



WDE Assessment Updates

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Fall 2013 Pilot of the New School Performance Reports

Consistent with WAEA, the pilot school performance reports are now posted on the Fusion Website.

--Log into Fusion <http://fusion.edu.wyoming.gov>

--Click on the Blue Data Reporting Link

--On the left side of the page, click on the Accountability Confidential Link

People with the following user roles in Fusion will be able to see the reports: Superintendents, Assessment Coordinators, Special Ed Directors, Title I Coordinators, Assessment Confidential Rights, Curriculum Coordinators, and Principals.

There will be a two-week confidential review of the data by school district personnel. During this two-week period, school staff will be asked to review this data and submit potential concerns or corrections to the WDE. A public release of the data is scheduled for October 25.

While schools will be notified of their categorical rating, supports and interventions will not take effect until the 2014-15 school year. The ratings released this week will serve as a pilot test of the system. The model and its associated business rules will continue to be refined this year and implemented in the 2014-15 school year.

For questions related to the school ratings or indicators, contact Mike Flicek (307-259-3963 or michaelflicek@gmail.com). For questions or concerns about school or district data, contact John Paul (307-777-8771 or john.paul@wyo.gov) or Sean McInerney (307-777-8752 or sean.mcinerney@wyo.gov).

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SBAC Field Testing: Spring 2014

As noted in last week's newsletter, Wyoming will participate in the Spring 2014 (mid-March to early June) SBAC Field Test. Schools in our state will have the opportunity to experience a next-generation assessment that is closely aligned with the content, configuration, and length of the SBAC operational assessments in the spring of 2015.

To indicate your interest in having your schools participate in the 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test, click on this link: <http://www.formstack.com/forms/fieldtest-smarterfieldtest>. **Please indicate your interest no later than November 1, 2013.** Note that you will need to separately indicate your interest for each school (by grade) in your district as well as select a window that's most convenient for your schools.

SBAC Field Testing: Spring 2014 Continued*What is the Purpose of the Smarter Balanced Field Test?*

Field testing is critical to ensuring that assessment items are accessible to all students and that the assessment produces results that are valid, reliable, and fair. The Field Test helps guarantee that the Smarter Balanced assessment items are placed on an accurate scale to determine final achievement level descriptors (i.e., cut scores).

The Field Test will include students in grades 3-8 and 11, engaging in online assessments in mathematics and English language arts (ELA)/literacy. (A small number of grade 9 and 10 students in our state will also participate in a special study to help develop the scale used in the operational test in 2015.)

Students will gain hands-on experience with the functionality of innovative items and newly designed performance tasks with related classroom activities.

Administrators will gain valuable exposure to administration logistics during this “trial run,” allowing them to better prepare for smooth and successful participation in the operational assessments in the 2014-15 school year.

Accessibility and Accommodations

A major advantage of these next-generation assessments is their improved accessibility features, which ensure that the assessments meet the needs of all students. The Smarter Balanced Assessment System offers a variety of accessibility tools and accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners, including dynamic features such as videos of human signers using American Sign Language, Spanish translations, and customized pop-up glossaries.

Test Administration Time

For logistics and scheduling purposes, participating schools should plan for approximately 3.5 hours of testing per grade and content area. Testing is intended to be administered over multiple sessions of about 45 minutes each, but it may be administered in shorter or longer session as appropriate for the students and the school. The Field Test will approximate the length of the 2015 operational assessments.

Technology Requirements

To promote ease of implementation, the online Smarter Balanced Assessment System was designed to operate within the technology infrastructures that currently exist in most schools and districts. Detailed information on the minimum necessary specifications to operate the assessment system can be found in the *Smarter Balanced Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications* report, available on the Technology page of the Smarter Balanced website: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/#specifications>. For example, this report specifies that headphones are required to participate in some of the new multimedia items that assess listening activity.

Test Security

The spring 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test is a secure test. Test administration training will be required, and training modules are expected to be available no later than the first week of February.

Contact Information

Thank you for your support with this critical phase of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System development and implementation process.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact Deb Lindsey, Assessment Division Administrator at 307-777-8753 or Steve Marsh, Assessment Supervisor, at 307-777-3498.

ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshop

Reminder: The Instructional Support Workshops for the ACT assessments are quickly approaching. ACT registration for these workshops can be accessed through the links below:

Casper: <https://www.regonline.com/casperworkshop>

Cheyenne: <https://www.regonline.com/cheyenneworkshop>

Rock Springs: <https://www.regonline.com/rockspringsworkshop>

Please register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V6PTFKS>

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

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
- TODAY -- Deadline for Principal online ACT establishment
- Oct. 25 -- Deadline for testing staff online ACT establishment
- Oct. 21 - Oct. 25 -- ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshops
- Oct. 21 - Nov. 8 -- COMPASS Comparability Study