Council's final recommendations on the standards were provided to the Governor in December, 1997. In January, 1998, the Governor approved the recommended standards and issued the standards as Executive Order 326. The Council is required to review the issued pupil academic standards periodically. If the Governor approves any subsequent modifications to the standards recommended by the Council, the changes can be issued as an executive order.

Common Core State Standards. In June, 2010, the State Superintendent, citing his authority under Article X of the State Constitution, issued a proclamation adopting for Wisconsin the "common core" state academic standards for curriculum, instruction, and assessment in English language arts and mathematics. The common core state standards, which replace the prior model academic standards for those subjects, were developed under the auspices of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association, in order to provide academic consistency within and across participating states. Adoption of the common core standards is voluntary for states, and as of Fall, 2010, 35 states and the District of Columbia have chosen to adopt them.

**4**<sup>th</sup>, **8**<sup>th</sup>, **and 10**<sup>th</sup> **Grade Knowledge and Concepts Examinations.** Under 1999 Act 9, beginning with the 2002-03 school year, school districts must administer the state's **4**<sup>th</sup>, **8**<sup>th</sup>, or **10**<sup>th</sup> grade examination or develop and administer its own examinations to measure pupil attainment of knowledge and concepts in the respective grades.

Under Act 9, school boards and charter schools were required to devise written policies for promoting pupils from grade four to grade five and from grade eight to grade nine by September 1, 2002. The knowledge and concepts examination score, unless the pupil has been excused from taking the exam by a parent or guardian, is one of several criteria to be used to make the promotion decision, including the pupil's academic performance and teachers' recommendations, along with any other criteria the school board or charter school operator chooses. Beginning September 1, 2002, a school board or charter school operator cannot promote a 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade pupil unless the pupil satisfies the board's criteria for promotion.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. In September, 2010, the Department of Education awarded the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) a four-year \$160 million assessment grant from Race to the Top funds, established under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Wisconsin is a governing state of the consortium, a group of 31 states collaborating to develop a new student assessment system that will be aligned with the common core state standards. The grant will fund the development costs of the new comprehensive assessment system, which will be a computer adaptive test designed to provide the summative tests required under No Child Left Behind, provide optional benchmark tests, and help guide classroom instruction with informal, continuous assessment. Under the grant, the consortium has four years to develop a valid assessment, with full implementation required by 2014-15.

# Federal Assessment Programs and Requirements

This section provides a discussion of a national assessment program and recent changes to federal law that directly affect pupil assessment in Wisconsin.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). The NAEP, commonly referred to as the

Nation's Report Card, is intended to provide a continuous national survey of educational achievement and trends. The program is administered by the Commissioner of Educational Statistics, who heads the National Center for Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education. The independent National Assessment Governing Board, appointed by the Secretary of Education, governs the program and is responsible for selection of subject area to be assessed, development of assessment methodology, standards, testing procedures and reporting. Under NAEP, objective-referenced tests are administered periodically to representative, randomly selected national and state samples of 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade pupils in both public and nonpublic schools. Items included in the NAEP are fixed-response, machine-scorable, multiple-choice questions, and constructed-response questions. The federal government covers all costs associated with administering this exam.

Since 1969, assessments have been conducted periodically in reading, mathematics, writing, science, history/geography or other areas including music, art, computer competence, and civics. The NAEP has used the results to track changes in national student achievement levels over time and collect information on pupil performance by gender, race/ethnicity, and other variables intended to indicate the pupils' instructional experiences.

Table 2 provides the average scale scores for Wisconsin and the U.S. for each subject and year in which Wisconsin participated in the NAEP assessments.

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. In 2001, Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), renaming it the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Under the reauthorized legislation, schools receiving Title I funds are subject to extensive new accountability provisions. NCLB requires that all students be tested in reading and math each year in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades and once in high school by 2005-06, with science assessments once each in elementary, middle, and high school beginning in 2007-08. States

**Table 2: NAEP Average Scale Scores** 

			Scale Score		
			Wisconsin	National	
Subject	Grade	Year	Average	Average	
Mathematics	4	1992	229	219	
(scale: 0-500)		1996	231	222	
		2003	237	234	
		2005	241	237	
		2007	244	239	
		2009	244	239	
	8	1990	274	262	
		1992	278	267	
		1996	283	271	
		2003	284	276	
		2005	285	278	
		2007	286	280	
		2009	288	282	
Reading	4	1992	224	215	
(scale: 0-500)		1994	224	212	
		1998	222	213	
		2003	221	216	
		2005	221	217	
		2007	223	220	
		2009	220	220	
	8	1998	265	261	
		2003	266	261	
		2005	266	260	
		2007	264	261	
		2009	266	262	
Science (scale: 0-300)	4	2005	158	149	
	8	1996	160	148	
		2005	158	147	
Writing	8	1998	153	148	
(scale: 0-300)		2007	158	154	

select and design their own assessments, but the tests must be aligned with the state's academic standards.

As a condition of receiving federal education funding, a sample of 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in each state must participate in NAEP in reading and math every other year to provide a point of comparison of the state's results on its own tests. Previously, participation in NAEP was voluntary for states. In addition, under NCLB, NAEP will conduct a national assessment, and may conduct a state assessment, in reading and mathematics in 12<sup>th</sup> grade at least once every four years.

Additionally, under NCLB states are required to report the performance of schools and districts in making "adequate yearly progress" (AYP), as defined under Title I and measured by pupil assessments. AYP must be reported by gender, race or ethnicity, English proficiency status, by students with disabilities compared to non-disabled students, and by economically disadvantaged students compared to those not economically disadvantaged. States must attain academic proficiency, as defined by each state, for each subgroup of students within 12 years. States must raise the level of proficiency gradually, but in equal increments over time, as compared to a minimum performance threshold based on the lowest-achieving schools or student subgroups in the 2001-02 school year. At least 95% of each subgroup must participate in the assessments in order for the school to make AYP. Under NCLB, 50% of ELL pupils must meet prescribed progress measures toward English proficiency each year, as demonstrated on the ACCESS for ELLs assessment. Districts receiving Title I funds must identify and sanction schools that consistently fail to make AYP for any subgroup.

The 2009-10 results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade exams are available on the DPI website: [www2.dpi.state.wi.us/wsas/default.asp]. AYP status for all pupils, by school district, school, and by demographic group within the district or school are also available on the Department's website: [www.dpi.wi.gov/oea/amo.html].

If a school fails to make AYP for two consecutive years, then it is identified for improvement. The school district and DPI must provide technical assistance to the school and transportation for students who choose to attend other district schools until the school is no longer identified for improvement. In providing such an option, priority must be given to the lowest achieving students from low-income families. The district must use at least 5% of its Title I funds to pay for that option.

After a third year of failure to make AYP, the district must also make tutoring and other supplemental educational services available to low-

income students still enrolled in the school identified for improvement. Private and public, non-profit, and for-profit entities may provide these services if they agree to various criteria, including that all content and instruction are secular, neutral, and non-ideological, and are consistent with the district's instructional program. The district must use at least five percent of its Title I funds to pay for that option. Unless a smaller amount is needed to satisfy all requests, up to 20% of a district's Title I funds are required to be spent on either or both of these options.

After a fourth year of failure to make AYP, the district must implement corrective actions such as replacing school staff, implementing a new curriculum, providing professional development, or otherwise restructure the school and enable it to make AYP. After a full year of corrective action and continued failure to make AYP, the district must implement major restructuring of the school, including reopening as a public charter school, contracting with a different entity to operate the school, or turning operation over to the state.

Requirements related to school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring end if the school makes AYP for two consecutive school years. AYP is also calculated on a district-wide basis, as Title I implements similar oversight requirements for states over districts as a whole.

In 2010-11, approximately 1,200 schools in 412 districts and 17 charter schools in Wisconsin will receive Title I funding totaling approximately \$188.3 million. Statewide, 140 schools (including two independent charter schools) and four school districts (Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, and Racine) did not make AYP in 2009-10. A total of 89 schools, including three independent charter schools and 71 Title I schools, were identified for improvement (failed to make AYP for at least two consecutive years for at least one subgroup) in 2009-10. Two school districts, Beloit School District and Milwaukee Public Schools, were identified for improvement. However, Beloit achieved AYP in 2009-10; therefore, sanctions will no longer apply if

the district likewise achieves AYP in 2010-11. Milwaukee has been a 'district identified for improvement' under federal law since 2006, and is a DIFI-Level 5 in 2010-11. MPS began to restructure the district around school improvement during the 2007-08 school year, and is currently responsible for implementing a district improvement plan monitored by DPI.

Some changes to the Wisconsin student assessment system were necessary to fully comply with the NCLB. DPI indicates that additional test items were added to the knowledge and concepts examinations in all subject areas to more fully assess state model academic standards. Some standards not assessed by these examinations are instead measured and reported at the local district level for Title I accountability purposes. In addition, the WKCE-CRT is now administered in the fall rather than spring, in order to be included in promotion decisions, to comply with "no social promotion" provisions of the NCLB. Also, because most English language learners must take the standard WKCE, DPI has made available written translations of the test in Spanish and Hmong, the first languages of 85% of ELL pupils in Wisconsin.

Table 3 lists the starting points and intermediate goals of Wisconsin's state accountability plan submitted to the federal Department of Education, as required under NCLB.

Table 3: Percent of Wisconsin Students Who Need to Score at Proficient/Advanced Annual Objectives

		Reading	Math
Starting Point	2001-02	61%	37%
	2002-03	61	37
	2003-04	61	37
Intermediate Goal	2004-05	67.5	47.5
(Begin new 3-8 tests)	2005-06	67.5	47.5
_	2006-07	67.5	47.5
Intermediate Goal	2007-08	74	58
	2008-09	74	58
	2009-10	74	58
Intermediate Goal	2010-11	80.5	68.5
Intermediate Goal	2011-12	87	79
Intermediate Goal	2012-13	93.5	89.5
Goal: All Proficient	2013-14	100	100

### **Funding for Pupil Assessment**

Pupil assessment costs have increased significantly in recent years, as NCLB required extensive redesign of Wisconsin's assessments, as well as new exams for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> grades, limited English proficient pupils, and for pupils with disabilities that prevent their participation in the standard WKCE-CRT.

Table 4 provides a breakdown of total funding provided to DPI for pupil assessment programs from 2007-08 to 2010-11. The table identifies costs in three areas:

- 1. Printing, scoring, and reporting costs. This includes payments to CTB/McGraw Hill for the knowledge and concepts exams and alternate assessment for students with disabilities, as well as separate costs for the ACCESS for ELLs test.
- 2. Contract payments. These include base costs for continual evaluation of standards alignment, scoring, and bias for the Wisconsin reading comprehension test, the knowledge and concepts exams, and the alternate assessment for students with disabilities.
- 3. Program operations costs. In 2010-11, the Office of Educational Accountability within DPI consists of 15.1 authorized positions, which are directly responsible for assessment-related activities. Federal funds support 12.1 of these positions. The supplies and services budget includes items such as data processing, printing, travel, space rental, postage, conferences, and consultant expenses.

**Table 4: Estimated Expenditures for DPI Pupil Assessment Programs** 

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11*	
Printing, Scoring,	\$2,031,400	\$1,410,000	\$4,419,800	\$2,855,500	GPR**
and Reporting	4,817,100	5,470,200	3,616,700	5,416,000	FED
Development	615,200	960,600	656,500	251,000	GPR
	335,600	1,617,600	400,400	476,100	FED
Program Operations	252,700	255,600	258,800	258,800	GPR
Salary and Fringe	989,500	1,068,500	1,026,700	2,487,300	FED
Supplies and Services	50,800	51,700	48,400	48,400	GPR
• •	223,800	666,100	1,691,800	691,600	FED
Total	\$9,316,100	\$11,500,300	\$12,119,100	\$12,484,700	
Permanent Positions (FTE)	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	GPR
	9.8	10.8	11.8	11.8	FED
Project Positions (FTE)	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	FED
Total	12.8	14.1	15.1	15.1	

<sup>\*</sup>Budgeted. \*\*State general purpose revenue.