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Release of Spring 2023-24 Statewide Assessment Data

PORT WASHINGTON, WI — The Port Washington-Sauville School District announces the release of Spring 2023-24 data from statewide assessments.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction released the spring 2023-24 statewide assessment results for the Wisconsin Forward Exam, ACT, PreACT Secure, and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) assessments. Performance data is available to the public through the [WISEdash portal](#).

These assessments play a vital role in measuring student performance in key academic areas, providing insights that help inform instructional practices and guide educational strategies in our district.

Key Assessment Details:

- **ACT:** A college readiness assessment administered to high school juniors, measuring academic skills needed for success in postsecondary education
- **PreACT Secure:** Offers students an early look at their potential ACT performance, helping to inform their academic paths
- **Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM):** Assesses students with significant cognitive disabilities, ensuring that all students have access to appropriate evaluation measures
- **Wisconsin Forward Exam:** Evaluates student proficiency in English Language Arts and Mathematics for grades 3-8, Science for grades 4 and 8, and Social Studies for grades 4, 8, and 10
 - Please note a few changes on the Forward exam from previous years. The performance categories (previously labeled as Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic) have been updated to: Advanced, Meeting, Approaching and Developing. Additionally, the benchmark cut scores (*these mark the boundaries between one category of performance and the next higher or lower category on the tests*) have also changed. As a result, students with similar scores to previous years may be placed in a higher category. The state cites multiple reasons for these changes. One main reason is that this current assessment is based on newly updated state ELA and Math standards. This means we cannot simply compare last year's results to this year's results because they are two different tests (using two different sets of standards/benchmarks). More information about these changes can be found on the DPI's website - [Forward Exam Data & Results](#).

Performance Highlights: As we release these results, we identify areas of growth and areas of need within our educational system:

- **Areas of Growth:**

- From elementary and middle school Forward data, we observed slight increases in ELA and math achievement. It is important to note that we are in year two of an elementary and middle school ELA curricular resource adoption. As we move to full implementation of the resource, we anticipate scores improving as all students engage in a more rigorous and standards-aligned curriculum.
- We celebrate increases in both ELA and math achievement in the high school assessment data on the PreACT and ACT.

- **Areas of Focus:**

- We recognize that math remains a key area of need in K-12 education. Leadership will prioritize a thorough analysis of our data, resources, and systematic plans to identify effective strategies for improving math achievement.
- We observed variation in student achievement across our elementary schools. To promote equitable outcomes for all students, we will focus on consistent implementation of resources and interventions across all buildings in our district.

The Port Washington-Saukville School District is dedicated to fostering an environment of continuous improvement in our schools. These assessment results provide valuable insights into student performance and help us identify both our successes and the areas where we need to focus our efforts to ensure all students can succeed. This information will support local efforts to enhance educational outcomes and inform strategies for future instruction.