



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

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Dr. Keith W. Hiltz, Superintendent of Schools

March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As one part of the state of Wisconsin's accountability system for schools, Wausau School District students will be participating in the Forward Exam. The Forward Exam will be given in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3 through 8, in science in grades 4 and 8, and in social studies in grades 4, 8, and 10. High school students in grade 9, 10, and 11 will continue to take the ACT suite of exams. The Forward Exam will gauge how well students are mastering the Wisconsin State Standards in English language arts, as well as measure the knowledge and skills students should have acquired by the time they reach each grade level. Students will take the Forward Exam between March 23 and May 1, 2020.

The Forward Exam will be taken online. This will give teachers a more accurate measure of student achievement, particularly for high and low-performing students. Accommodations and supports for students with disabilities and English language learners are built into the system so progress of students can be accurately measured.

The Forward Exam includes three components: multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and writing. Students will receive a score based on their performance. The score will fall into one of these four levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic. Enclosed is a brochure that further explains the Forward Exam, and it includes a website where students can take practice tests.

Your school's principal will be communicating with you specific days and times that your son or daughter will be taking the Forward Exam.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Andrea Sheridan

Andrea Sheridan
Director of Teaching, Learning & Leadership Integration

Enclosure