



WDE Assessment Updates

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Smarter Balanced Assessment Professional Development Opportunities

Becoming a governing state in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) has a number of benefits, including the opportunity for Wyoming educators to participate in professional development activities associated with the assessment. Currently, WDE staff is working on two projects that will include Wyoming teachers:

Smarter Balanced Item Writing: WDE will select 24 ELA and 24 mathematics teachers to write items that will appear on the SBAC field test. Teachers will receive training from WDE on selecting stimuli (ELA), reviewing SBAC item specifications and targets, and writing the types of items that will appear on the SBAC test. Two item writing sessions will take place in Casper, one in November and one in early December. Teachers will receive a stipend for attending after hours training sessions. WDE will apply for PTSB credit. Please contact Bailey Anthony at bailey.anthony@wyo.gov if you would like to nominate educators (teachers, instructional facilitators, or district level curriculum staff) from your district to participate. Please remember that we will be selecting educators from across the state, so not everyone nominated will be selected. Nominations must be submitted by Sept. 6, 2013.

State Network of Educators: Smarter Balanced Digital Library of Tools and Resources for Formative Assessment:

WDE will be selecting approximately 60 educators to participate in the State Network of Educators (SNE). Participants in this project will help develop the Smarter Balanced Digital Library, an online collection of professional learning and instructional resources, focused on classroom-based assessment resources that teachers can use as they implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Providing teachers with formative assessment tools and resources is an integral component of the Smarter Balanced assessment system, which also includes a year-end summative assessment and optional interim assessments. The Digital Library will focus on the classroom-based formative assessment processes and will contain differentiated resources aligned to the CCSS for educators with varying interests and professional learning needs. These resources are to include a series of assessment literacy modules and exemplar instructional modules in ELA/literacy and mathematics. In addition, the library will include professional learning and instructional materials contributed by SNEs. The library will be interactive, allowing users to rate materials and to share their expertise with educators across their own states or across the country.

SNE members will gain valuable knowledge, skills, and experience in evaluating and selecting materials that align with the Smarter Balanced assessment targets and the CCSS. Training will be via webinars, and participants will receive a stipend as goals of the project are met. WDE will apply for PTSB credit. If you are interested in participating in the SNE, please email Bailey Anthony at bailey.anthony@wyo.gov.

If you have questions about these projects, please contact Tammy Schroeder at tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov.

CCSSO Hosts Webinar Entitled Back to School: Engaging Parents about Common Core

With many students either back in school or getting ready to go back, CCSSO will be hosting a “Back to School” themed webinar a week from today on Monday, August 26th at 3pm ET. You can register for the webinar [here](#).

This webinar will provide state education agencies with helpful information on reaching out to parents about the changes Common Core is bringing to their children’s classrooms. Lee Ann Kendrick from the national Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Sharon Whitworth of the Kentucky 15th District PTA will present about resources created and tactics used to engage, educate, and reach out to parents about the Common Core.

Parent engagement is a vital step in successful Common Core implementation. As more and more students experience the shifts of Common Core in the classroom, states need to be sure that parents are engaged and knowledgeable about these changes. With the new Common Core aligned assessments a school year away from being used in many states, preparing parents for the difference in rigor and scores is absolutely critical.

We hope you will join us for this webinar on **August 26th at 3pm ET**. [Click here to register for the webinar](#).