

FAQ WY-TOPP FOR TEACHERS

updated 08.25.17

What is the new assessment and how is it different from PAWS?

WY-TOPP stands for Wyoming's Test of Proficiency and Progress. WY-TOPP, like PAWS, will continue to assess students on Wyoming Content and Performance Standards. However, WY-TOPP will be administered online with a computer adaptive assessment, will be administered later in the school year, and will include more than just the end-of-year summative assessment. Teachers will be able to give interim assessments and modular assessments (end-of-unit) to their students.

Will the test be Wyoming specific?

Yes, WY-TOPP will be a customized summative and interim assessment system, built for Wyoming using items aligned to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.

What is the summative assessment?

Summative assessments are end-of-year, standards-based, adaptive assessments which support access and fairness in measuring all students while offering quick, detailed reporting at the domain level. Students in grades 3-10 will take the WY-TOPP summative assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Writing will be assessed in grades 3, 5, 7, and 9; Science will be assessed in grades 4, 8, and 10. Please note in the first year, results will be delayed until after standard-setting occurs in the summer of 2018.

What are the interim assessments?

Interim assessments are similar to the summative assessment in that they are built with similar items, but are shorter and administered during seasonal testing windows. In grades 3-10, the interim assessment will be adaptive and offer instant, detailed reporting at the domain level, and educators will be able to see each student's response to items. The K-2 interims will be fixed form assessments. Students in grade K-2 will participate in the Spring Interim, and this data will be used by schools to ensure students are proficient in reading by the end of Grade 3 in order to meet [W.S. 21-3-401\(c\)](#).

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What are the modular assessments?

Modular assessments are standards-based, fixed form assessments divided by topic to measure subsets of the standards and offer instant, detailed reporting for the teacher. These assessments are domain specific (e.g., unit exams), and will be available on demand in grades 1-10 starting in October.

Will WY-TOPP be aligned to the new 2016 Science Standards?

Since school districts have been given three full school years to fully implement their systems to the new standards, the new 2016 Science Standards will not be fully assessed on the summative assessment until Spring 2021. Until then, the science summative assessment will assess students on the 2008 Science Standards.

How does the Standards-Based Adaptive Algorithm work? How does it assess kids above or below grade level?

The assessment bank of items include several items that are identified to assess the different levels of understanding. This can be done on grade, within the grade level standards. Items selected for each student depend on the student's performance on previously selected items. Thus, each student is presented with a set of items that most accurately align with his or her proficiency level based on grade-level content. Higher performance is followed by more difficult items, and lower performance is followed by less difficult items until test length constraints are met.

Will the scores from the WY-TOPP still be used for school accountability?

Yes, student scores from WY-TOPP, as were with PAWS, will be used for growth, equity, and achievement, and in grades 9 and 10 readiness as well. ACT will continue to be used for growth, equity, and readiness indicators in the accountability model, but not for achievement.

How will the assessment be delivered and when?

The WY-TOPP assessments will be online. If a student's IEP states that a student needs an assessment available on paper only, then a paper exam will be provided. There is also an option to print on-demand. All test administration dates are [available here](#).

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When will WY-TOPP results be available?

The results from the interims and modulars will be available immediately for all areas except writing. The summative results will be delayed for the first year until after standards setting is completed in summer 2018.

Where can I find the practice test for students, teachers, and parents to experience?

After September 5th, you can visit the Assessment Portal at wyoassessment.org to experience a training test. The ELA and Math tests contain 20-24 items each for grades 3-10. The ELA tests for grades 3, 6, & 9 also include sample listening items.

What tools will be available for the online assessments?

- Calculator – customized versions of the Desmos calculator (students can practice with the [Desmos calculator here](#))
- Formulas
- Periodic table sheet
- Highlighter
- Mark for review (student can mark to come back to the item)
- Strikethrough
- Masking (block out text)
- Text-to-speech (TTS)
- Expandable passages (expands the passage across the screen so student does not need to scroll and the text will be in the same location when they search for a part they read)

What types of accommodating tools will be available for the online assessments?

- Color Choice (background and text color)
- Zoom (enlarge 1x, 2x, etc.)
- Language (Spanish translation and Spanish versions of formula sheets)
- ASL and Closed Captioning
- Braille (through refreshable Braille displays and Tiger embossers; a paper option is also available)

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Are there limitations on using calculators during the test?

Students will not be allowed to use hand-held calculators or tools other than those offered on the assessment platform. Specific tools will be available on test items, when appropriate.

Will there be an option to print reports for parents in Spanish?

Yes, there is a way to indicate Spanish in the report printing options.

What type of Braille assessments will be available?

Students who need assessments in Braille will take the ELA test in UEB contracted form and the math test in UEB math code. The 2017-18 summative assessments will be available to order in paper form, as well as available online with refreshable Braille or Tiger embosser. Braille availability will be expanded in future years for the interim assessments.

To learn more about the new assessments, visit edu.wyoming.gov/assessment/wy-topp.