

WISCONSIN KNOWLEDGE AND CONCEPTS EXAM

Description of the test:

The Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) is a federally mandated standardized assessment under the No Child Left Behind Act. It is administered once a year to 3rd through 8th and 10th grade students throughout the state of Wisconsin. In grades 4, 8, and 10 students are assessed in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, writing, and social studies. In grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 students are assessed in reading and mathematics. The tests consist of multiple choice questions and open ended questions that require a student to explain their reasoning.

Why is the test given?

The WKCE is a required accountability assessment. It is designed to provide information about how schools, districts, and the state are progressing towards the attainment of state standards.

Who participates in the test?

Participation is required by all students enrolled in the School District of Waukesha. A small percentage of students with significant cognitive disabilities are excused from this assessment and participate in the Wisconsin Alternate Assessment for Students with Disabilities.

When are the results available?

This assessment is administered in the fall. Test booklets for all Wisconsin students are sent to a scoring facility in early December. The results are returned to districts in late Spring.

How are the results used?

- In the School District of Waukesha, student results are used to examine trends in achievement over time. This includes:
 - Examining overall student performance by various subgroups
 - Examining student performance on specific objectives over time
 - Periodically reviewing specific test items to guide professional development with content area teachers
- The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction uses results to monitor individual school and districts attainment of the state standards.
- The US Department of Education uses results to monitor the performance of Wisconsin public schools.

How are the results communicated to the community?

All students receive a student performance report which is mailed home in late spring. A summary of the School District of Waukesha performance is available here. The results of all public schools are available at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website <http://data.dpi.state.wi.us/data/selschool.asp>