



WDE Assessment Updates

May 9, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 17

-Deb Lindsey-
777-8753

-Tammy Schroeder-
777-3618

-Jessica
Steinbrenner-
777-8568

-Pari Swanson-
777-5292

-Will Donkersgoed-
777-5133

-Robin Holbrook -
777-5217

-Bailey Anthony-
777-5296

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. The ACCESS Window will be set soon. Please watch the newsletter for an update.

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

NEW! Growth Report Available in Fusion

The Wyoming Department of Education has created three confidential new reports that provide a visual representation of the growth percentile distribution at the state, district and school level. These color coded reports show the percentage of students with student growth percentiles (SGP) in each of three growth categories: *Low Growth*, *Typical Growth* and *High Growth*. These reports can be used for setting school improvement goals and for monitoring progress toward those goals from year-to-year.

SGP values range from 1 – 99. For the purpose of these reports, SGPs are grouped into three categories. SGPs from 1 through 35 represent low growth, SGPs from 36 through 64 represent typical growth and SGPs from 65 through 99 represent high growth. SGPs are norm referenced scores and the norm group is all students in Wyoming in a given year. Therefore, for any content area and any grade in Wyoming, by definition, approximately 35% of all Wyoming students will be in the low growth category, approximately 30% will be in the typical growth category and approximately 35% would be in the high growth category. This distribution can be seen in the State level report below. These percentages, 35, 30 and 35, are important benchmarks for goal setting and for monitoring progress.

Percent Growth Categories						
Low Growth (SGP <= 35)		Typical Growth (SGP >35 and SGP <= 65)		High Growth (SGP >65)		
School Year	Subject Code	# of SGPs	# of Students with an SGP	Percent of SGPs Within Each Growth Range		
2012-13	Mathematics	31,544	31,544	35.7	30.1	34.2
	Reading	31,529	31,529	35.8	29.9	34.2
	Reading & Math	63,073	31,564	35.8	30	34.2

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Some examples of questions that you can explore using the *WDE Student Growth Percentile (SGP) Distribution* reports follow:

- ◆ How well did your district or school grow relative to the state overall?
- ◆ Was there a difference in math growth versus reading growth at your district or school?
- ◆ Which grades at your district or school had the strongest growth or were most in need of improving growth?
- ◆ Which student groups at your district or school had the strongest growth or were the most in need of improving growth?
- ◆ How did the growth of specific student groups at your district or school compare to the growth of the same groups across the state?

Getting answers to these questions and working to understand some of the reasons for the patterns that are observed will provide a good start on establishing school and/or program improvement targets. They will also provide a solid foundation for monitoring the effect of your improvement efforts over time.

To find these new reports, log into the Fusion website, <http://fusion.edu.wyoming.gov>. Click on the blue Data Reporting link, and then click on the Accountability Confidential link on the left side of the page. Reports are titled:

- ◆ Student Growth Percentile Distribution by State
- ◆ Student Growth Percentile Distribution by District
- ◆ Student Growth Percentile Distribution by School

Reports can be exported into excel or pdf. Reports are secure, and in order to view them, users must have one of the following roles assigned in Fusion: Superintendent, Principal, Assessment Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator, Special Education Director, or Assessment Confidential Reports.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb at 777-8753.

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 28-May 9	-- Window to review initial PAWS testing file
May 9	-- Explore and Plan answer folders to ACT
May 16	-- Deadline for ACT to receive materials

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
- Fax: 609-683-2300
- Mail: ETS, Rosedale Road, MS 33-L, Princeton, NJ 08541

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

Sincerely,
Ruth Sieger