



MEMORANDUM

TO: CSRC Members, Gayle Peay
FROM: Janice Ereth, Aza Baylor
CC: Andrea Bogie, Sarah Covington, Vishnu Kumar
SUBJECT: Proposed Change to Year-to-Year Student Progress Analysis and Expectations for the 2022–23 School Year
DATE: October 10, 2022

The following are the current year-to-year expectations set by the Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) on February 6, 2020. The full document can be found at <https://milwaukee.legistar.com>.

FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Evident Change will report the assessment results, as required by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), in each school's annual report. Evident Change will report year-to-year progress for students who completed the assessments in consecutive school years at the same school.
- The CSRC expects at least 75% of the first graders who met the summed score benchmark for reading readiness in the spring will remain at or above the second-grade summed score benchmark in the spring of the subsequent year.
- At least 60% of fourth through eighth graders who were proficient or advanced in English/language arts (ELA) the prior year will maintain proficiency. At least 50% of fourth through eighth graders who were proficient or advanced in math the prior year will maintain proficiency.
- At least 35% of fourth through eighth graders who were below proficiency in the prior year will demonstrate progress in ELA and math.

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

- Schools will administer the ACT Aspire to ninth and tenth graders in the timeframe set by DPI.
- At least 50% of tenth graders will maintain composite scale score benchmarks or improve their composite scale score by at least one point from ninth to tenth grade.

HOW DPI REQUIREMENTS HAVE AFFECTED YEAR-TO-YEAR OUTCOMES

Through the 2013–14 school year, high schools were required to administer the ACT EXPLORE to ninth graders and the ACT PLAN to tenth graders. The following school year, the ACT Aspire replaced EXPLORE and PLAN as the standardized test for those grade levels; the ACT Plus Writing was still required for eleventh graders.

Since the Aspire uses a three-point scoring scale, the results are not directly comparable with results from the ACT Plus Writing, which uses a two-point scoring scale. Thus, the change to Aspire resulted in the decision to no longer report year-to-year progress from tenth to eleventh grade.

DPI has decided to change the standardized test for ninth and tenth graders. Starting in the 2022–23 school year, students in those grades will take the PreACT, which uses the same scoring scale as the ACT Plus Writing. Eleventh graders will still take the ACT Plus Writing.

This change affects the measurement of year-to-year results over the next two school years.

- **Year-to-year progress from 2021–22 to 2022–23:** In the spring of 2022, ninth graders completed the ACT Aspire. In the spring of 2023, they will complete the PreACT as tenth graders. While ACT provides resources that allow a comparison of Aspire and PreACT results, examining progress using these two tests comes with notable limitations. Also, the year-to-year measurement from Aspire to PreACT would be for only one year, so the results cannot be compared with subsequent years.
- **Year-to-year progress from 2022–23 to 2023–24:** In the spring of 2023, ninth and tenth graders will complete the PreACT. In the spring of 2024, those same students will complete the PreACT as tenth graders and the ACT Plus Writing as eleventh graders. Because the PreACT and ACT Plus Writing use the same scoring scale, Evident Change will be able to validly measure year-to-year progress from ninth to tenth grade *and* from tenth to eleventh grade.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Because of the DPI change for high school students in the 2022–23 school year, it seems appropriate to review practice related to assessing year-to-year progress based on standardized testing.

Evident Change recommends waiving the analysis of year-to-year expectations for ninth to tenth grade in the 2022–23 school reports because of the limitations of comparing Aspire and PreACT results. Like in recent years, the CSRC high school scorecards would indicate that the year-to-year points are not applicable. Evident Change will continue to report point-in-time results for all assessments in the spring of 2023, and point-in-time data will be included in the 2022–23 scorecards.

Assuming no further changes in the DPI standardized testing requirements for subsequent school years, analysis of year-to-year progress on standardized tests for high school students will resume with the 2023–24 school reports, at which point year-to-year progress can be measured from both ninth to tenth grade and from tenth to eleventh grade.