



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2007 - 174

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: John Durkee, Supervisor Standards
Standards, Assessment and Accountability Unit 

DATE: October 19, 2007

SUBJECT: WEdGate Service and Product Update

Update On WEdGate Information

The WEdGate portal has been updated with regard to services and products. Many new features will be found, including a brand new portal. Web-based services are in transition. After reviewing the amount of funds that WDE receives for the WEdGate, the following products are available.

NOTE: The funds WDE receives only cover approximately one-third of the cost; therefore, beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, a different funding approach will need to be determined; such as, a consortium with districts paying for services a district uses or a reduction in the products in WEdGate.

WEdGate Support: 1-866-WEdGate or (1-866-933-4283)

WEdGate Portal – This is the new site where curriculum, instruction and assessment online programs are housed <http://wedgate.edgate.org> This portal now has a single sign-on feature that will be available in November. The classic site can still be accessed using <http://wyoming.edgate.org>

Total Reader – Total Reader provides reading practice, evaluation, and reports for grades 3 – 12. Total Reader employs the Lexile Framework for reading that matches readers to text. Total Reader assesses a student's reading level and matches the student with texts at that level. Call the WEdGate support number for an account or to arrange to upload students.

INFORM – INFORM is a reporting system for PAWS results and for district assessments. Districts can upload additional assessment data such as WELLA, NWEA MAP, and Terra Nova, as well as classroom assessment results. The reporting tool can provide data needed by schools and districts.

For INFORM to work most successfully, each district should submit a Teacher/Class/Student (TCS) file to the state to create the association of teachers with students. INFORM will accept weekly uploads from the WDE. District Tech Directors or the WEdGate support number can establish new user accounts that are not included in district TCS uploads (such as facilitators, administrators, etc.)

WEdGate training on the INFORM product is the main focus for professional development for the 2007-2008 school year. Please call the WEdGate support number to see about training.

SUCCESS – SUCCESS is a test platform. Students can take their tests online or on paper. Teachers can choose the most appropriate delivery method for each student - even for the same test. This tool currently contains test banks that include PAWS release items. Teachers can use existing test banks or develop their own test. User accounts are uploaded from INFORM using the same user ID's and default passwords. Training is available by calling the WEdGate support number.

Blackboard – Blackboard is used to create learning content using a variety of Web-based tools, develop custom learning paths for individual students or groups and facilitate student participation, communication, and collaboration. It is used with distance learning and for task force collaboration. Call the WEdGate support number for an account.

Rosetta Stone – Rosetta Stone is a language program that offers instruction in several languages, including English. Use of Rosetta Stone is limited to students who use Rosetta Stone as a part of an educational program. Call WEdGate support for a user account.

Nettrekker – Connect to over 180,000 online resources, aligned with state standards and organized by readability and grade level. Call WEdGate support for Nettrekker user account.

TaskStream – For districts continuing curriculum planning from the 2006-2007 school year. This tool is not available for new users.

Other links lead to familiar resources included in the WEdGate portal such as Altec (formerly HPRtec) and Thinkfinity (formerly Marcopolo).

REVIEW OF WEB-BASED SERVICES:

This may be the last year for the portal as it is. For the 2008-2009 school year,

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the Wyoming Department of Education is exploring a consortium approach to web-based products and services.

User statistics and other survey tools will be used to explore with districts how each product and service fits into the overall picture of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Accountability.

The end goal of the review will be to create web-based products and services that are stable from year to year and which support the work of districts and schools.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact John Durkee at jdurke@educ.state.wy.us

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