



# WDE Assessment Updates

March 1, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 7

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## Legislative Update

The Wyoming Accountability in Education Act was amended last week when the Legislature passed EA116. The major assessment-related changes in the Act pertain to COMPASS in grade 12 (described below) and to options for assessment in 2015. Essentially, the latter requires the WDE to investigate options for state assessment in 2015, even if they are currently inconsistent with state statute (e.g. multiple choice only or separate reading and writing assessments). It also requires periodic reporting to the Select Committee regarding the status of assessment development, investigation of options available to the state, and the impact of existing law on future assessment development.

## Staff Updates

The WDE Assessment team is pleased to announce the arrival of Steve Marsh, Supervisor of Assessment. Steve comes to us from the Madison, Wisconsin area with a wealth of experience in large scale assessment, working for about 15 years with CTB-McGraw Hill and another 3 in educational technology. Steve's email address is [Stephen.Marsh@wyo.gov](mailto:Stephen.Marsh@wyo.gov) and his phone number is 307-777-3498. Please join us in welcoming him to Wyoming!

-- Deb Lindsey

## Assessment Administration Protocol Update

The Department of Education Assessment Division has received a number of questions regarding assessment administration protocols. We understand that this year is exceptional regarding the type and level of guidance provided by the department, which may be the inspiration for many of the question. Please see the [summary](#) of this week's most popular and most frequent questions. Hopefully that will help continue to clear up some of the issues we are hearing about.

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As questions continue to arise, we will address them here at the end of each week. Please continue to email any of us with your concerns and questions.

Deb Lindsey and Tammy Schroeder will be presenting an assessment update at the School Improvement Conference at 4 p.m. on Monday.

## State Assessment Summer Work

Earlier this week, WDE sent an invitation to Wyoming teachers to apply for consideration to participate in upcoming teacher committee review panels for the WDE. The WDE is working with Educational Testing Service (ETS) on this recruitment project. Please share this invitation with your teachers. Click [here](#) to complete the application.

## Alternate Assessment

The window for the PAWS -ALT assessment is now open. All buildings should have received their materials by now. If you have not, please call ETS Customer Care at 1-877-327-9415 and email Pari Swanson at [pari.swanson@wyo.gov](mailto:pari.swanson@wyo.gov). If you find that you are missing materials or need additional materials, again please call the number above. As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to call or email.

## COMPASS

EA116 has substantially changed the COMPASS requirements, beginning with this spring's administration. Instead of an assessment that is required of all seniors, the test is now optional for 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The legislation requires that the state provide the assessment and that schools offer it to all students, but the kids can opt to take it (or not). It also says that the test is to be made available to students throughout the school year so that they may take it at any time during the year. Given these changes, the COMPASS pilot will no longer be necessary. In preparation for this year's administration, we are planning training for school staff and will be uploading all high schools into the COMPASS system. If you have questions, please contact Jessica.

## Scribe Guidelines

Scribes should be a person familiar to the student who is typically responsible for scribing during regular instruction. Scribes must review test security policy and sign the Test Administrator Security Agreement at the end of the Directions for Administration.

A student using a scribe should be tested in a quiet room apart from other students to avoid interruption to others while testing.

For multiple-choice items, the scribe shall merely record the answer selected by the student.

On SAWS, scribes should record what the student dictates, word for word. Students must specify capitalization, punctuation, and other formatting elements. Students should spell words that are not typical for the grade. Teachers/scribes must exercise professional judgment about which words are "typical" for the tested grade.

Scribes must be neutral during test administration. They should not alert students to mistakes during testing, nor should they attempt to influence students' response in any way.

## Mathematics and Science Read Aloud Accommodation

When reading aloud for a student with disabilities, the access assistant should use the terms and language used during regular instruction. Access assistants must be careful to not provide clues or hints regarding the answer to the student or alter the construct of the item.

Access assistants must review test security policy and sign the Test Administrator Security Agreement at the end of the Directions for Administration.

## Exemptions

The first round of approval letters for requested exemptions were sent out Monday, February 25, 2013. The second batch (everything that has been received by the department at this point), will be sent out Friday, March 01, 2013. If you have not received a response to your exemption request, please contact Pari Swanson.

## Important Upcoming Dates:

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|----------|---|
| NOW      | -- NAEP Testing Window<br>-- ACCESS Testing Window<br>-- EXPLORE and PLAN Administration Training is posted<br>-- PAWS-ALT Testing Window |
| March 8  | -- ACCESS for ELLs testing window closes  |
| March 11 | -- PAWS Window Opens  |
| March 12 | -- 4 p.m. Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE   |
| March 14 | -- 1 p.m. REPEAT Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE<br>-- Districts must ship materials to MetriTech                                 |