



# WDE Assessment Updates

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## 2013-14 PAWS/SAWS Changes

There will be a few changes this spring that we want to communicate well in advance of the formal testing “season” in Wyoming. In no particular order, they include the following:

- ◆ There will be an alternate assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 9 and 10. This means that there will be a PAWS-ALT available for all students with significant cognitive disabilities enrolled in grades 3 *through* 11.
- ◆ Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will record their PAWS answers on separate answer sheets rather than in test booklets. Elementary students will continue to record their answers in the test booklets.
- ◆ Per statute, SAWS will only be administered in grades 3, 5 and 7. Grade 11 students will continue to take a writing assessment via the ACT Plus Writing. This means that SAWS-ALT will be provided for students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3, 5, 7 and 11.
- ◆ Accommodations provided to students with disabilities will be recorded on the answer sheets/test booklets *at the time of testing* to increase the likelihood that we are collecting *actual* accommodations received for each subtest.

## ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshop UPDATE

Save the Date! The Instruction Support Workshops for the ACT suite are going to take place on the following days:

| Date                 | Time           | City            | Address   |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Monday<br>Oct. 21    | 8 am -<br>noon | Rock<br>Springs | Western Wyoming Community<br>College<br>2500 College Drive                      |
| Wednesday<br>Oct. 23 | 8 am -<br>noon | Casper          | University of Wyoming<br>Extension Building<br>951 North Poplar Street          |
| Thursday<br>Oct. 24  | 8 am -<br>noon | Cheyenne        | Wyoming Department of<br>Education<br>2300 Capitol Avenue,<br>Hathaway Building |

There will be no registration for these events. For any questions or clarification please contact Jessica Steinbrenner at [jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov) or at 307-777-8568.

## COMPASS Comparability Study

Reminder: ACT is inviting its customers to participate in a comparability study, which will take place from October 21, 2013, to November 8, 2013. They are still looking for schools to pilot the E-Write portion of the assessment. By participating, you will get to see and use the new ACT Compass and earn free units.

To learn more and register for the study, go to: [Compass Comparability Study](#)

If you have questions, please call ACT Compass Customer Services at [800.645.1992](tel:800.645.1992), option 4, or email [COMPASSCustomerServices@act.org](mailto:COMPASSCustomerServices@act.org).

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### Establishment for the ACT

High school principals should be receiving their establishment packets now. An email will be sent out on Monday for schools to begin providing their online establishment. Here are the key dates for establishment:

- Oct. 11** -- Deadline for *Principal* to complete their portion
- Oct. 25** – Deadline for the *Test Supervisor*, *Back-up Test Supervisor*, and *Test Accommodations Coordinator* to complete their portion

It is also a good time to begin collecting information for students requiring accommodations. The deadline for the *Application for ACT-Approved Test Accommodations* is **January 24**.

For general inquiries call: 1-800-553-6244 Ext. 2800

For accommodation questions call: 1-800-553-6244 Ext. 1788

Also feel free to contact Jessica Steinbrenner at 307-777-8568 or at [jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov)

### ACCESS for ELLs® (Series 302) 2013-2014 Changes

Beginning this testing year, 2013-2014, the **Listening Test** of ACCESS for ELLs, will be media-based. This means that all Listening items for all tiers and grades 1-12 are prerecorded. Rather than listening to the test administrator read the scripted items, the students will listen to a recording. This allows for students to listen to more authentic language use, such as conversations involving more than one speaker. Test items will be administered via audio from a CD or streamed online via a secure password-protected site.

ACCESS for ELLs test materials will include one CD for every 8 test forms at each grade and tier. This CD can be played on a standard CD player or a computer with a CD/DVD drive with speakers. As an additional option, the Listening Test can be streamed online from a secure MetriTech, Inc. website. The table below indicates the necessary minimum computer requirements for streaming the audio.

#### Computer Requirements

|                         | <b>Apple Macintosh</b>                             | <b>Windows PC</b>  | <b>Apple iPad</b>  | <b>Android Tablet</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|--|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Operating System</b> | OS/X 10.5 or greater                               | Windows XP SP2 or greater  | IOS 6.0 or greater | Android 4.0 or greater |
| <b>Browser</b>          | Apple Safari;<br>Mozilla Firefox;<br>Google Chrome | Microsoft Internet Explorer 8 or greater; Apple Safari; Mozilla Firefox; Google Chrome | Apple Safari       | Android Browser        |

### ACCESS for ELLs® (Series 302) 2013-2014 Changes Continued....

Sample Listening items can be found on the MetriTech, Inc. website that can be used for test administrator review and to check equipment and sound levels prior to testing. These samples can also be shared with students to familiarize them with the new format prior to testing. The website URL is <https://www.metritech.com/wida/listening/login.aspx>.

The Listening section in *Test Administrator Script* booklet includes changes to reflect the new delivery method. The Listening section will contain scripting for the following: (1) introduction to the Listening Test; (2) script for guiding students through the practice items; (3) transcript of the recorded practice items; and (3) track listings and instructions on playing and pausing tracks. The *Test Administrator Script* will *not* contain the transcript of the recorded test items. The written transcript of the actual items will not be provided except in rare instances when a test administrator read script is a necessary accommodation documented in a student's IEP or 504 Plan. In these cases, a copy of the appropriate *Recording Script* can be ordered from MetriTech, Inc.

Beginning October 7, 2013, additional information and training will be available on the WIDA Test Administrator course on the WIDA Website at [www.wida.us](http://www.wida.us).

Also starting this year, rather than providing a fixed amount of time for the **Reading test** (35 minutes) and extra time allowable (5 minutes), the timing guidelines provide an overall range of how long the test should take (35-45 minutes) and allow educators more discretion. Test materials have been updated to reflect this change, and the guidelines in the Test Administration Manual have been updated to the following:

The Reading Test is designed to take no more than 35-45 minutes. In rare situations, test administrators may use their professional judgment in determining whether a student(s) needs additional time to complete the test. Test administrators may consider the following when determining how much extra time to provide:

- Are students working productively?
- Will extending the testing session over the recommended 45 minutes benefit students?
- Is the amount of extra time reasonable?

Note that the test administration time does not include time for convening students, taking attendance, distributing and collecting test materials, explaining test directions, or completing practice items.

Please note that that this change does not affect students with IEPs/504 Plans who require an extended time accommodation.

There are **no changes to the test administration procedures for the Speaking and Writing domains** of the assessment.

#### Important Upcoming Dates:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Aug. 15 - Nov. 30 | -- Fall MAP Window                          |
| Sep. 30 - Oct. 25 | -- ACT Test Online Establishment Window     |
| Oct. 7 - 25       | -- Fall COMPASS Window                      |
| Oct. 21 - Oct. 26 | -- ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshops |
| Oct. 21 - Nov. 8  | -- COMPASS Comparability Study              |