WYOMING SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY -- THE 2013-14 HIGH SCHOOL EQUITY
INDICACTOR

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High School Consolidated Subgroup

Issue 30 of the *WDE Assessment Updates* informed schools in Wyoming that the high school
equity indicator for 2013-14 would include a consolidated subgroup. Current year (i.e., 2013-14)
grade 11 students were in grade 10 last year (i.e., 2012-13) when they were required to take the
PLAN test. Membership in the consolidated subgroup for high school will be based upon 2012-
13 PLAN test performance on the subject area tests of mathematics and reading. Students with
scaled scores below 17 on the mathematics subject area test and/or below 16 on the reading
subject area tests will be placed in the consolidated subgroup for their respective high schools.

High School Equity Score

The equity score at high schools will be the consolidated subgroup *mean* student *standardized
score* for the ACT subject area tests for reading and mathematics combined.

The school equity score will be computed as follows.

Step 1. State average scaled scores and standard deviations were computed for the ACT
subject area tests for mathematics and reading for a baseline year (i.e., the baseline year was
2013). **A baseline year was used because comparison against a current year state average
would result in a moving target that schools could only know after the fact. This comparison
against a baseline year provides a stable target that is known in advance.**

Step 2. For each student in the consolidated subgroup, a *standardized* score will be computed
that describes the extent that the student's scaled score differs from the baseline year state
mean scaled score expressed as a standard deviation unit (i.e., based upon the baseline year
standard deviation). Student standardized scores will be computed for both reading and math
for all consolidated subgroup students. An illustration of computing a student standardized
score for one student in one content area is illustrated in Table 1.

Table 1. Illustration of Student Standardized Score Computation for ACT Math Subject Area
Test.

Grade 11 ACT Mathematics				
Student A Current Scaled Score	Baseline Year State Mean Scaled Score	Baseline Year State Standard Deviation	Student Standardized Score Computation	Student Standardized Score
17	19.6	4.5	$\frac{(17 - 19.6)}{4.5}$	- .58

The student standardized score in Table 1 indicates the student performed 58% of a standard deviation below the baseline year state average.

Step 3. The mean (i.e., average) student standardized score for both content areas (i.e., reading and math) combined for all students in the consolidated subgroup will be identified.

The mean standardized score for the consolidated subgroup at the school will be multiplied by 100 and rounded to the nearest whole number and this will be the schools' *high school equity score*. If a school's mean score standardized student score was -.25, for example, the school's equity score would be -25. The consolidated subgroup at this school would have a mean score that was 25% of a standard deviation *below* the baseline year state mean for all students.