



# Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Hathaway Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne WY 82002-0050

Phone: 307-777-7675 Fax: 307-777-6234 Website: [edu.wyoming.gov](http://edu.wyoming.gov)

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-087

**TO:** School District Superintendents  
School Principals  
Curriculum Coordinators  
District Test Coordinators  
Building Test Coordinators

**FROM:** Tammy Schroeder, Test Development Program Manager  
Assessment Division

**DATE:** May 14, 2012

**SUBJECT:** PAWS Item, Bias and Data Review

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### IMPORTANT TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) is currently compiling a list of potential participants for the 2012 PAWS Item, Bias, and Data Review Committees. Before sending out formal invitations, we would like to provide individuals with an opportunity to learn what each of these important upcoming projects entails. **Please forward this information to educators in your district** who may be interested in participating.

#### **PAWS Item Review: July 30 - August 2, 2012, Cheyenne, Wyoming**

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed PAWS items prior to being field tested. Teams of teachers will work with personnel from Educational Testing Service (ETS) to examine the overall technical quality of reading, mathematics, and science items to be field tested on the 2013 PAWS. The academic content knowledge and expertise held by educators are required in order to fully evaluate these items.

#### **PAWS Bias & Sensitivity Review: August 3, 2012, Cheyenne, Wyoming**

Following the Item Review, Wyoming educators will have the opportunity to work further with ETS to evaluate these same items for potential bias and/or sensitivity of subject content against various demographic subgroups. With regard to fairness and content, reviewers will suggest the revision or deletion of items as they deem necessary. Any items that survive this rigorous examination become part of the field test item pool.

School District Superintendents  
School Principals  
Curriculum Coordinators  
District Test Coordinators  
Building Test Coordinators  
Memo No. 2012-087  
May 14, 2012  
Page 2

**PAWS Data Review: July 25-26, 2012, Casper, Wyoming**

During Data Review, educators work with Pearson to evaluate the performance of recent field test items to determine the final selection of items for future operational assessments. Item performance will be evaluated based on the following:

- Level of difficulty
- Evidence of fairness across subgroups
- Ability to draw distinctions between students of differing overall ability levels
- Distribution of responses to determine the overall effectiveness of item distracters

Suggestions made by Wyoming educators will provide a basis for eliminating items that do not function properly.

The collective feedback of all participants in these reviews provides valuable consultative information back to the WDE and the testing vendors. It is intended that participants will be demographically representative of educators across Wyoming.

Participants for each of these meetings will receive:

- Breakfast, lunch and a per diem for dinner for each day of the review;
- Direct pay of hotel costs;
- Mileage reimbursement for those persons traveling away from their home city;
- A stipend of \$250 for each day of the review.

\*Please note that if you are a resident of any of these locations, lodging, mileage reimbursement and a dinner per diem will not be provided.

If you have an interest in attending one, two or three of these reviews, please complete the survey on Zoomerang to express your interest in participating at these events at the following link:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22EKSSG2RAE>

Please note, that at this point in the planning process, the WDE is only compiling a list of **potential** participants. Educators who indicate an interest will be added to our contact lists. However, it will not guarantee a formal invitation to participate. Formal invitations will be sent once we have had the opportunity to evaluate our level of need for each review, the number of interested participants available to fill that need, and our ability to select individuals to ensure balanced representation from schools and districts across the state.

Interested individuals must complete the informational survey by **Friday, June 8, 2012**. Thank you for disseminating this information to potential participants. If you have any questions, please contact Jude Serrano at 307-777-8568 or at [jude.serrano@wyo.gov](mailto:jude.serrano@wyo.gov).

TS:js