



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-028

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Erin Buchanan, Language Arts Content Specialist
Standards and Assessment Division

DATE: February 25, 2011

SUBJECT: PAWS Traffic Signal Project and Writing Scoring Institute

REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION

Teachers from across Wyoming will soon have the opportunity to participate in the PAWS Traffic Signal Project (April 26-27) and/or the PAWS Writing Scoring Institute (April 28-May 1). Each year the Wyoming Department of Education Assessment Team asks for recommendations of accomplished teachers from each district to participate in these invaluable professional development opportunities.

Please refer to the enclosed letter, sent to each District PAWS Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, and Principal for additional information on the Traffic Signal Project and Writing Scoring Institute. In this letter, we have requested potential teacher participants complete a Zoomerang survey of interest by Friday, March 4, 2011. Once we have a list of possible participants, we will begin to make contact with these individuals.

If you have questions about the PAWS Traffic Signal Project or PAWS Writing Scoring Institute and need additional information, please contact Melissa Irvine at (307) 721-1926 or mirvin@educ.state.wy.us.

Enclosure



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Dear (School Principal, Curriculum Coordinator, or PAWS Coordinator),

A select number of accomplished teachers from across Wyoming will have the opportunity to participate in the PAWS Traffic Signal Project (April 26-27) and/or the PAWS Writing Scoring Institute (April 28-May 1). Through participation with these projects, teachers will strengthen their understanding of the skill-based instructionally supportive PAWS assessment which they will be able to take back to their district or school to share with colleagues.

Through extensive analysis and discussion of the 2011 PAWS test administration items, educators participating in the Traffic Signal Project will help define the red, yellow, and green score determinations for each skill area, which will then be used to create the instructionally supportive Traffic Signal Reports for grades 3-8 and 11. These teachers will also provide instructional recommendations at each grade level and skill category to be accessible to all Wyoming educators through the WDE Web site.

Those participating in the Writing Scoring Institute will build their knowledge and understanding of the PAWS writing scoring process by using the writing anchors and scoring guides to score actual writing papers for grades 4, 6, 8, and 11 from the 2011 PAWS administration.

If you have teachers in your school or district that would like to participate in either of these professional development opportunities, please have them complete a survey of interest at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BWNXC3BA4/>. Please keep in mind that we're looking for reading and mathematics teachers of grades 3-8 and 11 and science teachers of grades 4, 8, and 11 for the Traffic Signal Project. For the Writing Scoring Institute, we are looking for language arts teachers of grades 4, 6, 8, and 11. Please encourage teachers to complete the Zoomerang survey by Friday, March 4, 2011.

Thank you in advance for your assistance. Once the Wyoming Department of Education has a finalized list of possible participants, we will begin to make direct contact with these individuals to discuss the specifics of the project(s). If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Irvine at (307) 721-1926 or mirvin@educ.state.wy.us.

Sincerely,

Erin

Erin Buchanan
Language Arts Content Specialist
Wyoming Department of Education