
MEMORANDUM No. 2014-032

TO: School District Superintendents
Assessment Directors
School Principals

FROM: Deb Lindsey, Division Director
Assessment Division

DATE: March 14, 2014

SUBJECT: Change in Assessment Window for Smarter Balanced Assessment

SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM FIELD TEST LAUNCH HAS SHIFTED

Only the first testing window is impacted

CHEYENNE - The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) today announced it has shifted the beginning of its Field Test to Tuesday, March 25 from the originally planned launch of March 18. This change is being made to ensure that the Consortium and its contractors have taken all the steps necessary for teachers, students, and administrators to have a productive experience with the Field Test.

SBAC has offered four testing windows for its Field Test. Only the first window is impacted. The testing windows are:

- March 25-April 4
- April 7-April 25
- April 28-May 16
- May 19-June 6

Should this change impact schools within your district, the Field Test help desk is available at 1-855-833-1969 to reschedule testing.

SBAC is a cooperative effort among more than 20 states to build a comprehensive assessment system that provides educators and parents with the information they need to help all students prepare for success in college and careers. The Smarter Balanced Field Test will ensure that the assessments are accurate and fair for all students. The scale of the Field Test is unprecedented, involving more than 3 million students and 20,000 schools. In Wyoming, the WDE expects that approximately 6,900 students will be taking the English language arts assessment while over 5,500 students will be taking the mathematics assessment.

The goals of the Field Test are to uncover challenges before the formal launch of the assessment system across the country in the 2014–15 school year and to ensure a high-quality assessment experience for all students. The WDE will continue to work closely with districts and schools throughout the Field Test to provide the support needed to make this effort a success. This practice run of the assessment system will give WDE as well as teachers and schools a chance to experience the new assessments and evaluate test administration procedures.

This change affects only those schools that originally registered for the first of four Field Test windows. The other three windows remain unchanged. Thanks to those of you who volunteered for the Field Test. Along with SBAC and the other participating states, the WDE looks forward to a successful launch.

For more information contact Deb Lindsey at 307-777-8753 or deb.lindsey@wyo.gov.