



WDE Assessment Updates

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium -- Technology

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-Deb Lindsey-
777-8753

-Tammy Schroeder-
777-3618

-Jessica
Steinbrenner-
777-8568

-Pari Swanson-
777-5292

-Will Donkersgoed-
777-5133

-Bailey Anthony-
777-5296

As you know, Wyoming is an advisory member of SBAC. While it's not certain we will be implementing the Consortium's assessment in the spring 2015, we plan to continue to keep you informed as the assessment develops. On December 4, SBAC released a technology planning framework for member states preparing to implement the assessment system in the 2015-15 school year. The framework provides minimum hardware specifications and basic bandwidth calculations that will allow schools and districts to evaluate which of their existing devices will support the administration of next-generation assessments.

Users will be able to go to the bandwidth checker, choose a test (mathematics or English language arts), and then enter the number of students who will be testing at one time. The bandwidth checker is hosted at <https://sbac.tds.airast.org/networkdiag/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?section=sectionDiagnostics>. It can be run using modern versions of Mozilla Firefox on computers with Windows, OS X, or Linux operating systems; Safari on tablets using the iOS operating system; and Chrome on tablets using the Android operating system. The bandwidth checker cannot be accessed using Internet Explorer.

SBAC estimates that the majority of schools will be able to successfully administer the assessments with their existing infrastructure. The full Technology Strategy Framework and Systems Requirements Specifications report can be accessed at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarterbalanced-assessments/technology/>.

I encourage you to share the framework with appropriate staff and to begin evaluating the suitability of existing computers for the Smarter Balanced assessment system in the event Wyoming adopts the assessments for implementation in the 2014-15 school year. If you have any questions, please contact Deb at 307-777-8753.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium -- Spring 2013 Pilot

In November, 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. As noted in the WDE's November Memorandum to Superintendents, SBAC has created a pilot option for interested volunteer schools to administer a released sample set of items during the second half on 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>. If you are interested, you must indicate your interest via this survey no later than March 26th.

We recognize that this pilot opportunity overlaps significantly with the windows for our existing state assessments; if you'd rather not try to juggle these simultaneous assessments, please know that you can find released SBAC items in both literacy and mathematics here: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>.

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NAEP Updates

Click [here](#) for information about the Wyoming State Assessment.

2013 NAEP assessment window opens next week (Monday, January 28th) and runs through March 8. NAEP pre-assessment or planning meetings have been conducted at schools during January as a preparation step prior to the window's opening.

A major focus in planning meetings has been to ensure that as many of our state's students with disabilities and students who are English language learners as possible are included in NAEP testing. High inclusion rates lend credibility to Wyoming's grade four and eight NAEP results, and are in keeping with Wyoming's *Equality State* motto.

Some key points:

- ◆ Nearly all accommodations allowable on PAWS are also available to students with disabilities and students who are English language learners on NAEP,
- ◆ As a result, all students assessed on the general PAWS—with or without accommodations—should be *included* in NAEP testing,
- ◆ Students taking the PAWS-ALT, however, should be *excluded* from NAEP,
- ◆ Keep in mind that a “read aloud” accommodation, beyond clarification of assessment directions, is not allowable on PAWS reading tests—nor is it allowed on NAEP reading. Therefore, need for a “read aloud-all” accommodation is neither a valid rationale nor criterion for excluding students on NAEP's reading assessment.

Please contact Will Donkersgoed at william.donkersgoed@wyo.gov or (307) 777-5133 if you any questions or concerns regarding this year's NAEP in your school or district. Thank you!

Click [here](#) for key dates, training links, and other helpful information regarding the ACT Suite of assessments.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| NOW | -- ACT training webcast available online |
| | -- Test Order Management System (TOMS) open for demographic updates and additional ordering |
| | -- Applications for ACT Approved Accommodations due |
| January 28 | -- PAWS-ALT/SAWS-ALT building coordinator training and PAWS/SAWS building coordinator training available at: http://wcportal.sdcoe.net/v_h.asp |
| January 29 | -- 3 p.m. Q&A webinar sessions for ACT administration |
| February 12 | -- 3 p.m. REPEAT Q&A webinar sessions for ACT administration |
| March 12 | -- 3 p.m. Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE |
| March 14 | -- 1 p.m. REPEAT Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE |

Training for the Alternate Assessment (PAWS-ALT & SAWS-ALT)

Everyone who administers and/or is the second scorer for the Alternate Assessment needs to be trained and qualified. The training site <https://wy.ziptrain.com/> is open and will remain open throughout the entire testing window. Remember that once you have passed the proficiency test with 80% or better, you will print out the certificate and retain for your records.

Once again, we have a great group of Qualified Trainers that are available to districts and schools for questions and support. Below are the names, email addresses and district assignments:

Stephanie Wodhl	swodahl@acsd1.org	Albany1, BOCES 5, Carbon 1, Platte 1&2
Shannon Brow	sbrow@platte1.k12.wy.us	Big Horn 1,2,3,4
Shelly Noble	nobles@laramie1.org	Campbell 1, Laramie 1,2, Niobrara 1
Cathy Hansen	chansen@uinta1.com	Converse 1,2, Uinta 1,4,6, Goshen 1
Lani Giessinger	giessinger1@uinta4.com	Fremont 1,2,6,14,21,24, Sheridan 1,2,3 Sublette 1,9
Kay Cranney	kcranney@lcsd2.org	Fremont 25, 38 Weston 1,7, Crook 1, Lincoln 1,2
Katie Harmon	wengerk@sw2.k12.wy.us	Hot Springs 1, Park 1,6,16
Kristi Borchardt	borchak@sw2.k12.wy.us	Carbon 2, Sweetwater 1,2 Teton 1
Cindy Collins	c_collins@mac.com	Johnson 1, Natrona 1, Washakie 1,2

Please feel free to contact your trainer for any questions or concern you may have. If you would like for the trainer to contact your teachers (especially the new ones), drop them a note with contact information. Also, feel free to contact Pari Swanson at any time (307-777-5292).

Reminders

- ◆ TOMS – Check site to verify demographics, add/delete students, add accommodations, and order additional materials. <http://wyedu.ets.org/>
- ◆ Building Test Coordinator Training – Recorded copies of the PAWS, SAWS, and ALT will be available for viewing on 1/29/13. <http://wyedu.ets.org/> You can find them under Training.
- ◆ Exemptions – The form for exemptions is available for download. <http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataInformationAndReporting/DataCollectionSuite.aspx>. Look for more information soon regarding 9th, 10th and 12th graders who meet the criteria for Alternate assessment.
- ◆ Accommodations – Please pay close attention to the differences between IEP/504 and EL when adding accommodations.