



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2012 - 163

**TO:** Superintendents & Building Principals

**FROM:** Deb Lindsey, Director of State Assessment

**DATE:** November 26, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Pilot of Smarter Balanced Assessment, Feb., 20 – May 10, 2013

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In 2010, the former WDE administration joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), along with 25 other states. In the past two years, SBAC and its primary management contractor, WestEd, has developed assessment blueprints, minimum technical specifications for on-line delivery, exemplar items for release, over a dozen RFPs and let multiple contracts for the work of the Consortium. The SBAC assessment is expected to be ready for implementation in the spring of 2015 for states that elect to participate. It will be an on-line assessment with a combination of computer-adaptive multiple choice items and performance tasks to cover the depth and breadth of the CCSS.

This week, SBAC formally announced opportunities for schools to participate in the first pilot of the new assessment during the window of February 20 – May 10, 2013. The purposes of the pilot are to collect data on item functioning, conduct preliminary scaling work, and test the on-line platform. SBAC will select a sample of schools from governing states (not advisory states like Wyoming) to participate based on pre-determined demographic criteria to ensure the pilot is conducted with a nationally representative sample.

In addition to this scientific pilot, SBAC has created a pilot option for interested volunteer schools to administer a released sample set of items during the second half of the window. This volunteer option allows school staff in all member states, including Wyoming, to gain greater exposure to the CCSS and the next generation assessment item types and formats. Interested schools must indicate their interest in volunteering for the Pilot by registering via an online survey located at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SmarterBalancedPilot>

Additional information regarding the pilot is on the attached communication from SBAC. We recognize that this pilot opportunity overlaps significantly with the windows for our existing state assessments; however, to the greatest extent possible, SBAC will schedule two week windows for participating schools within the time frame above to minimize overlap with state assessments.

If you are interested in learning more about SBAC, please visit the Smarter Balanced web page: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org>. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 777-8753 or via email at [deb.lindsey@wyo.gov](mailto:deb.lindsey@wyo.gov).