



# Wyoming Department of Education

Dr. Jim McBride, Superintendent of Public Instruction

2020 Grand Avenue, Suite 500

Laramie, WY 82070

Phone 307-777-5296

Fax 307-777-6719

Website [www.k12.wy.us](http://www.k12.wy.us)

---

## MEMORANDUM NO. 2007 - 176

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
Curriculum Coordinators  
PAWS Coordinators  
Title I Coordinators  
Principals  
Special Education Directors

**FROM:** Lesley Wangberg, Director of State Assessment  
Bill Herrera, Assistant Director of State Assessment  
Standards, Assessment and Accountability Unit

**DATE:** October 26, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Changes in PAWS Banking for High Schools

LN  
BH

---

### Urgent Information to Share

There have been recent concerns about whether students' banked proficiency scores from the 2007 PAWS will be used in future public PAWS reporting and AYP. In most cases, the answer is yes.

Given the numerous concerns by districts during the PAWS 2007 administration, a PAWS Task Force met to determine if two testing windows was a valuable use of district instructional time. They also looked at ways the PAWS could be shortened. The administration of the 2008 PAWS was immediately restructured based on the recommendations of the April 2007 PAWS Task Force meeting. Their recommendation to return to a single test administration had direct impact on which test scores could continue to be banked. Thus, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) in consultation with testing experts and the U.S. Department of Education had to reexamine banking of PAWS scores. The attached chart provides the policy set forth by the WDE for the 2008 PAWS administration. **Please share this chart with members of your district.**

Below are four updates to the banking of PAWS scores:

- After 2008, banking of PAWS scores will **only** be available for English Language Arts (combined reading and writing) and mathematics in 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

School District Superintendents

Memo No. 2007 - 176

October 26, 2007

Page 2

- For the 2008 PAWS administration, the current 10<sup>th</sup> grade students that completed a 2007 reading test, but not the full writing test, or completed a 2007 writing test but not a full reading test, must take the missing content area (reading or writing) for their banked score to go forward to 2009. After 2008, students that have not taken the full reading and writing tests will not have an ELA score that can be used for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations.
- Beginning with the 2008 PAWS, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will no longer be eligible to test.
- PAWS science test is available to grades, 4, 8, and 11 only. There is no banking of science scores available.

For questions please contact Lesley Wangberg at [lwangb@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:lwangb@educ.state.wy.us) or Bill Herrera at [bherre@educ.state.wy.us](mailto:bherre@educ.state.wy.us).

LW/LB:al

Attachment

Wyoming Department of Education

2008 PAWS Banking Guidelines for Grades Nine Through Eleven

Content Area	Current Grade	PAWS Testing			
All Content Areas	9	No longer banking 9 <sup>th</sup> grade scores – May not take any PAWS test components during the 2008 PAWS testing window and every year thereafter.			
Mathematics	10	Score is Banked and Testing is Optional			
	11	Score is Banked and Testing is Optional			
Science	11	No banking. 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students may not take PAWS Science. (Note: Science scores are not used in current AYP calculations.)			
English Language Arts (ELA) – Reading <u>and</u> Writing		If Student Did Not Participate in PAWS 2007 Reading or Writing	If Student took the 2007 PAWS Reading <b>ONLY</b> *	If Student took the 2007 PAWS Writing <b>ONLY</b> *	If Student took the 2007 PAWS Reading <b>and</b> Writing
	10	If testing, student must take <b>Reading and Writing</b> to Bank an ELA Score	<b>Must take Writing</b> to Bank an ELA Score; option to retake Reading	<b>Must take Reading</b> to Bank an ELA Score; option to retake Writing	Score is Banked and Testing is Optional
	11	<b>Must take Reading and Writing</b> to receive an ELA Score	<b>Must take Writing</b> to receive an ELA Score; option to retake Reading	<b>Must take Reading</b> to receive an ELA Score; option to retake Writing	Score is Banked and Testing is Optional

\* If a 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade student took either the Reading or Writing test in 2007 and does not take the other corresponding content area in 2008, the system will drop the single test taken in 2007. The student **MUST** take both content areas by 2008 in order to bank an ELA score in 2008.

Beginning with the 2008 administration, **ONLY 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be allowed to participate in the PAWS (9<sup>th</sup> grade students will not be allowed to bank scores).**