



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR RELEASE - March 14, 2014

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SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM FIELD TEST LAUNCH HAS SHIFTED

Little to no impact likely to be felt in Wyoming

CHEYENNE - The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) today announced it has shifted the beginning of its Field Test to Tuesday, March 25 from the originally planned launch of March 18. This change is being made to ensure that the Consortium and its contractors have taken all the steps necessary for teachers, students, and administrators to have a productive experience with the Field Test.

This change affects only those schools that originally registered for the first of four Field Test windows. The other three windows remain unchanged.

“It is reassuring to me that Smarter Balanced, along with its contractors and member states, has affirmed its commitment to quality by delaying the launch of the field test,” said WDE Assessment Director Deb Lindsey. “I expect very few schools in Wyoming would have tested in the first week of the SBAC window due to the overlap with the PAWS testing window.”

SBAC is a cooperative effort among more than 20 states to build a comprehensive assessment system that provides educators and parents with the information they need to help all students prepare for success in college and careers. The Smarter Balanced Field Test will ensure that the assessments are accurate and fair for all students. The scale of the Field Test is unprecedented, involving more than 3 million students and 20,000 schools. Eighteen school districts in Wyoming have pledged to administer in the Field Test to 6,868 students in Math and 5,749 in English language arts.

The change in the testing window could affect up to 1,500 students in six districts. Many of the district impacted have registered for multiple testing windows. Among the districts impacted by the change are: Big Horn 1, Fremont 25, Fremont 24, Natrona 1, Park 1, and Platte 2.

SBAC has offered four testing windows for its Field Test. Only the first window is impacted. The testing windows are:

- March 25-April 4
- April 7-April 25
- April 28-May 16
- May 19-June 6

The goals of the Field Test are to uncover challenges before the formal launch of the assessment system across the country in the 2014–15 school year and to ensure a high-quality assessment experience for all students. The WDE will continue to work closely with districts and schools throughout the Field Test to provide the support needed to make this effort a success. This practice run of the assessment system will give WDE as well as teachers and schools a chance to experience the new assessments and evaluate test administration procedures.

Among the school districts who will take part in the Field Test during one of the four testing windows are: Albany 1, Big Horn 1, Carbon 1, Carbon 2, Crook 1, Fremont 6, Fremont 24, Fremont 25, Laramie 1, Natrona 1, Park 1, Platte 2, Region V BOCES, Sheridan 2, Sublette 1, Sweetwater 1, Sweetwater 2, Teton 1, Washakie 1.

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