

News Release

Education Information Services ■ 125 South Webster Street ■ P.O. Box 7841 ■ Madison, WI 53707-7841 ■ (608) 266-3559

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Contact: Tom McCarthy, DPI Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

Badger Exam will start on April 13 for all subjects

Vendor needs more time to deliver English Language Arts exam

MADISON — State Superintendent Tony Evers announced today that the English Language Arts portion of the Badger Exam, which was scheduled to begin Monday, is being delayed due to issues related to the testing delivery engine. Wisconsin’s Badger Exam testing window for English Language Arts and Mathematics will be April 13 until May 22.

Educational Testing Service (ETS), which holds the contract to provide Wisconsin’s online state assessment, notified the Department of Public Instruction on Wednesday that it could not deliver the English Language Arts assessment for Monday’s testing window.

“These latest problems with ETS and the additional delay are incredibly frustrating,” Evers said. “But, my first priority remains ensuring that we have an exam that works for Wisconsin educators and students. I have made it clear to ETS that they must deliver a functioning exam by April 13th.”

The department has been working to meet federal testing requirements while minimizing the impact to Wisconsin students. Earlier this month, the department eliminated performance tasks for the English Language Arts assessment to reduce testing time by two and one-half hours. As many states implement new online assessments, these issues are not unique to Wisconsin. ETS has promised to complete its work on the test delivery engine and provide a test that works on April 13.

“We appreciate the state’s willingness to agree to ETS’s request for a two-week delay for Wisconsin’s Badger Exams. This extra time is necessary to enable us to conduct system testing so that we can ensure a valid and reliable assessment with high quality. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused by this change. We look forward to delivering the high quality assessment that the people of Wisconsin deserve,” said Walt MacDonald, president and CEO of ETS.

The Badger Exam 3-8 is Wisconsin’s summative assessment in English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 3-8 based on questions developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

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