



# WDE Assessment Updates

May 3, 2013

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### Preliminary State Testing Dates, Spring 2014

WDE staff has established preliminary state testing dates for 2014, but before we finalize them, we'd like your feedback. Send your feedback on the dates below to [stephen.marsh@wyo.gov](mailto:stephen.marsh@wyo.gov). Thanks!

PAWS-ALT:	Feb 17 – March 28
PAWS:	March 3 – 28
SAWS/SAWS-ALT	April 14 – May 2
ACT:	April 23
	May 7 (make-up)
PLAN/EXPLORE	April 21 – May 2

For the COMPASS, we will establish a fall window in addition to one more. We'll be meeting with IHE representatives as well as some curriculum directors to discuss specifics.

### Resources for Implementing the CCSS

The Council of the Great City Schools has developed a suite of video tools that help introduce the public to the Common Core State Standards, equip teachers with a deeper level of understanding of how the standards will affect teaching and learning, and provide parents with a step-by-step guide for what their children will be learning in K-8. Videos and tools include:

- ◆ A three-minute [PSA video](#) (in English and Spanish) that illustrates how the new state standards will establish milestones for students at each grade level, and how these standards will help students graduate college- and career-ready.
- ◆ A series of 45-minute professional development videos for educators and teachers on how to implement the Common Core in [mathematics](#) and [English language arts/literacy](#).
- ◆ Parent roadmaps to the Common Core for [mathematics](#) and [English language arts/literacy](#). These roadmaps show parents what their children will be learning and how they can support that learning in grades K-8 and high school.

### Important Upcoming Dates:

- May 3 -- EXPLORE, PLAN, COMPASS Windows Close
- May 7 -- SAWS Window Closes
- May 10 -- SAWS-ALT Window Closes

**Smarter Balanced Practice Test Available in Late May**

Due to the overwhelming demand for access to the Volunteer Pilot assessment from principals, teachers, parents, and the public, Smarter Balanced has decided to release a more complete and more broadly available “practice test” instead of the Volunteer Pilot. Like the planned Volunteer Pilot, the Practice Test will allow students to experience items that look and function like those found on the Scientific Pilot. The Practice Test will also include performance tasks (not previously planned for the Volunteer Pilot), and will be constructed to follow a test blueprint similar to the blueprint intended for the operational test. With the Practice Test, teachers will be able to construct simulated assessment events for their students. Additionally, online access to the Practice Test will not require a unique username and password, meaning that schools and districts can use the Practice Test for professional development activities and for discussions with parents, policymakers, and other interested stakeholders.

The Practice Test will provide:

- ◆ administrators and parents with access to items planned and designed for the new assessment;
- ◆ students with access to the tests over the summer, with the Practice Test being accessible right up to the rollout of the operational assessment
- ◆ a full array of item types, including performance tasks;
- ◆ versions supporting several accommodations:
  - Text-to-speech
  - Item-level pop-up Spanish glossaries for construct-irrelevant terms (mathematics only)
  - Braille
  - American Sign Language (ASL)

The Practice Test will be available through part of next school year, until the Field Test in the spring.