



# WDE Assessment Updates

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## 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 the 2015 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

## PAWS Mathematics

As we move forward with our assessments this year we would just like to remind schools that the standards build from year to year in mathematics and so items from the previous grade are still expected to be present in the current grade. For example if last year a student had to know the formula for a cone, then this year the student would also need to know that formula.

## Reminder Testing and Make-Up Testing

It is the expectation of the department that for all assessments schools offer a window for testing that includes make-up opportunities along with the initial testing date so that schools reach their participation for each of the state assessments. This means make-ups for PAWS, SAWS, Explore, and Plan.

## Changes/Updates to the DFA

Please review the Addendum to the DFA – we have had some questions regarding differences in the appendices for the BCM and the DFA. Please see the addendum on our webpage at the following link for the most recent corrections:  
[http://edu.wyoming.gov/sf-docs/assessments/2014\\_important-updates.pdf](http://edu.wyoming.gov/sf-docs/assessments/2014_important-updates.pdf)

## Smarter Balanced Range Finding Participation Opportunity

Please review the letter included in this week’s newsletter which provides information about participating in range finding activities for the Smarter Balanced math and reading tests. Details are in the attached letter and FAQ sheet. Please submit your application via the Survey Monkey link no later than Monday, March 10.

WDE will submit names to CTB/McGraw Hill, and notice of selection will be sent out in the following weeks.

For more information contact Tammy Schroeder at [tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov](mailto:tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov) or at 307-777-3618.

## Correction to Accommodations Portion of Student Test Booklets and Answer Documents

Accommodation 20 on the answer documents and in the test booklets is identified as “Blank Sheet of Paper.” This should read “Visual Organizer.” Blank sheets of paper are not an accommodation; all students should be provided blank sheets of paper and blank graph paper for use while taking the test.

### Timing for Students with Disabilities

We continue to have many questions about the timing of the assessment, particularly around section breaks. Since PAWS is an untimed test, it is difficult to administer to students with varying abilities. Some finish quickly, and some take much longer. Some students have “extended time” written into their IEP, and need every bit of time to take the test.

Each section of the test must be finished before students are allowed to leave the testing area. This is a security measure and a standardization measure that protects the validity and reliability of the test. For this reason, students must finish each section in one sitting. However, students on IEP’s who have an extended time accommodation may need to take a break for lunch or recess. If these students cannot finish before the break, it is acceptable to let them take the break. Some schools are opting to bring lunch in for the students so they can continue working. Both of these solutions apply only to those students who have written “extended time” (accommodation 22) into their IEP’s.

### Templates vs. Graphic Organizers

When thinking about a template that is provided through a word processing program, one thinks of a resume template or a birthday card template. While templates like these may be of use during formative assessment, they are not useful for the state assessments, and thus are not allowed. Graphic organizers, however, are commonly used to provide organization of one’s thinking during the reading and writing process. Because these are not standardized, they are not allowed on the state assessment. Students may generate their own on blank paper, but they are not allowed to have printed versions provided by the teacher.

### ACT, Explore, and Plan Question and Answer Sessions

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Here are the links to registrations for the upcoming Explore/Plan and ACT Q&A Sessions (Registration closes **TODAY February 28**):

Explore/Plan Q&A Registrations:

- ◆ March 4 <https://act.ilinc.com/register/xjxzmwc>
- ◆ March 12 <https://act.ilinc.com/register/rffybwz>

ACT Q&A Registration:

- ◆ March 5 <https://act.ilinc.com/register/cmvyryx>

### ACT EXPLORE and ACT PLAN Test Materials

Initial counts for test materials were given to ACT Inc. based on the WDE684 file submitted by schools in October. Any school needing additional materials may either submit a supplemental order form or email your new numbers to Jessica Steinbrenner at [jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov).

Here are the **supplemental order forms**:

- [ACT Explore Supplemental Order Form](#)
- [ACT Plan Supplemental Order Form](#)

### Important Upcoming Dates:

Feb. 24 - April 2	-- ACT Window for State-Allowed Accommodations
March 3	-- PAWS Window Opens
March 4	-- ACT Explore and ACT Plan Q&A Session (4 p.m.)
March 5	-- ACT Q&A Session (3 p.m.)
March 12	-- ACT Explore and ACT Plan Q&A Session (3 p.m.)
March 14	-- Schools receive nonsecure shipment of ACT materials
March 24	-- Schools receive ACT Explore and ACT Plan test materials