



Wyoming Department of Education PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

August 7, 2013

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Wyoming Department of Education releases statewide PAWS scores

CHEYENNE – The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) released the statewide scores for the 2013 Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS), today in Cheyenne.

All PAWS scores are available on the Department of Education's [Fusion](#) site.

The 2013 PAWS proficiency rates declined across each grade level and content area when compared to results achieved on the 2012 exam. WDE Director of Assessment, Deb Lindsey points out PAWS has been in a state of transition, which may have some impact on the scores recorded for the 2013 administration of the test. Performance data also reveal achievement gaps between student groups that need to be addressed.

“It's important to look at the overall trend of performance over time, especially given the changes that have been made to the assessment system in the past few years -- in 2011, the assessment was given on paper only, instead of partially on-line,” she said. “In 2012, the writing test was eliminated from PAWS, and in 2013, constructed response items were removed from PAWS. Also in 2013, we began our first phase of transitioning the PAWS to address the new content standards. Each of these changes can affect student performance.”

PAWS Results, 2012 and 2013
Percent of Wyoming Students measured as Proficient and Advanced

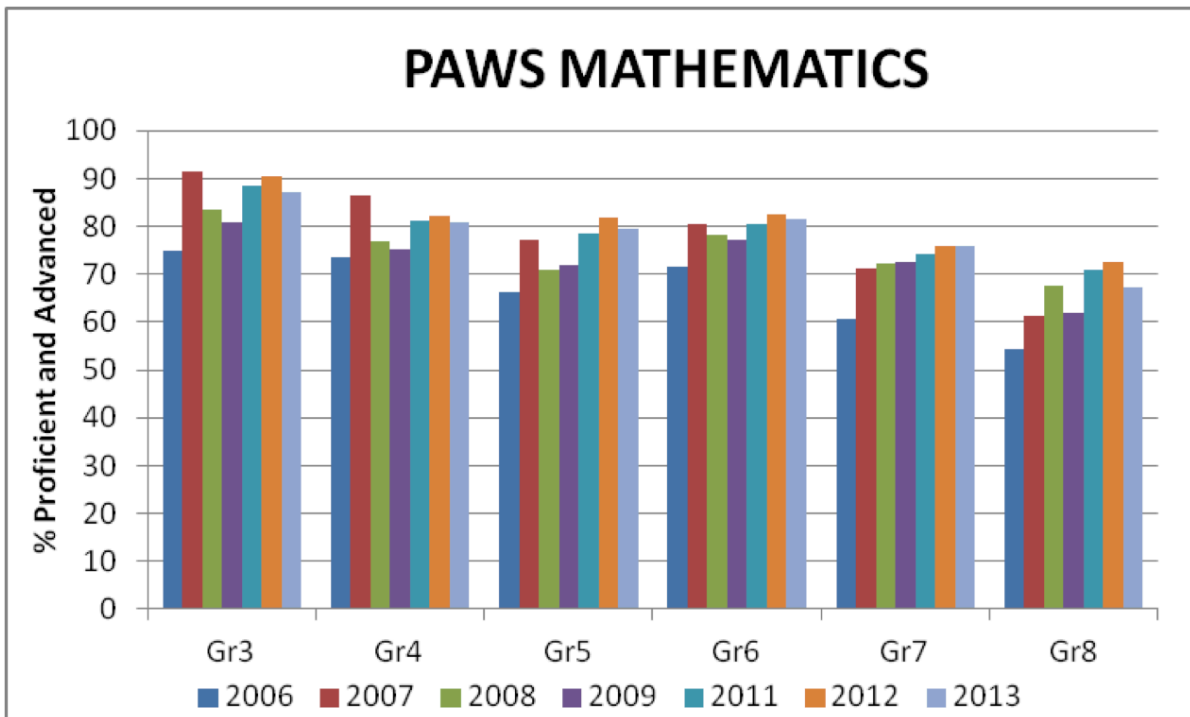
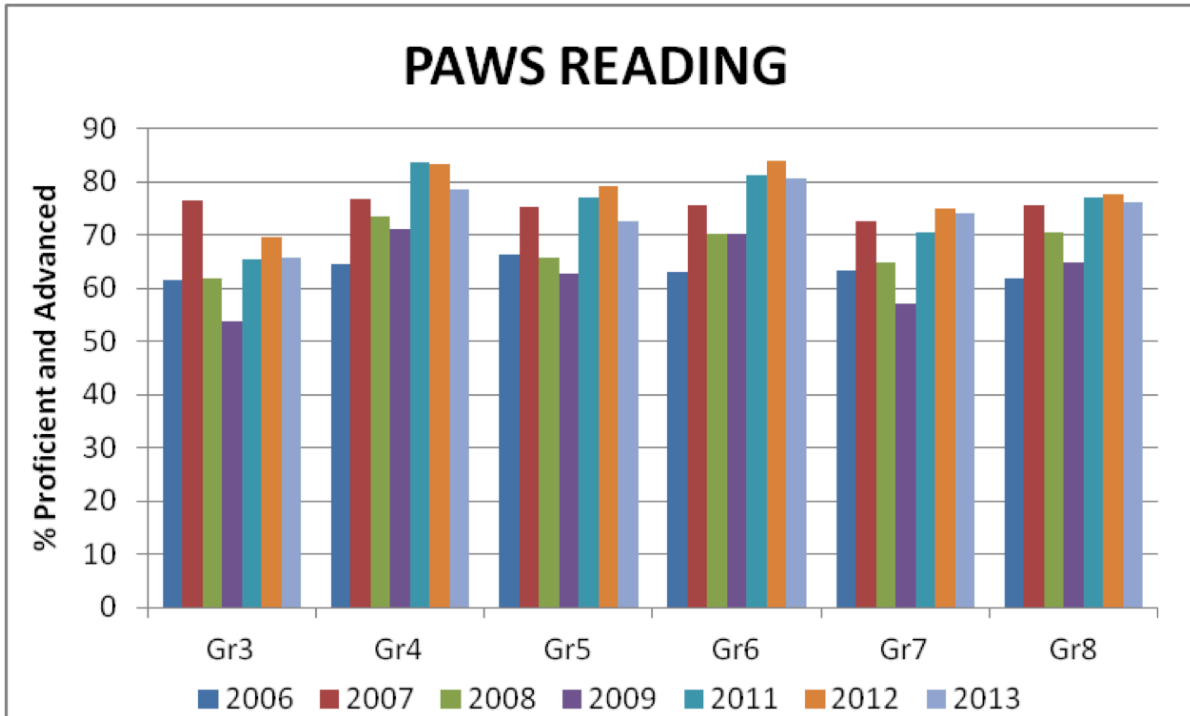
Grades	<u>Reading</u>		<u>Mathematics</u>		<u>Science</u>	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
3	69.6	65.7	90.4	87.3	-	-
4	83.2	78.4	82.2	81.2	63.3	57.8
5	79.1	72.6	81.9	79.5	-	-
6	83.9	80.9	82.4	81.8	-	-
7	75.0	74.3	76.0	75.9	-	-
8	77.5	76.3	72.6	67.6	51.2	44.1

The PAWS is Wyoming’s state assessment in grades 3-8, and is used to measure students’ progress towards Wyoming content standards. The data the assessment produces is used for federal and state accountability determinations such as Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA). PAWS and its alternate for students with significant cognitive disabilities (PAWS-ALT) is administered to Wyoming students in grades 3-8 in reading, math and science. The ACT serves as the state assessment for students in grade 11.

“While these test results indicate a need to continue work of schools and the WDE to improve student success, I would caution that they not be interpreted as an indictment of the ongoing work to improve educational outcomes. We are committed to helping school staff across the state make the transition to teaching and assessing the new standards,” said WDE Director, Rich Crandall. “The higher expectations that come with more rigorous standards will ultimately benefit all Wyoming students.”

Attached to this release are graphs depicting performance on PAWS math, science and reading tests since 2006. PAWS test results were invalidated during 2010 due to irregularities in computerized online testing; largely as a result, PAWS testing has been administered solely in a paper-and-pencil format since 2011. PAWS results in 2007 were characterized by multiple testing opportunities for all students, with only their highest scores being used in final reporting.

Questions on the 2013 PAWS are also more closely aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The next round of PAWS testing, slated for spring 2014, will include mostly new test questions, and all items will address the Common Core standards. As a result, next year’s PAWS will mark a break from pre-2014 PAWS testing results and reporting trend lines. In anticipation of these changes, school districts around the state are in varying stages of implementing new curricula and instructional approaches to meet the increased demands of the new standards, and next year’s more rigorous PAWS exams. The Common Core standards were reviewed and approved by the Wyoming State Board of Education in 2012, following a public comment period.



PAWS Mathematics Tests: Percentage Proficient and Advanced

Grade	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 Difference from 2012
3	74.8	91.6	83.4	80.9		88.4	90.4	87.3	-3.1
4	73.5	86.5	76.8	75.3		81.1	82.2	81.2	-1.0
5	66.2	77.3	71.0	72.0		78.4	81.9	79.5	-2.4
6	71.7	80.7	78.2	77.3		80.7	82.4	81.6	-0.8
7	60.6	71.4	72.2	72.5		74.1	76.0	75.8	-0.2
8	54.5	61.3	67.7	62.1		70.9	72.6	67.3	-5.3

PAWS Science Tests: Percentage Proficient and Advanced

Grade	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 Difference from 2012
4	50.9	50.5		54.5	63.3	57.8	-5.5
8	46.4	42.9		50.7	51.2	44.1	-7.1

PAWS Reading Tests: Percentage Proficient and Advanced

Grade	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 Difference from 2012
3	61.6	76.5	61.7	53.7		65.5	69.6	65.7	-3.9
4	64.5	76.6	73.4	71.1		83.6	83.2	78.4	-4.8
5	66.2	75.2	65.7	62.8		77.1	79.1	72.6	-6.5
6	63.1	75.4	70.1	70.3		81.1	83.9	80.9	-3.0
7	63.4	72.7	64.9	57.1		70.4	75.0	74.3	-0.7
8	61.9	75.5	70.4	64.9		77.1	77.5	76.3	-1.2