



WDE Assessment Updates

April 4, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 12

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WDE Summer Workshop Application

See the General Invitation letter (attached below) for information and participant application for WDE summer workshops. These workshops include item, bias, and data review and standard setting. We will make selections for these workshops around May 1st, so please let teachers know that applications are available.

Attention Jr. and Sr. High Special Education Teachers

See the Cut Score Validation Workshop letter (attached below) for information and participant application for the PAWS-ALT grades 9 and 10 cut score validation workshop. The workshop will be held May 19-21, 2014 at Little America in Cheyenne. Please note that May is right around the corner so we need interested folks to apply right away. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pari Swanson.

PAWS Shipping Notice

All PAWS materials should have been shipped back to ETS by now. Thanks for all of your hard work!

UPS Pickups

When returning materials for PAWS/SAWS/PAWS-ALT/SAWS-ALT, there should be no UPS service fee. If UPS requires a service fee to pick up your sites' materials please call ETS at: [877-327-9415](tel:877-327-9415). ETS will then schedule a pick-up with UPS on your behalf. ETS will email you a virtual label and UPS will be sent out to your site. To be sure you receive the emailed shipping label, make sure your inbox is able to receive email from all ".ets.org" email addresses.

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SAWS DFA: Correction on Page 12

Test administrators may not read the test questions (prompts) to students unless they are students with disabilities and read-aloud is an accommodation specified in their IEP or 504 plan. You can find this in the second to the last row under "When Students Ask You to Read the Prompt to Them."

SAWS PPT Training Slides

Slides can be found at the following link: <https://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/materials/>

All test administrators must be trained and must sign the security agreement on page 39 of the Directions for Administration.

SAWS Prompt #3

When students in grades 5 and 7 start on the third item (prompt) in the SAWS test booklet, each student will have a different item type. For each item type, there is an associated scoring guide; before your students begin writing on the third and final prompt, walk around the room and make sure they have the correct scoring guide open. The correct scoring guide is indicated by form number at the beginning of section three in the scoring guide booklet. Do a visual check to make sure each student's item matches the open scoring guide.

ACT Explore and ACT Plan Test Materials

As dates for ACT Explore, ACT Plan, ACT Plus Writing, ACT WorkKeys and ACT Compass approach we would like to highlight some valuable resources:

[ACT Wyoming State Testing Website](#)

ACT Explore/ACT Plan

Customer Service Number: 1-877-789-2925

[Administration Training Webcast](#)

Please be sure to inventory your materials. Below are supplemental order forms

- ◆ [ACT Explore Supplemental Order Form](#)
- ◆ [ACT Plan Supplemental Order Form](#)

ACT Plus Writing/ACT WorkKeys

Customer Service Number: 1-800-553-6244 Ext. 2800

Accommodations Number: 1-800-553-6244 Ext. 1788

Training Webcast for administrators and proctors can be found at the following location:
<http://www.act.org/aap/wyoming/act.html>

ACT Compass

Customer Service Number: 1-800-645-1992

The ACT Compass is an optional assessment available to seniors. It will be administered this year using the same format as last year. For more details about setting up workstations, please visit:

<http://www.act.org/compass/tech/techpages/InternetInstallGuide.html>

Reminder ACT WorkKeys Testing for 2014

WorkKeys is optional for both juniors and seniors again this year. The testing dates are the same as last year. The initial date is April 24 with a make-up date of May 8. If you have further questions about ordering or other logistical information please call ACT General Inquiries at 1-800-553-6244 ext. 2800.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| April 4 | -- All PAWS materials must be sent to ETS |
| April 14 - May 2 | -- SAWS, Explore, Plan and Compass testing window |
| April 23 | -- ACT test |

March 24, 2014

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to apply for consideration to participate in upcoming teacher committee workshops for the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). As a workshop panel member you will be joined by educators from around the state who will review test questions and test data and make suggestions that will guide the development of the state assessments.

Submission of this application does not constitute appointment as a panelist. Your application will be evaluated by the Wyoming Department of Education to determine if you meet the program's needs. If your application is approved, your name will be added to our contact list of potential participants. Formal invitations will be sent out by May 1, 2014 once we have had the opportunity to evaluate our level of need for each review, the number of interested participants available to fill that need, and our ability to select individuals to ensure balanced representation from schools and districts across the state. **This committee work is only open to those teachers currently employed in Wyoming school districts.**

Teacher Committee Workshops

Data Review – PAWS

Date: July 8, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

During Data Review, educators evaluate the performance of items that have been recently field-tested. Item performance will be evaluated based on level of difficulty, evidence of fairness across subgroups, ability to draw distinctions between students of differing overall ability levels, and distribution of responses to determine the overall effectiveness of item distracters. Suggestions made by Wyoming educators will provide a basis for eliminating items that do not function properly.

Item Review – PAWS

Date: July 9-11, 2014 - Reading and Math Item Review

July 9-10, 2014 - Science Item Review

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed test questions, also called items, prior to the items being field-tested. Teams of teachers will work with personnel from Educational Testing Service (ETS) and WDE to examine the quality of reading, mathematics, and science items to be field tested on the 2015 assessments. Review and evaluation of these items requires the academic content knowledge and expertise of educators.

Item Review - SAWS

Date: July 9-11, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed test prompts, also called items, prior to the items being field-tested. Teams of teachers will work with personnel from ETS and WDE to examine the quality of writing prompts to be field tested on the 2015 assessment. Review and evaluation of these prompts requires the academic content knowledge and expertise of educators.

Bias and Sensitivity Review – PAWS and SAWS

Date: July 9 – 10, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

Wyoming educators will have the opportunity to work with ETS to evaluate items for fairness and sensitivity prior to being field tested on the 2015 assessments. This panel will focus on reviewing items for potential bias against, and/or sensitivity of subject to, various demographic subgroups. Since the bias and sensitivity review is not a review of the item subject matter content, panelists will be expected to review items from a variety of subject areas and grades. Regional and demographic sub-group representation is especially important for this panel, including educators who work with special education students

PAWS and SAWS Standard Setting

Reading and Writing Standard Setting

Dates: July 15-17, 2014

Location: Little America Hotel, Cheyenne, WY

Mathematics Standard Setting

Dates: July 21-23, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

For this workshop we need educators with experience teaching reading, writing or mathematics in grades 3-8. Curriculum and administration personnel are welcome to apply.

In June 2012, Wyoming adopted new standards in English/language arts and math. The grades 3-8 PAWS and SAWS have been revised and are aligned to measure student performance relating to the 2012 Wyoming Content and Performance Standards (WCPS). Two standard setting workshops will be held in July, during which educators will review the standards, assessments and student performance data, and recommend cut scores for reporting performance levels. Participation by a group of Wyoming educators, representative of regional and sub-group diversity, is critical to develop valid, meaningful cut scores. The workshop requires groups of educators (including district level personnel) with the following experience:

- Teaching reading, math or writing, at one or more grades, 3 through 8;
- Knowledge of the 2012 Wyoming Content Standards;
- Familiarity with the PAWS (reading or math) or SAWS tests

Data Review – SAWS

Date: August 8, 2014

Location: Little America Hotel, Cheyenne, WY

During Data Review, educators evaluate the performance of writing prompts/items that have been recently field - tested. Item performance will be evaluated based on level of difficulty, evidence of fairness across subgroups. Suggestions made by Wyoming educators will provide a basis for eliminating items that do not function properly.

For each of the above meetings, ETS will provide pre-paid hotel accommodations for those who need them. In addition, participants will be reimbursed for mileage and meals outside those provided during the meetings. Participants will also receive a \$250.00 per diem stipend for all meetings.

ETS will send separate official invitation letters for each specific meeting. If you are interested in applying to participate, please fill out and submit an application by clicking on the following link: <http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1685444-sydWlwidzK>

Please contact Ruth Sieger if you have any questions or need further information.

- E-mail: rsieger@ets.org
- Telephone: 609-683-2241
- Fax: 609-683-2300
- Mail: ETS, Rosedale Road, MS 33-L, Princeton, NJ 08541

Thank you for your support of the Wyoming Statewide Assessment Program.

Sincerely,
Ruth Sieger

March 24, 2014

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to apply for consideration to participate in the cut score validation workshop for PAWS-ALT Grades 9 and 10 for the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). If selected as a review panel member, you will be joined by educators from around the state reviewing materials such as test materials, standard setting materials, and Extended Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.

Your application will be evaluated by the Wyoming Department of Education to determine if you meet the program needs. If your application is approved, your name will be added to our contact list of potential participants. Formal invitations will be sent once we have the opportunity to evaluate our level of need for the panel, the number of interested participants available to fill that need, and our ability to select individuals to insure balanced representation from schools and districts across the state. **Submission of this application does not constitute appointment as a panelist.**

Cut-score Validation workshop for PAWS-ALT Grades 9 and 10

Date: May 19-21, 2014

Location: Little America Hotel, Cheyenne, WY

Need high school educators from Special Education and General Education

As of 2014, PAWS-ALT will be administered to students in grades 9 and 10. Statistically developed cut-scores for the PAWS-ALT grades 9 and 10 have been developed and will be reviewed by a WY educator panel. The task is to consider the Extended Wyoming Content and Performance Standards, PAWS-ALT tasks and scores, and standard setting materials, and to evaluate the appropriateness of the developed cut scores for grades 9 and 10.

The workshop requires experience with

- Students in grades 8 through 11 who have severe cognitive disabilities;
- Knowledge of the grade-level aligned Extended WY Standards (Grades 8 through 11);
- Knowledge and skills measured by PAWS-ALT in Reading, Math and/or Science; may have administered the PAWS-ALT.

In addition, educators are sought who are highly qualified in one of the following:

- Reading, Mathematics or Science

ETS will arrange meals during meeting times and will reimburse participants for mileage and meals outside those provided during the meetings. Please note: Since participants won't be expected to complete assignments outside of the regular work day, stipends will not be provided. **Districts will need to provide substitutes for those attending the workshop.**

ETS will send official invitation letters for this meeting. If you are interested in applying to participate, please fill out and submit an application by clicking on the following link: <http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1703417-sydWlwidzK>

Please contact Ruth Sieger if you have any questions or need further information.

- E-mail: rsieger@ets.org
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Thank you for your support of the Wyoming Statewide Assessment Program.

Sincerely,
Ruth Sieger