



# WDE Assessment Updates

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## Building Coordinator Training Posting

We would like to thank everyone for their patience. We are working on cleaning up and jazzing up the Building Coordinator Training video, audio, and powerpoints for posting. They will be posted at the following links tomorrow.

- ◆ <http://www.wyedu.ets.org/training/index.html>
- ◆ [http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/Statewide\\_Assessment\\_System.aspx](http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/Statewide_Assessment_System.aspx)

## Building Coordinator Training Survey

Thank you to all of those who attended the Building Coordinator Training. We really appreciate all of your efforts and want to ensure we are providing the best training we can for our schools and districts. To that end, we would greatly appreciate your input. Here is the link to a quick survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RHJLHQ9> Thank you!

## Testing Dates for 2014 and Preliminary Dates for 2015

Below are actual 2014 testing dates, along with preliminary testing dates for 2015. Please advise by March 1, 2014 if you anticipate major problems with these dates.

State Assessment Testing Dates		
	2014	2015
<b>PAWS</b>	March 3-March 28	March 2-March 27
<b>SAWS</b>	April 14-May 2	April 13-May 1
<b>PAWS-ALT</b>	Feb. 17- March 28	Feb. 16- March 27
<b>SAWS-ALT</b>	April 14-May 2	April 13-May 1
<b>Explore</b>	April 14-May 2	April 13-May 1
<b>Plan</b>	April 14-May 2	April 13-May 1
<b>ACT Plus Writing</b>	April 23 <b>make-up</b> May 7	April 28 <b>make-up</b> May 12
<b>Compass</b>	<b>Fall:</b> Oct. 7-Oct. 25 <b>Spring:</b> April 14-May 2	<b>Fall:</b> Oct. 6-Oct. 24 <b>Spring:</b> April 13-May 1
<b>NAEP</b>		January 26-March 6

## ACT WorkKeys Testing for 2014

WorkKeys this year is optional for both juniors **and seniors**. The testing dates are the same as last year. The initial date is April 24 with a make-up date of May 8. If you have further questions about ordering or other logistical information please call ACT General Inquiries at 1-800-553-6244 ext. 2800.

## Reminder-ACT Suite Information

ACT suite information including manuals and key dates can be found at the following website: <http://www.act.org/aap/wyoming/explore.html>

## PAWS Recommended Testing Times

The recommended testing times for the PAWS test can be found on our website at the following link: These times are correct, and have been revised from the 2013 assessment.

<http://www.edu.wyoming.gov/sf-docs/assessments/2014-paws-recommendedtesting-times.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

### **Accommodations on PAWS-SAWS**

This year, we'll be using a different method of collecting data on accommodations used during testing in grades 3 - 8. Please use the test booklet or answer sheet (grades 3-8) to record actual accommodations implemented with students with disabilities. Accommodations that are not noted in a student's IEP should not be used on the state test.

### **Math Test Materials Alert**

An organization called Wowzers, which produces online math materials for Grades 3 to 8, is marketing a "Smarter Balanced National Pilot" to select districts. This effort has no relationship to the upcoming Smarter Balanced Field Test or to Smarter Balanced generally. Wowzers did not seek permission to use the Smarter Balanced name. Further, Smarter Balanced does not endorse Wowzers or its products.

### **ACT Testing Numbers**

As we approach our testing windows, we would like to remind schools that there may be students who are not enrolled in your school but who require admittance into the ACT test. Attached you will find information regarding the number of distance education students who reside in your district as well as an intake form to provide details of when/where your school(s) will be testing students for the ACT suite.

**ACT 2013-14 DE Transfers by Resident District** provides each district the number of fulltime transfer students (who are enrolled at another school district's distance education program) that will be required to come into their local school(s) to test. The student counts are broken down by grade level for each assessment within the suite. Our distance education programs are prepared to provide their ACT proctors to facilitate these assessments in an alternate location at your school(s).

To assist the students in being in the right place at the right time, the WDE will centralize this information and provide the results to the two distance education programs that accept fulltime transfers. Please complete the **ACT Suite Scheduling Request worksheet**. If your district's schedules have already been arranged and documented elsewhere, please send those to Scott Bullock ([scott.bullock@wyo.gov](mailto:scott.bullock@wyo.gov)). We are anticipating a wide variety of testing configurations, if you have any questions or need assistance please call Scott at [307-777-7418](tel:307-777-7418).

### **EXPLORE and PLAN Test Materials**

Initial counts for test materials were given to ACT Inc. based on the WDE684 file submitted by schools in October. School staff should check this file to make sure that they will be receiving enough materials for their 9th and 10th graders. This information is available on the fusion website in Statistical Report Series 2 under Data Reporting.

ACT will include an overage for EXPLORE and PLAN (except for accommodated formats).

- a. Orders of 1-10 units will receive an overage of 1
- b. Orders of 11-50 units will receive an overage of 3
- c. Orders of 51-200 units will receive an overage of 5
- d. Orders of 201-500 units will receive an overage of 10
- e. Orders of 501-1000 units will receive an overage of 15
- f. Orders of 1001+ units will receive an overage of 20

Any school needing additional materials not covered in the overage according to the table above should email Jessica Steinbrenner with the following information:

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Name of District | 3. Grade level needing additional materials |
| 2. Name of School   | 4. Number of additional materials needed    |

Remember that your participation rates should be  $\geq 95\%$  on all state assessments, grades 3-11.

## Grades 6-8: Answer Documents

This year, students in grades 6-8 will have a separate answer document for the PAWS test. One single answer document will be provided for all three content tests (reading, math, and science). This can create some scheduling issues at middle schools and jr. high schools where students switch classrooms for English, math, and science instruction. WDE advises that the students be assigned a testing classroom and a testing cohort so the answer documents do not have to be sorted and reassigned to teachers after each testing session. As always, it is up to building coordinators to determine their testing schedule, but with the possibility of make-up testing, and with the complications of being sure answer documents follow the students, building personnel may find it more efficient to use the cohort approach to testing. Students do not need to be in a content specific classroom to take the tests (for example, a student does not have to be in a math room with a math teacher to take a math test). While this may be what building staff prefers, WDE advises against this practice. Student answer documents are secure and confidential documents, and sorting and transporting them around the school may lead to lost answer documents, and thus missing test data. Please consider changing your building schedule during the testing period.

## SBAC Field Test Reminders

Communications have been sent to district assessment and technology coordinators regarding the upcoming SBAC Field Test. An important milestone is this Friday, February 14, when all student registrations are to be uploaded to the TIDE system. Please check in your district to make sure this task is complete.

Are you wondering what the windows are for the Field Test? Each participating school volunteered for one of the following four windows:

- 1 – March 18-April 4
- 2 - April 7-April 25
- 3 – April 28-May 16
- 4 – May 19-June 6

Make sure you know which window you've selected so you are ready for the Field Test. Meanwhile, new support materials for the upcoming administration have been added to the Field Test Portal: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/resources/>

These resources include the following documents and training modules:

- ◆ Field Test Administration Manual
- ◆ Technology Specifications
- ◆ Secure Browsers for iPad and Android Tablets
- ◆ Checklists for School Assessment Coordinators
- ◆ ELA and Math Timing Info
- ◆ Parent Sample Letters
- ◆ and MORE!

Any policy-related questions can be directed to Deb Lindsey at 777-8753. Logistics questions, including any related to TIDE, can be directed to the Field Test Help Line: 855-833-1969.

## Important Upcoming Dates:

- Jan. 20 - Feb. 24 -- ACCESS Test Window
- Jan. 27 - Feb. 7 -- Window for Test Supervisors to order ACT WorkKeys
- Feb. 3 - 7 -- Window for Test Supervisors to provide ACT with final numbers for students ACT testing