



WDE Assessment Updates

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WDE Summer Workshop Application

See the General Invitation letter (attached below) for information and participant application for WDE summer workshops. These workshops include item, bias, and data review and standard setting. We will make selections for these workshops around May 1st, so please let teachers know that applications are available.

Testing Dates for 2015

After discussion and feedback from the field, we have set the following testing dates for the 2015 administration.

2015 State Assessment Testing Dates	
PAWS	March 2-March 27
SAWS	April 13-May 1
Wyoming ALT	Feb. 23- March 27
Explore	April 20-May 12
Plan	April 20-May 12
ACT Plus Writing	April 28 make-up May 12
Compass	Fall: Oct. 6-Oct. 24 Spring: April 20-May 12

ACT Suite Shipping

Now that the initial ACT test and WorkKeys administrations are under our belts it is time to ship back materials. All initial ACT and WorkKeys tests and answer documents should be returned to ACT and make-up testing orders should have been placed no later than today.

PAWS and PAWS-ALT File Review

PAWS and PAWS-ALT information will be released for confidential review this Monday. We cannot overstate the importance of district participation in this review! This review will take place from April 28 through May 9. Here are the four specific pieces to be reviewed:

- 1) Testing Status
- 2) Exemption Status
- 3) Grade Enrolled (WDE684 collection) vs. Grade Tested (ETS)
- 4) Full Academic Year Status-school and district level status fields

Attached to this newsletter is a detailed layout explaining the specific pieces up for review.

Participation

Please remember that a 95% participation rate is expected in PAWS, PAWS-ALT, SAWS, SAWS-ALT, Explore, Plan, and ACT. Also just like with PAWS the SAWS assessments as well as the ACT assessments have a snapshot that is taken in the middle of the testing window. This snapshot date is April 23 and will be used to look at enrollment.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- April 14-May 2 -- SAWS, Explore, Plan, and Compass testing window
- April 28-May 9 -- Window to review initial PAWS testing file
- May 7 -- ACT make-up test
- May 8 -- WorkKeys make-up test
- May 9 -- Explore and Plan answer folders to ACT
- May 16 -- Deadline for ACT to receive materials

4/28/2014

PAWS and PAWS-ALT Accountability Roster, Testing Status, and Approved Exemption Fact Sheet

Wyoming public schools and districts are accountable for educating students under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requirements as well as the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (W.S. § 21-2-204). These laws include multiple measures of school effectiveness. Several of these measures include the state assessment, Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students. It is critical for school and district personnel to carefully review PAWS accountability rosters, testing status, and exemptions. Actual scores and proficiency levels will not be available until late summer, but the WDE was able to negotiate early receipt of student level testing status to enable this review.

For your review, a list of students reported as primarily enrolled on March 21, 2014 in your district's schools will be available online from April 28 to May 9 including limited PAWS and PAWS-ALT testing and accountability related information. Of specific interest for review by your district:

- 1) **Testing Status**
- 2) **Exemption Status**
- 3) **Grade Enrolled (WDE684 collection) vs. Grade Tested (ETS)**
- 4) **Full Academic Year Status – school and district level status fields**

Data will be provided securely through the Wyoming Education Fusion portal. In addition to the data, a file layout with an index of column names and content explanations will be posted in the portal. District superintendents will be asked to verify online that they have received and reviewed their Accountability Roster at the following link:

<https://portals.edu.wyoming.gov/Confirm/View/2014PAWSRoster>

During the confidential review, WDE staff will be on-hand to answer questions and assist districts with the review process. Contact information is listed within each component.

- 1) **Testing Status**
 - This is the testing status as will apply for purposes of aggregated public reporting and district/school level accountability.

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- Actual scores and proficiency levels will not be available until late summer, but the WDE was able to negotiate early receipt of student level testing status to enable this review.
- Testing status values (by subject):
 - X = Exempt: The student has an approved exemption from this subject (or a pending exemption where ELL is the exemption type), as discussed in the “Exemption Type” section below.
 - T = Tested: The student has been reported by ETS to have taken the test free of any conditions expected to invalidate the test. That is, a valid scale score and proficiency level will be reported later this summer for this student and subject.
 - N = Not Tested: The student does not have a valid test result. In most cases, this will simply mean the student was not tested. One particular case, discussed in the “Grade Enrolled (WDE684 collection) vs. Grade Tested (ETS)” section below, is that where a student has been tested in a different grade than reported as enrolled.
- **CONTACT for QUESTIONS: Jessica Steinbrenner, jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov, 307-777-8568**

2) **Exemption Type**

- If you have requested an exemption from testing for a student and the exemption has been approved, the exemption type will be reported (e.g. ELL, Medical, etc.).
- NOTE: For purposes of this review period, an approved ELL exemption means the exemption is PENDING confirmation of required ACCESS for ELLs testing of the student. The WDE will not receive ACCESS results until after the end of this review period. As a reminder, ELL exemption only applies to the reading portion of PAWS.
- **CONTACT for QUESTIONS: Jessica Steinbrenner, jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov, 307-777-8568**

3) **Grade Enrolled (WDE684 collection) vs. Grade Tested (ETS)**

- Grade Enrolled, Grade Tested, and a comparison field will be reported.
- Where a student has tested, but was reported as enrolled in a different grade than tested, the comparison field will indicate a grade mismatch AND the testing status value will be N (Not Tested).
 - If your district determines that the student was tested at the proper grade level and that the reported WDE684 grade was incorrect, resubmit the WDE684 record active on March 21st for this student with the correct

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- If your district determines that the student was tested at an incorrect grade level, no changes need to be made.
- **CONTACT for QUESTIONS: Brian Wuerth, brian.wuerth@wyo.gov, 307-777-6748**

4) Full Academic Year Status – school and district level status fields

- Full Academic Year for students in grades 3-8 for the purposes of PAWS and grades 3-11 for PAWS- ALT reporting is October 1, 2013 – March 21, 2014.
- PAWS and PAWS-ALT Full Academic Year status is derived from year-to-date records submitted on the spring WDE684 (this year, March 21, 2014).
- Most small (< 10 day) gaps in enrollments reported out of student information systems have been identified as being due to reporting requirements and system related administrative reasons. Thus, in automated processes, these small breaks do not constitute an immediate break-in-enrollment unless an enrollment record exists in a different school during the short break.
 - Identification of students as mobile or full academic year also has significant funding implications, which were addressed with WDE Finance and the School Finance Data Advisory Committee in the development of status determination processes.
- As such, there may be cases where challenge of an automated status determination will make sense. Challenges will be evaluated individually based on enrollment details to be provided as a part of the challenge.
- **CONTACT for QUESTIONS or to challenge an automated full academic year status value: Brian Wuerth, brian.wuerth@wyo.gov, 307-777-6748**

Other items to review:

- If you have a parentally placed private school student receiving special education services please contact Brian Wuerth, 307-777-6748, brian.wuerth@wyo.gov.
- Homeschool students are not included in aggregate reporting or accountability calculations.