



Wyoming Department of Education

PRESS RELEASE

CHEYENNE --

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Contact:

Jerry Zellars

(307) 777-6386

jerry.zellars@wyo.gov

edu.wyoming.gov

Department of Education readies PAWS and AYP data

Cheyenne-The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) announced today its projected release dates for the 2012 results of the Proficiency Assessment of Wyoming Students (PAWS), the Proficiency Assessment of Wyoming Students-Alternate Assessment (PAWS-ALT) as well as school districts' Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations. The PAWS, PAWS-ALT, and AYP release dates are listed in the table below.

Type of Report To Be Released	Recipient of Release	Release Date
PAWS & PAWS-ALT Confidential Results	Information released to school districts	July 16, 2012
*PAWS & PAWS-ALT Public Reports	Information released to the public	July 23, 2012
AYP Confidential Reports	Information released to school districts	July 23, 2012
Individual Student Reports	Information released to school districts by WDE's assessment vendor	July 30, 2012
*AYP Public Reports	Information released to the public	August 7, 2012

Cindy Hill

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

(307) 777-7675 (307) 777-6234 FAX

*Indicates report that will be released to the public.

Background

- **PAWS:**

A primary purpose of the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS) is to foster program improvement at the school, district, and state levels in support of the teaching and learning that takes place in Wyoming public classrooms and meets all of the attendant requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). In 2005–2006, PAWS became the official statewide assessment used to measure individual student achievement based on the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in reading, writing, and mathematics for grades 3 - 8 and 11. In 2008, a science assessment was implemented for grades 4, 8, and 11.

PAWS is conceptually constructed as a criterion-referenced assessment with an instructionally-supportive design to include clear targets for instruction and informative reporting categories. PAWS results provide skill-level reporting categories aligned to the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards as organized by the Wyoming Assessment Descriptions to assist teachers to interpret and address specific academic needs of students.

- **PAWS-ALT:**

Wyoming's alternate assessment, Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students–Alternate (PAWS–ALT), is designed for a small number of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. It is part of a statewide instructionally supportive assessment system which complies with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA).

- **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP):**

AYP is a measure of year-to-year student achievement on statewide assessments. Each state develops its own definition about what making **AYP means. Definitions must answer three questions: the percentage of students who must be proficient or above when tested in reading and mathematics (yearly in grades 3-8 and once in high school); whether or not at least 95 percent of students in those grades participated in the assessments; and, the additional academic indicator (e.g., graduation rates for high schools) that will be measured.

**Note: AYP targets are determined using a federally mandated formula.

For more information about the release schedule for the reports or other aspects of this press release, please contact Rebecca Walk @ Rebecca.walk@wyo.gov or call 307-777-3498.

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