



WDE Assessment Updates

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Hello and happy summer from the Assessment team at WDE! We email this newsletter to principals, district assessment coordinators, school assessment coordinators, superintendents, and special education coordinators. Feel free to forward to others in your district. This edition of our newsletter highlights some important upcoming dates, especially related to the ACT and the SBAC Technology Readiness Tool.

Below is the assessment calendar we first shared with you on May 3rd. As always, if you have questions, don't hesitate to call us.

Wyoming State Assessment Calendar, 2013-14

| Grade | PAWS Mar 3 - 28 | PAWS- ALT Feb 17 - Mar 28 | SAWS Apr 14 - May 2 | SAWS- ALT Apr 14 - May 2 | ACCESS for ELLS Jan 20 - Feb 24 | ACCESS -ALT for ELLS Jan 20 - Feb 24 | EXPLORE Apr 14 - May 2 | PLAN Apr 14 -May 2 | ACT Plus Writing Apr 23 (May 7) | WorkKeys Apr 24 (May 8) Tentative | COMPASS Oct 7-25 & April 14 - May 2 |
|-------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| K | | | | | x | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | x | x | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | x | x | | | | | |
| 3 | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | |
| 4 | x | x | | | x | x | | | | | |
| 5 | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | |
| 6 | x | x | | | x | x | | | | | |
| 7 | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | | | |
| 8 | x | x | | | x | x | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | x | x | x | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | x | x | | x | | | |
| 11 | | x | | x | x | x | | | x | TBD | |
| 12 | | | | | x | x | | | | TBD | x |

Here is a friendly reminder of some valuable resources available:

Wyoming Department of Education State Assessment page: http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/Statewide_Assessment_System.aspx

This page provides general information about state assessments and links to more detailed information about those assessments, training materials, and updates.

Some of the resources available in the left hand menu are as follows:

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- ◆ Statewide Assessment Schedule – Assessment dates are listed here along with their respective grades.
- ◆ Building Coordinators' Corner – This page houses information for Building Test Coordinators, primarily our newsletters.
- ◆ The ACT Suite page provides information about the ACT suite of assessments. Also linked to this page is the
 - State of Wyoming ACT Testing Site: <http://www.act.org/aap/wyoming/> This site contains information provided by ACT about the assessments they provide Wyoming.
 - COMPASS Administrative Log In Site: <https://compass.act.org/eCompass/index.jsp>
- ◆ Smarter Balanced Assessment – You can find quarterly updates about this assessment along with other valuable information.

ACT Principal Verification

To begin the process of preparing for this year's ACT, principals will receive a Principal Verification Letter in the mail and via email. Please be sure to respond promptly to ACT with this information.

Establishment Packets/Text Accommodations Materials

The next step in preparations for the ACT will take place the week of September 30 when high school principals receive Test Center Establishment Packets. At that time, District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) will be provided with a link to the Wyoming State Testing site that allows them to access PDF copies of these materials. Included in the packets will be instructions to appoint a Test Supervisor, Back-up Test Supervisor, and Test Accommodations Coordinator, as well as information to distribute to appointed testing staff.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: General Update

In May, both the State Board of Education and the Select Committee approved the change in status for Wyoming in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium – advisory to governing state. And, on July 25, Governor Mead signed the MOU with SBAC to become a governing state. Since only governing states have a vote in important matters of the Consortium, and since only governing states have the opportunity for significant educator involvement in the assessment, this is an important step for us. Assuming both the SBAC Executive Committee and USED approve of the change, Wyoming will formally become a governing state before the start of the new school year.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Practice Tests

Have you gone to the SBAC Practice Test website to try out some of the items? If not, we strongly encourage you to do so; this gives you and your students an opportunity to experience first-hand the new item types, the increased rigor of the content, the user interface, and the technology enhancements made possible via online delivery. http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Practice_Test/

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium: Technology Readiness

Near the end of last school year, we released the SBAC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) to district technology coordinators, asking them to complete the TRT by June 14th. The SBAC snapshot of data inputted into the TRT was taken in mid-June and will be published by the Consortium this fall. Given the very short turnaround time, combined with many other end-of-year reporting requirements, fewer than half the districts were able to complete the project. *Many thanks to those of you who were able to complete the TRT by June 14th!*

Because we have an obligation to report to the State Board and the Select Committee on the feasibility of various assessment options for 2015, data regarding the technology capacity of each district is key. Therefore, we are now communicating with all of the district technology coordinators/chiefs of information and technology listed in Fusion who have not yet submitted their data. All districts are to have a fully completed TRT by August 15th. Remember, this information will not only be useful for SBAC and the WDE, but it will also be helpful for districts; you can contrast your current capacity with the minimum and recommended specifications for successful SBAC implementation.

If you have questions about the TRT, please contact Steve Marsh at Stephen.Marsh@wyo.gov or 777-3498 (office) or 274-6060 (cell).

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Week of July 29 -- ACT Principal Verification Letters to principals
- Aug. 15 - Nov. 30 -- Fall MAP Window
- Week of Sep. 30 -- ACT Test Center Establishment Packets out to schools
- Oct. 7 - 25 -- Fall COMPASS Window