



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2008 - 095

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Laurel Ballard, Supervisor for Accountability
Standards, Assessment and Accountability Unit

DATE: July 11, 2008

SUBJECT: 2006 and 2007 PAWS Reading Score Revisions

IMPORTANT AND TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION – PLEASE SHARE

This is to inform you about recent discoveries in the 2006 and 2007 PAWS Reading results. You will receive further in-depth correspondence from Pearson regarding this discovery.

The first problem found had to do with the rubrics used for scoring the constructed response items on the reading assessment. During the 2005 PAWS Field Test the reading short constructed response items were scored using a 2 point (1, 2) rubric and extended response items were scored using a 4 point (1,2,3,4) rubric. In the 2006 and 2007 Reading assessment the short constructed response items were scored using a 3 point (0,1,2) rubric and extended constructed response items were scored using a 5 point (0,1,2,3,4) rubric. This change in the reading rubrics (adding a “0” to the rubrics) was not properly accounted for, causing the raw score to scale score conversions in 2006 and 2007 in reading to be inaccurate.

Since the performance level standard setting was held in 2006, the raw score to performance level conversions are accurate, but there will be changes to the scale scores in reading. In 2007, the scale scores for some of the students were incorrect, causing the performance levels to be wrong for some of the students. Pearson has recently corrected this mistake and has provided the WDE with the revised student data file.

The second error occurred in relation to the fifth grade ELA proficient cut score. In 2007, a proficient cut score of 51 was applied instead of 50. Therefore, there were two hundred 5th grade students statewide who were assigned a basic performance level who should have been considered proficient.

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Given there were no changes to the reading performance levels in 2006, there were no changes in the 2006 AYP determinations. Since the performance level changed for some students in 2007, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) has been recalculated for 2007. A change in AYP status occurred for only three schools. These schools were originally reported as missing AYP in 2007 and are now meeting AYP for 2007. These districts have received a phone call and a separate letter indicating the schools that changed AYP status. The revised 2007 PAWS Reading scales scores and performance levels are being used in the 2008 AYP determination process. To assist schools and districts in reviewing their AYP data as well as their PAWS data, the WDE has put 2007 AYP summary data and individual student level 2007 PAWS and PAWS-ALT data used in making AYP determinations online at:

https://wdesecure.k12.wy.us/pls/portal/ASSESSMENT.AYP_HOME.show.

A user name and password is required to access these reports. Please work with the person in your district that is responsible for assigning WDE user rights on the WDE690 (User Login and Security Rights web form) to set up rights for the individuals in your district that will need access to these reports. Rights will need to be assigned using WDEAYP as the form number.

For questions concerning changes in the 2007 PAWS scores, please contact Lesley Wangberg at 307-777-6918 or lwangb@educ.state.wy.us and/or Bill Herrera at 307-777-6132 or bherre@educ.state.wy.us. For questions related to how changes in the 2007 PAWS scores affects the 2007 AYP and 2008 AYP results, please contact Laurel Ballard at 307-777-7016 or lballa@educ.state.wy.us.

LB:ts

cc: Curriculum Coordinators
PAWS Coordinators
Title I Directors
Special Education Directors
Principals