



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2011-075

TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
District Assessment Directors
School Principals

FROM: Sheryl Lain, Instructional Leader

DATE: May 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Wyoming Accountability in Education Act, SEA90

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

The Department is studying the direction provided in multiple pieces of legislation passed this year by the 61st Legislature. One of these is Senate Enrolled Act 90 (SEA90), the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act. Through amendment of existent state and district assessment requirements and student performance measures, SEA90 establishes a state accountability system. This act also provides for the creation of both select and advisory committees to review other changes contemplated in the legislation.

Provisions of SEA90 will occur in phases over the ensuing two to three years. However, some provisions in the bill will apply immediately to the upcoming school year (**SY2011-12**), principally the use of 2011-12 benchmark assessment data as the initial year from which to base growth measurements. SEA90 directs the State Board of Education, through the Superintendent and the Department, to "...pilot a statewide benchmark adaptive assessment during school year 2011-12...." Results from the pilot assessment are to be used to establish student achievement level alignment with the statewide summative assessment and to establish student performance target levels for 2012-13 (Section 5 of the law). The law further states in W.S. 21-2-304(a)(vii) that the adaptive benchmark assessment is to assess student growth in all students in grades kindergarten through grade eight in reading and mathematics, and is to be administered uniformly statewide by districts at least two times during the school year in accordance with prescribed time periods and procedures established by the Board. For the SY2011-12, the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) will be the benchmark adaptive assessment.

So that districts can prepare for this requirement, please plan to administer MAP no later than September 30, 2011, and again in the spring between April 15 and May 15, 2012, for students in K-8 in reading and math. If you are a district that also receives

School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
District Assessment Directors
School Principals
May 16, 2011
Page 2

Bridges grant funds for summer and extended day programs, students entering ninth grade are also assessed during the fall window.

Throughout the summer, the Department will provide further guidance to districts on the uniform administration and the prescribed time period and procedures for SY 2011-12 MAP administrations.

If you have questions, please contact Sheryl Lain at 307-274-2638 or slain@educ.state.wy.us.

SL:rw