

FAQ ASSESSMENT

WHAT TESTS DO STUDENTS TAKE?

Wyoming students take a variety of tests that are used to measure student achievement and growth:

- **School-level:** Classroom quizzes and tests are given by teachers to assess general daily learning. Schools may also create school-wide or grade-level assessments.
- **District-level: MAP, DIBELS, STAR, et. al.** Districts use computerized tests to gauge how well students are learning reading, math, and science. Districts may also create district-wide or grade-level assessments.
- **State-level: WY-TOPP, ACT®, and WY-ALT (for students with significant cognitive disabilities).** Wyoming statewide tests are objective, standardized measures of student achievement on proficiency standards. Students, families, teachers and administrators use statewide test results as part of a comprehensive system for evaluating learning.

WHAT STATEWIDE TESTS ARE STUDENTS EXPECTED TO TAKE?

Students in third-10th grades take the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP) in reading and math. Writing is tested in third, fifth, seventh and ninth grades. Students in fourth, eighth and 10th grades take the science portion of WY-TOPP. Students in 11th grade take the ACT. These standardized tests are indicators of college readiness and student achievement in English, math, reading, science and writing.

HOW ARE STATEWIDE TEST RESULTS USED?

WY-TOPP and ACT results are used to help evaluate a school's strengths and weaknesses, and to produce a school performance rating. Parents receive an individual student report which outlines their child's performance level in each area tested. *WY-TOPP and ACT scores have no direct effect on student grades.*

WHO DECIDES WHAT IS ON THE STATEWIDE TESTS?

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) works with American Institutes for Research (AIR) to craft WY-TOPP. The WDE decides the content on each test to ensure the questions accurately measure Wyoming standards. ACT Inc. creates the ACT. Wyoming does not develop or have input in the content of this test.

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WHAT DID THE 2016 STATEWIDE STUDENT ASSESSMENT BILL CHANGE?

The bill placed a 1 percent cap on classroom time allowed for statewide assessments, allows for question types other than Multiple Choice to appear on statewide assessments, better aligns assessments in grades 3-10, and calls for an assessment which provides results that can be compared to other states. The bill maintains the requirement for all juniors to take a college entrance exam, but also requires the state to provide an optional career readiness assessment to juniors and seniors. These changes were made based on recommendations from an Assessment Task Force, which was meant to refine and strengthen our statewide assessment system.

DOES THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT AFFECT STATEWIDE TESTING?

The Every Student Succeeds Act reinforces the authority of states to decide which statewide assessments are the most appropriate for its students. It still requires annual testing and reporting in reading and math in grades 3-8 and once in high school. Science is also assessed once each in elementary, middle, and high school. ESSA does not include provisions for opting out of statewide assessments, and it maintains the 95 percent student participation requirement.