



WDE Assessment Updates

May 6, 2014

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WDE Summer Workshop Application - More Applicants Needed!

More participants are needed for our summer workshops. We are in particular need of ELA teachers in grades 3-8 to participate in the standard setting workshops. See the General Invitation letter (attached below) for information and participant application for the workshops.

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
NAEP	Jan. 26-March 6

SAWS Window Closes

Friday was the final day of the SAWS testing window. Please be sure all of your test materials are packed and picked up by UPS no later than Friday, May 9. If you have shipping or packing questions, please contact the customer service department at 877-327-9415.

ACT Suite Shipping

If you have any initial ACT and WorkKeys tests and answer documents they should be returned to ACT immediately.

Schools may continue to hold on to Explore and Plan materials until any and all make-up testing has been done. Remember that the Explore and Plan testing window ends May 2. Explore and Plan assessments must be received at ACT no later than May 9. Delays in receiving materials may cause delays in reporting.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- 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

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SBAC Practice Tests: An Update

The Smarter Balanced Practice Tests were released in the spring of 2013 to help students and teachers understand the format of the Smarter Balanced test as well as the tools and resources that are available to make the test more accessible. The refreshed Practice Test scheduled for release in late May 2014 includes new questions and performance tasks. Enhancements also include additional embedded universal tools, designated supports and accommodations. The practice tests in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics for grades 3 through 8 and 11 each include approximately 30 questions as well as a new performance task in ELA. The updated Practice Tests more closely mirror the operational assessment and includes several new features.

(Note: The Practice Tests are separate from the Field Test, and they are available to anyone in the public via the SBAC website: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>)

New Features in Math:

- ◆ Questions that include the range of item types expected to appear on the operational assessment, including a new question type that allows students to enter information directly into the cells of a table
- ◆ Questions that span a range of difficulty for the grade level from “very easy” to “very difficult” and performance tasks that utilize more open-ended response types to allow students to explain their thinking on complex, real world problems
- ◆ Improvements to question wording, format and directions based on input from experts in content and accessibility and accommodations experts

New Features in ELA:

- ◆ New or revised reading and listening passages
- ◆ Improvements to question wording, format and directions based on input from experts in content and accessibility and accommodations experts
- ◆ Questions that include the range of item types expected to appear on the operational assessment, including matching tables and short-text questions
- ◆ Revised scoring rubrics for teacher use

Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Features:

- ◆ For the math assessment in every grade, glossaries are available in 10 languages and several dialects
- ◆ Full stacked Spanish translation available for the math assessment in every grade

March 24, 2014

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to apply for consideration to participate in upcoming teacher committee workshops for the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). As a workshop panel member you will be joined by educators from around the state who will review test questions and test data and make suggestions that will guide the development of the state assessments.

Submission of this application does not constitute appointment as a panelist. Your application will be evaluated by the Wyoming Department of Education to determine if you meet the program's needs. If your application is approved, your name will be added to our contact list of potential participants. Formal invitations will be sent out by May 1, 2014 once we have had the opportunity to evaluate our level of need for each review, the number of interested participants available to fill that need, and our ability to select individuals to ensure balanced representation from schools and districts across the state. **This committee work is only open to those teachers currently employed in Wyoming school districts.**

Teacher Committee Workshops

Data Review – PAWS

Date: July 8, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

During Data Review, educators evaluate the performance of items that have been recently field-tested. Item performance will be evaluated based on level of difficulty, evidence of fairness across subgroups, ability to draw distinctions between students of differing overall ability levels, and distribution of responses to determine the overall effectiveness of item distracters. Suggestions made by Wyoming educators will provide a basis for eliminating items that do not function properly.

Item Review – PAWS

Date: July 9-11, 2014 - Reading and Math Item Review

July 9-10, 2014 - Science Item Review

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed test questions, also called items, prior to the items being field-tested. Teams of teachers will work with personnel from Educational Testing Service (ETS) and WDE to examine the quality of reading, mathematics, and science items to be field tested on the 2015 assessments. Review and evaluation of these items requires the academic content knowledge and expertise of educators.

Item Review - SAWS

Date: July 9-11, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

Item Review is the process of examining newly developed test prompts, also called items, prior to the items being field-tested. Teams of teachers will work with personnel from ETS and WDE to examine the quality of writing prompts to be field tested on the 2015 assessment. Review and evaluation of these prompts requires the academic content knowledge and expertise of educators.

Bias and Sensitivity Review – PAWS and SAWS

Date: July 9 – 10, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

Wyoming educators will have the opportunity to work with ETS to evaluate items for fairness and sensitivity prior to being field tested on the 2015 assessments. This panel will focus on reviewing items for potential bias against, and/or sensitivity of subject to, various demographic subgroups. Since the bias and sensitivity review is not a review of the item subject matter content, panelists will be expected to review items from a variety of subject areas and grades. Regional and demographic sub-group representation is especially important for this panel, including educators who work with special education students

PAWS and SAWS Standard Setting

Reading and Writing Standard Setting

Dates: July 15-17, 2014

Location: Little America Hotel, Cheyenne, WY

Mathematics Standard Setting

Dates: July 21-23, 2014

Location: Hilton Garden Inn & University of Wyoming Conference Center, Laramie, WY

For this workshop we need educators with experience teaching reading, writing or mathematics in grades 3-8. Curriculum and administration personnel are welcome to apply.

In June 2012, Wyoming adopted new standards in English/language arts and math. The grades 3-8 PAWS and SAWS have been revised and are aligned to measure student performance relating to the 2012 Wyoming Content and Performance Standards (WCPS). Two standard setting workshops will be held in July, during which educators will review the standards, assessments and student performance data, and recommend cut scores for reporting performance levels. Participation by a group of Wyoming educators, representative of regional and sub-group diversity, is critical to develop valid, meaningful cut scores. The workshop requires groups of educators (including district level personnel) with the following experience:

- Teaching reading, math or writing, at one or more grades, 3 through 8;
- Knowledge of the 2012 Wyoming Content Standards;
- Familiarity with the PAWS (reading or math) or SAWS tests

Data Review – SAWS

Date: August 8, 2014

Location: Little America Hotel, Cheyenne, WY

During Data Review, educators evaluate the performance of writing prompts/items that have been recently field - tested. Item performance will be evaluated based on level of difficulty, evidence of fairness across subgroups. Suggestions made by Wyoming educators will provide a basis for eliminating items that do not function properly.

For each of the above meetings, ETS will provide pre-paid hotel accommodations for those who need them. In addition, participants will be reimbursed for mileage and meals outside those provided during the meetings. Participants will also receive a \$250.00 per diem stipend for all meetings.

ETS will send separate official invitation letters for each specific meeting. If you are interested in applying to participate, please fill out and submit an application by clicking on the following link: <http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1685444-sydWlwidzK>

Please contact Ruth Sieger if you have any questions or need further information.

- E-mail: rsieger@ets.org
- Telephone: 609-683-2241
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- Mail: ETS, Rosedale Road, MS 33-L, Princeton, NJ 08541

Thank you for your support of the Wyoming Statewide Assessment Program.

Sincerely,
Ruth Sieger