



WDE Assessment Updates

Volume 1, Issue 17

May 13, 2013

2013-14 State Testing Dates: Final

The calendar for statewide assessments in the 2013-14 school year is as follows:

ACCESS for ELLs: January 20 – February 24, 2014

PAWS-ALT: Feb 17 – March 28, 2014

PAWS: March 3 – 28, 2014

SAWS/SAWS-ALT: April 14 – May 2, 2014

ACT: April 23, 2014 (May 7, 2014 make-up)

PLAN/EXPLORE/COMPASS: April 14 – May 2, 2014

For the COMPASS, we will also establish a fall window in addition to the spring one. After we get feedback from IHE representatives as well as some curriculum directors, we'll publish the fall window.

For the **MAP**, WDE expects that schools will select testing dates within the fall and spring norm windows established by NWEA. According to the NWEA website, these test windows are as follows:

Fall: 8/15 - 11/30

Spring: 3/1 - 6/15

Please plan your school schedules for the 2013-14 school year with these statewide testing dates in mind.

ACT Upcoming Training

Join us this week for a three hour workshop where ACT and WDE staff will assist you in interpreting the varied reports received as a part of your use of EXPLORE and PLAN and the ACT. We will walk you through a student individual report and share with you best practices for reviewing with both students and parents as well as explain interpretation of your school/district level profile summary reports, item summary analysis reports and early intervention rosters. ACT and WDE are dedicated to not only helping you to understand the data but to offering you best practices for implementation and use at your school.

Locations:

May 14th: Rock Springs – RSC 1005 Lecture Hall – 9a-12p

May 15th: Cody – Park County Building (1501 Stampede Ave.) – 9a-12p

May 16th: Casper – University of Wyoming Extension Building – 9a-12p

Please contact Jessica Steinbrenner (Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov) or Heidi Nelson (Heidi.nelson@act.org) for additional information.

Alternate Standards Expansion Meeting - June 11-14, 2013

We are still in need of participants for this important work. We have a specific need for general education teachers who have experience working with students with significant cognitive disabilities in their classroom. Also, we would love to have a few middle and high school language arts and mathematics teachers. Please contact Pari Swanson via email at pari.swanson@wyo.gov by Wed. May 15th if you are interested. The meetings will be in Cheyenne, WY at Little America.

-Deb Lindsey-
777-8753

-Steve Marsh-
777-3498

-Tammy Schroeder-
777-3618

-Jessica
Steinbrenner-
777-8568

-Pari Swanson-
777-5292

-Will Donkersgoed-
777-5133

- Robin Holbrook -
777-5217

-Bailey Anthony-
777-5296

Inside this issue:

Smarter **2 - 3**
Balanced
Assessment
Consortium
(SBAC)
Updates

More Resources **3**
for CCSS
Implementation

Return of ACT **4**
Materials

COMPASS **4**
Extended
Window

From CEC: **4**
Councils for
Exceptional
Children
Webinar Series

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Update - Pilot and Practice Tests

Schools from Governing SBAC states across the country are finishing up the spring Pilot Test. Administered from February through May 2013, the Pilot Test is allowing the Consortium to evaluate, under real-world conditions, the performance both of assessment items and of the online test delivery system. Results of the Pilot Test will shape the development of the items and the test delivery software for the Field Test, scheduled for spring 2014.

The Pilot Test included 5,000 assessment items and performance tasks developed in 2012 with the help of K-12 teachers and higher education faculty from Smarter Balanced Governing States. Smarter Balanced will use information from the Pilot Test to:

- ◆ Conduct technical analyses on the stability of the reporting scales SBAC intends to use;
- ◆ Evaluate the performance and ease-of-use of the testing software;
- ◆ Review the effectiveness of the online tools and student supports, ensuring that they provide improved access to the assessment for all students, as intended;
- ◆ Analyze assessment items and tasks to make sure they are free from bias;
- ◆ Explore different scoring options for the open-response questions; and
- ◆ Look closely at how well the performance tasks are working, where students apply their knowledge and skills in math and ELA to solve real-world problems.

Essentially, the Pilot is focused on the items and the delivery system. In a way, this is a “test of the test,” not a test of the students.

As we previously announced in the Assessment Newsletter, the leadership of SBAC decided to forgo the planned Volunteer pilot this spring in favor of a more open and flexible Practice Test. The Practice Test will be released on May 29, available to the public online, allowing teachers, parents, and students across the country to experience next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core for the first time. Although we know that the timing is too late for this school year, we encourage schools, staff, and parents to go online (smarterbalanced.org) to experience the assessment between the end of May and into the fall and winter of the 2013-14 school year. The Practice Test will be available until shortly before next year’s Field Test in the spring. The rollout of the Practice Test also provides clear evidence that the work of Smarter Balanced is on track and on time.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Deb at 777-8753.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Update - PowerPoint Now Available

At the request of Curriculum Directors across the state, we are providing for district use the PowerPoint presentation delivered to the State Board and the Select Committee at their meetings in Casper last week. You may add your own logo, add district-specific information, or revise to meet the needs of your particular audiences. The intent is to share factual information with others about the attributes of the SBAC system. Please find the ppt on our SBAC site:

http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/statewide_assessment_system/smarter-balanced-assessment.aspx

Questions? Call Deb at 777-8753.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Update - Technology Readiness Tool

Now to the important question, “How easy will it be for all the schools and districts in Wyoming to deliver the SBAC summative and interim assessments and to access the digital library materials?”

To answer this critical question, we need your help. SBAC has developed an online survey tool that gives schools a convenient way to capture and report on the indicators of your school/district’s technology readiness for the new online assessments. Results from the survey, called the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT), will help us work with schools and districts to ensure state-wide readiness when the online assessments are launched in the beginning in the 2014/15 school year.

The TRT assesses current capacity and compares that to the technology that will be needed to administer the new-generation online assessments in four areas:

1. Computers & other devices
2. Ratio of devices to test-takers
3. Network and infrastructure
4. Personnel (staffing & training)

Completion of the Technology Readiness Tool is probably best carried out by the district or school IT staff. In order to make the job of completing the survey easy, SBAC has developed training for the TRT, available here: http://techreadiness.org/t/TRT_2013_02-14/launch.html

Other support resources are available here: <http://techreadiness.org/r/Resources/>

In order to complete the survey, the IT directors will need a username and password. We will communicate directly with the IT directors listed on the Fusion website later this week, explaining how to access the survey. Please notify the IT directors in your district so that they watch for this email.

If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please contact Steve Marsh, the Wyoming State Readiness Coordinator (SRC) at 777-3498 or stephen.marsh@wyo.gov.

More Resources for CCSS Implementation

The Student Achievement Partners website has recently been upgraded and now includes:

- ◆ New resources in ELA/literacy and mathematics including additional Common Core–aligned materials and resources for struggling students;
- ◆ Essential actions for school and district leaders, accompanied by CCSS-aligned tools and resources;
- ◆ Two new professional development modules including PowerPoints, videos, facilitator’s instructions, and hands-on activities;
- ◆ Evidence guides for instructional practice, designed as developmental tools, that provide specific guidance for what the CCSS for ELA/literacy and mathematics look like in planning and practice; and
- ◆ Information on how educators can support the Common Core beyond their school communities.

Visit the Student Achievement Partners’ upgraded website here (www.achievethecore.org).

Return of Material

Congratulations! Testing for the EXPLORE, PLAN, and ACT Plus Writing is now finished. If you have yet to send back your ACT Suite materials, please do so today. Delays in returning materials lead to delays in receiving scores. Please return your materials for scoring promptly!

COMPASS Extended Window

After some feedback from the field, it has been determined that the COMPASS Administration window will be extended through the month of May and will close the afternoon of May 31st. After May 31st, the COMPASS assessment will no longer be available through the state until the beginning of the next school year. Thank you to all of the schools who are working to ensure our students have every opportunity to succeed.

From CEC: Councils for Exceptional Children Webinar Series

New assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), now in final development and testing, will be ready for use in the 2014-15 school year. This three-part webinar series will give you a fundamental understanding of the major approaches to CCSS assessment and how you can begin to prepare for the transition. Find out how these tests are being developed, how they will be introduced and how they approach assessment for special education students.

Tuesday, May 14 (4-5 p.m. ET) [PARCC and Smarter Balanced Consortium Approaches](#)

Magda Chia, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
Tamara Reavis, Achieve

Tuesday, May 28 (4-5 p.m. ET) [Alternate Assessments for the CCSS](#)

Neal Kinston, Dynamic Learning Maps Consortium
Rachel Quenemoen, National Center and State Collaborative

Thursday, May 30 (4-5 p.m. ET) [English Language Proficiency Assessments and the CCSS](#)

Carsten Wilmes, World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment
Scott Norton, Council of Chief State School Officers