

## **SDNB Test Scores Far Exceed State Results on New Exams**

*More than two-thirds of students proficient or advanced on ACT, English language arts and math*

New Berlin, Wis. – More than two-thirds of School District of New Berlin students in grades three to eight and grade 11 were proficient or advanced in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on spring 2015 state assessments, according to data released Wednesday by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

SDNB's districtwide proficient or advanced scores for ELA and math were about 16 and 24 percentage points higher, respectively, than the statewide scores on the Badger and Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Exams.

SDNB also scored far above the state on ACT exams, which for the first time, were taken by all 11<sup>th</sup> grade juniors. SDNB's juniors scored about 21 and 31 points higher than the state on proficient or advanced scores for ELA and math.

The ACT is scored on a scale of one to 36 and consists of five subject areas: English, mathematics, reading, writing and science. The ACT composite score for all SDNB juniors who took the March 2015 exam was 23.8, compared to the statewide composite score of 20. Broken down by high school, the composite ACT score was 24.5 at New Berlin Eisenhower and 23 at New Berlin West.

The favorable results cannot be compared to previous year's data because the exams were new, based on different standards and proficiency levels, and for some exams, given in spring instead of fall. The state Legislature also has voted to replace the Badger exam with a new assessment called the Forward Exam starting in spring 2016.

"We are heartened that the majority of our students tested in elementary, middle and high school are scoring proficient or advanced in English language arts and math," Superintendent Joe Garza said. "We will be studying the results, addressing areas for improvement and aligning them with our school improvement plans. These exams help us measure our collective work in ensuring every one of our students graduates ready for college and career."

### **ACT and DLM exams**

All juniors took the ACT or DLM in March 2015. The results:

- Districtwide, SDNB students were 66.9 percent proficient or advanced in ELA and 66.7 percent proficient or advanced in math, compared to statewide results of 45.7 percent in ELA and 43.7 percent in math.
- New Berlin Eisenhower students were 68.8 and 71.7 percent proficient or advanced in ELA and math, respectively. New Berlin West students were 65.3 and 61.7 percent proficient or advanced in ELA and math.

### **Badger and DLM exams**

Students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> at the elementary schools and in grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> at the middle schools took the Badger and DLM exams between March and May 2015. Those two exams, respectively, replaced the former

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) and Wisconsin Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities. The results:

- Districtwide, SDNB students were 67.1 percent proficient or advanced in ELA and 67.6 percent proficient or advanced in math, compared to statewide results of 51.2 percent in ELA and 43.7 percent in math.
- Elmwood Elementary students scored the highest in math – 37 percentage points higher than the state.
- New Berlin Eisenhower students scored the highest in ELA – 24.6 points higher than the state.
- Scores for individual SDNB schools ranged in proficient or advanced levels from 50.4 percent to 75.8 percent in ELA, and from 48.7 percent to 80.7 percent in math.
- New Berlin West’s scores (50.4 and 48.7 percent ELA and math proficient/advanced) were adversely impacted by West’s lower test participation, which is factored into the scores. Of West students who took the Badger Exam, 59.6 percent were proficient or advanced in ELA and 57.7 percent were proficient or advanced in math.

For more information on statewide results as well as the new Forward Exam, please see the state Department of Public Instruction releases at <http://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2016/state-results-for-badger-exam> and <http://dpi.wi.gov/news/releases/2016/statewide-act-assessment-opens-opportunities>.

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<b>Badger + DLM Results - Proficient or Advanced Percent</b>		
<b>Group</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>Math</b>
State - All Students	51.2	43.7
SDNB - All Students	67.1	67.6
Elmwood Elementary	74.8	80.7
Orchard Lane Elementary	70.4	78.2
Poplar Creek Elementary	60.9	61.2
Ronald Reagan Elementary	68.4	66.0
Eisenhower Middle/High	75.8	71.6
West Middle/High	50.4	48.7

<b>ACT + DLM Results - Proficient or Advanced Percent</b>		
<b>Group</b>	<b>ELA</b>	<b>Math</b>
State – All Juniors	45.7	35.9
Eisenhower Middle/High	68.8	71.7
West Middle/High	65.3	61.7
Eisenhower/West combined	66.9	66.7