



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-001

TO: District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Principals
District PAWS Coordinators
Building PAWS Coordinators

FROM: Alan Moore, Director
Standards and Assessment Division

DATE: January 7, 2011

SUBJECT: PAWS 2011 Administration Guidelines

INFORMATION TO SHARE

Based on requests received from districts and schools in Wyoming, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is modifying the guidelines for the administration of PAWS in 2011. Please note the following changes to the information presented at WDE PAWS Coordinator training sessions in December, 2010:

1. The PAWS 2011 testing window will be a 4-week rather than 3-week window. The PAWS administration in 2011 will be from March 7 to April 1.
2. 2011 PAWS will **NOT** be a timed test. Students should be allowed enough time to respond thoughtfully to all items on the test.
3. The writing assessment will not require the final draft to be completed on the same day as the rough draft. However, both the rough draft and final draft of Prompt 1 must be finished before starting Prompt 2. For example, students could complete the rough draft response to Prompt 1 on one day, and complete the final draft on a following day. Then, the second draft could be completed on some later third day, and the final draft could be completed on a later fourth day. The timing of the writing assessment session is completely a local decision, as long as the complete response to Prompt 1 is completed before beginning the first draft of Prompt 2.

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4. The order of administration of the different content areas (Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science), is left to the district and school to decide. But, all sections of a content area test must be completed before beginning a test in a different content area, **except for writing**. The following two scenarios show different approaches that might be used. Please understand that these are only examples, and not requirements. There are many other possible schedules that schools may decide is best for students.

Example Scenario 1: School A, an elementary school, chooses to have students begin session 1 of the Reading test on day 1, and complete the first draft of the response to Writing Prompt 1. Then on day 2, students would finish the Reading test, and complete their final drafts of responses to Writing Prompt 1. On day 3, there is no PAWS testing. On day 4, students begin the Mathematics test, and begin Writing Prompt 2. On day 5, they complete the Mathematics test and Writing Prompt 2. On day 6, the 4th grade students complete both parts of the Science test. PAWS will have taken 4 half-days for most students and 5 half-days for 4th grade students.

Example Scenario 2: School B, a high school on a block schedule, decides that students can complete an entire content area on each day, except for Writing. Students in 10th and 11th grade complete Mathematics on day 1, Reading on day 2, Writing Prompt 1 draft and final on Day 3, Writing Prompt 2 draft and final on Day 4, and Science on Day 5. PAWS will have taken 5 half-days.

If you have any questions regarding these PAWS administration guidelines, please contact Melissa Irvine mirvin@educ.state.wy.us (307) 721-1926.

You may also access an informational video about these changes to the 2011 PAWS administration by following the link on the department's website at <http://www.k12.wy.us> or directly at <http://www.k12.wy.us/sa/paws/index.asp#2011Remedies>.

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