



# Wyoming Department of Education

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### **WDE offers training on Assessment Resource Tool**

**CHEYENNE** – The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) hosted a requirements meeting on its Assessment Resource Tool (ART) during a demonstration at the Natrona County School District Administration building, Wednesday in Casper.

“ART is a web-based reporting tool that provides assessment results out to the public as well as school districts, teachers, administrators, parents,” said Cassie Lallak, project manager at the Wyoming Department of Education. “All of the tests the state requires school districts to test the students on are reported out in this tool.”

The ART is a statewide data analysis tool for the Wyoming educational community. It translates data, already compiled by the WDE into data tables, snapshots of education data by state, district, school, grade level and even individual student in a longitudinal way (year-over-year).

ART’s uses include allowing administrators to compare assessment results with surrounding districts; helping teachers make curriculum decisions based on previous year’s PAWS scores or even to allow parents in larger communities to choose a school based on a school’s previous assessment performance.

Since the program is owned by the WDE, school districts around the state are able to use the program free of cost. The program, which began development in 2008, cost the state \$1.5 million.

The ART was developed after requests from local school districts for a tool for measuring assessment data. Wednesday’s requirement meeting allowed nearly 15 Cowboy State administrators and teachers the chance to offer their requests and input to for future features and functions of the ART. Among the schools

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using the technology or assisting in its development are: Campbell County 1, Natrona County 1, Uinta County 1, Fremont County 25, Park County 1, Fremont County 1, Carbon County 2 and Fremont County 38.

Newcastle High School Principal Tracy Ragland said his district has used the ART tool to compare the ACT scores of surrounding districts in the 3-A East Athletic Conference.

“If we see a school that is doing very, very well, we want to find out what they are doing,” said Ragland. “It just gives us a better view of what is going on around us.”

Phase II of the ART program will be released in the months of March and April and will allow for additional reporting capacity in the areas of Annual Yearly Progress, Proficiency Assessment of Wyoming Students (PAWS), as well as a research data mart and standards center.

Phase III of the program is scheduled for release in Dec. 2012 and will include longitudinal student profiles (progress over time), At-Risk Model and additional assessments for upload function.

“This project not only gives the public a picture of assessment performance in its schools, but since the state has funded the program, it will not cost local districts anything to use this technology,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction, Cindy Hill.

For more information on the ART program please visit us online at [edu.wyo.gov](http://edu.wyo.gov), or call Cassie Lallak at 307-777-7675.

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## Assessment Resource Tool (ART) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) & Glossary

### 1. What does ART do?

ART, (Assessment Resource Tool) is a WDE sponsored and funded web-based tool that provides measurement information to districts, schools, teachers and parents. ART combines State and Federal assessment requirements with detailed student information that tracks the individual through their K-12 career. ART allows teachers to custom tailor curriculum and intervention methods to student performance and needs.

### 2. How does it work?

ART converts raw data reported to the WDE to exportable reports in Microsoft products that are easily viewed and maintained by administrators.

### 3. Who will use ART?

Lawmakers, school districts, school administrators, and teachers will use ART as an accountability and tracking tool.

### 4. How will they use ART?

Lawmakers and parents can compare apples to apples using Art. Everyone may access information at the public portal to evaluate schools by choosing from an assessment menu. The Teacher Report allows teachers to securely view student skill levels by subject area and grade. Teachers will use ART to support student achievement by tracking a child's progress from K-12. The teacher can then formulate intervention strategies if necessary. School administrators and districts will use ART to compare assessment results with other schools within their district, statewide and upload their own data.

### 5. What kind of information can parents access?

Parents can view public data at the state, district and school level for various assessments, such as ACT, PAWS, WORKEYS other tests administered by the state.

### 6. Will the state need additional funding for ART?

For maintenance - it's been designed so that state personnel can maintain and expand the capabilities – only minor fees. We've made an investment and it's completely paid for. (orig. 1.5 m over 5 years.)

### 7. Can every district use ART?



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Yes – the system is funded and administered by the WDE and is available to any district or school.

8. What if the district uses another assessment tool?

ART data is translated to a Microsoft environment, thus the information is compatible with other assessment tool systems.

9. How secure is the student data?

Completely secure. Individual student data is isolated and is only accessible via password with individual teachers. The policy is evolving to safeguard access to individual data.

10. Does the student data travel with the student?

Yes.

11. Who enters data at the district/school level?

Administrators enter assessment data. Most of the data is already collected at the state. If there is nothing in addition, there will be no additional burden on administrators or teachers.

12. How many districts are presently using ART?

It's available to all districts. It is the only source of confidential assessment data available to the districts. It will be the only source for their AYP data.

13. What has been the reaction of the districts using ART?

Phase I and II have had very positive receptions, and the list of districts who wish to incorporate ART is growing every day.

## Acronyms:



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## **AYP**

Adequate Yearly Progress is the progress, or improvement, made by students in learning the academic standards as measured by the PAWS assessment. There is a minimum level that each school must achieve each year— measuring this year’s 5th graders and comparing them with last year’s 4th graders to see if they have made progress— and that it is an adequate amount. The amount is set each year and is part of the movement toward better accountability for schools. If the scores do not show an increase, then it is said the schools have not made AYP. After a couple of years of not making progress, there are certain steps schools have to go through to increase students’ academic progress.

## **AIMSweb**

A benchmark and monitoring system based on direct, frequent, and continuous student assessment. The results are reported to students, parents, teachers, and administrators via a web-based data reporting and management system to determine response to intervention.

## **DIBELS**

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. DIBELS is a package of sub-tests designed to be administered in 1 minute each, and mandated by No Child Left Behind. DIBELS is a data system that assesses the 5 Big Ideas in learning to read and write as identified by the National Reading Panel. Those 5 areas are: Phonemic Awareness, Alphabetic Principle, Accuracy and Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. As teachers are instructing children how to read, they are monitoring students at each level to see if they are learning. If the student struggles at any point, the teacher can stop and re-teach a skill the student is not getting.

## **ACT-PLAN**

PLAN is not an acronym. It is part of the ACT suite of tests, and was formerly known as Pre-ACT. PLAN is a mid-point ACT practice test administered to high school sophomores. The PLAN test does not include the essay portion and is does not count for college entrance.

## **ACCESS for ELL**

Assessing Communication and Comprehension in English State -To-State for English Language Learners. It is a large-scale test that first and foremost addresses the English language development standards that form the core of approach to instructing and testing English Language Learners. These standards incorporate a set of model performance indicators (PIs) that describe the expectations educators have of ELL students at four different grade level clusters and in five different content areas.

## **ACT**



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Not an acronym. Originally American College Testing – changed to ACT in 1996. ACT is administered to high school juniors and above to determine college readiness.

## **COMPASS**

Not an acronym. Part of the ACT suite of tests. COMPASS is placement assessment test used by many colleges with three major subject areas: Math, Reading and Writing. It is not a traditional test, in that there is generally no "passing score." COMPASS helps to identify problems in major subject areas, indicating areas in which a student is strong and areas in which a student may need help or remediate assistance. Higher ACT scores can be substituted for COMPASS.

## **NWEA-MAP**

Northwest Evaluation Association – Measures of Academic Performance is an interim test to benchmark student growth. It can be taken online or administered locally. MAPS is a test that school districts in Wyoming use a couple of times a year to measure what students have learned in math, reading, writing and science. They typically call it the district assessment, while PAWS is a statewide assessment. The NWEA is the service provider to Wyoming.

## **PAWS**

The mandatory Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students, is the statewide assessment test given to all Wyoming students in grades three through eight and grade eleven on March 5-30. The results of this assessment inform the school, the district and the state about the progress and improvement efforts needed for individual students, schools and districts as a whole.

## **PAWS-ALT**

The alternative test to PAWS for students that are deemed by administrators as exempt from the Wyoming assessment system. PAWS-Alt is administered separately to medically fragile, expelled, or English Language Learners.

## **PLAN**

A practice test that is similar to the ACT. It is scored that same as the ACT in the same subject areas, and is frequently used to determine college readiness.

## **WELLA**

Wyoming English Language Learners Assessment. Designed to assess English language proficiency.

## **WORKKEYS**

Part of the ACT suite. WORKKEYS is a career ready assessment designed to measure real world skills employers consider critical at any level and in any profession. WORKKEYS assists employers in selecting and assessing potential employees.

## **Terms:**



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**Assessment Upload Tool**- A tool that allows the districts the ability to upload district and or school assessments that are not collected by the state.

**Standards Center** - An area to search and view Wyoming State's Standards.

**Research Data Mart** - A mechanism to make more detailed data available to qualified researchers.

**Student profile - Longitudinal**- Ability to view a history of a student's assessment results.

**Influence Spectrum Management (ISM)** – A student/cohort identification, warning, and intervention management solution that brings real time data analytics together with your current programs and practices to support student achievement.

**Student Profiles** - A comprehensive view of the data collected on a student.

**At-Risk Model** - A model that uses several processes to keep students on the path to graduation.