



**Waterloo Community Unit School District No. 5  
Grades 6-12 Curriculum Coordinator**

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DATE: February 23, 2026

TO: Mr. Brian Charron, Superintendent  
Board of Education

FROM: Mr. John Schmieg, Curriculum Coordinator

### **School Improvement**

All five buildings have been conducting needs assessments for the 2026-2027 school improvement plans. Waterloo Junior High School teacher leaders participated in a needs assessment on the February 13th SIP day. We will share the results with incoming principal Mr. North so that a plan can be created.

Four district-level administrators, including myself, visited Moline, Illinois, to observe their version of teacher learning walks. WCUSD #5 used to implement learning walks at the 6-12 grade levels before the pandemic. Learning walks is comprised of teachers and administrators that visit teacher's classrooms to observe and provide instructional feedback. It is a goal for this school improvement practice to return next year at all grades.

### **2026 State Testing Dates**

Did you know that Waterloo CUSD #5 has three ELL students? They are participating in a statewide assessment called the WIDA ACCESS Test. Students are assessed in listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Like all state assessment data, the schools and teachers use the data to determine what interventions, resources, or changes in curriculum may be needed to address any student performing below grade-level standards.

- **2026 State Testing Dates:**

1. Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR): Grades 3-8 ELA and Math online testing window: March 2, 2026 (earliest) - April 17, 2026 (last day to test)
2. Illinois Assessment of Science (ISA): Grade 5 and 8 online testing window: March 2, 2026 (earliest) – April 30, 2026 (latest)
3. ACT with Essay: Grade 11 Primary Test Date: Several testing windows available, but one has not been chosen yet:
  - Tentatively April 16, 2026
4. PreACT for Grade 9 & 10: Several testing windows available, but one has not been chosen yet:
  - Tentatively April 16, 2026
5. KIDS (Kindergarten Individual Development Survey) – Fall – Around 40 days of Student Attendance (Completed for 2025-2026)
6. WIDA ACCESS for ELLs – English Language Learners Testing Window 1/14/26-3/3/26 (paper for K, online for grades 1-12)