

TO: Members, Assembly Education Committee

FROM: Daniel Henderson, Project Manager

DATE: December 5, 2023

RE: AB 652 - Remote proctoring of certain pupil assessments.

Thank you for your consideration. The Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS) has no position on AB-652. But we urge the committee to consider some of the following points.

As you may know, WCRIS represents over 600 private schools and over 100,000 students in K-12 schools across the state. About two-thirds of those schools utilize the choice programs to carry out their mission of expanding access to the education they provide.

Schools enrolling more than 19 Choice students are required to administer the Forward Exam to choice students. Although it's not required of the non-choice schools, some of these schools utilize the Forward Exam as an assessment tool.

WCRIS has worked to ensure equitable access to the Forward Exam. Our efforts have allowed private schools to acquire the exam at a reduced rate close to the public school cost.

Giving freedom to schools to choose how the Forward Exam is administered is always appreciated. We want to ensure that the intent of AB 652 is accomplished.

Therefore, we want to propose the following considerations that may need to be addressed to ensure the bill operates as intended:

1. While the bill addresses the concern of monitoring students during the exam with video observations, how can a school ensure that a device or someone is not off camera providing aid? Current DPI test security training states that all instructional material needs to be off the walls, and that non-essential personnel and families vacate the room. Unless the proctor is able to view 360 degrees of the room, the student could have notes behind the camera.
2. How will the school handle situations where a student's camera feed fails or stops working? Is the test invalid? Will new tests have to be paid for?

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Associate Members

PHONE
(608) 287-1224

E-MAIL
wcris.staff@wcris.org

WEBSITE
www.wcris.org

ADDRESS
110 East Main Street
Suite 802
Madison, WI 53703

3. Should there be a proctor-to-student ratio limit? Can we ensure that a proctor can monitor the video feed of every student of various resolutions because of internet connection differences? It may be feasible to monitor two or three students, but can a proctor effectively monitor 20 students at once?
4. We must remember that today's students are digital natives, are already trying to use artificial intelligence (AI), and are extremely savvy when it comes to technology. How will we ensure that students don't exploit or take advantage of being tested in a virtual environment?
5. Because the exam is a standard point of reference, how can we ensure that the environments that students are tested in are conducive to test taking. In-person examination allows school staff to create uniform and distraction-free environments.
6. Should the proctor be required to have a certain level of educational attainment?
7. Special needs students are often given accommodations for testing. How is this to be navigated to keep the results uniform?
8. Finally, we urge the committee to check to see if the state's license and contract with the testing company allow for the test to be administered in a virtual environment.

We encourage you to consider these points before advancing AB 652.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if WCRIS can be of additional service.