



WDE Assessment Updates

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2014-15 State Assessment Calendar

Below is the final State Assessment Calendar. Note that 2015 is a NAEP year, so you can expect to hear from Will Donkersgoed, our state NAEP coordinator, soon.

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

-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

Wanted: Participants for PAWS and SAWS Standard-Setting Panels, July 2014

We have an urgent need for more participants for this summer’s standard-setting panels. Specifically, we need educators who are familiar with ELA standards in the middle grades. We are also short a few middle grades math educators. ETS will handle compensation for participants, and more information on the sessions is below:

Reading and Writing Standard Setting
July 15-17, 2014
Little America Hotel, Cheyenne

Mathematics Standard Setting
July 21-23, 2014
Hilton Garden Inn & UW Conf Center,
Laramie

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

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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; and
- Familiarity with the PAWS (reading or math) or SAWS tests

If you are interested in applying to participate, please complete an application by clicking on the following link: <http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1685444-sydWIwidzK>

We are also holding the usual item, bias, and data reviews this summer as well. If you are interested in participating in any of those meetings, you can apply using the above link.

WDE Assessment Customer Survey

The WDE Assessment team wants to ensure that we are providing the best service possible to district and school staff -- our primary customers. In order to help us evaluate and improve our services, we've created a brief survey to solicit feedback from you. If you have not contacted the WDE Assessment team, please disregard this request. If you have contacted us, please take about 5 minutes to respond. Thanks in advance for your help! Please access the survey via the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rOpKwNYfvaMYBFtfvIhQbzQXR37xFBkCXHxIfil58g/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

ACT State Allowed Accommodations

Reminder-state allowed accommodations are not to be reported on transcripts. Those scores are not college reportable; however, they may be used for Hathaway eligibility. Students are responsible for keeping track of their ACT State Allowed Accommodation Score letter that will arrive at their schools this fall.

Save the Date: ACT Standard Setting

On August 5 and 6th the WDE will need a panel of people (high school English, math and science teachers; school principals and counselors; district curriculum or assessment directors; higher ed faculty; and business and community leaders) to review and help set cuts for the ACT. This standard setting group will be working in Cheyenne and will receive a stipend of \$300 per day for the two days to cover lodging, dinner, travel, and time. Please register today: https://docs.google.com/a/wyo.gov/forms/d/13q9IX7uoD-AjETICHRZ45MfRdu9Ujz3jO8GRheP0uKM/viewform?usp=send_form

Smarter Balanced Achievement Level Setting

SBAC is planning for the largest standard-setting (known as "achievement level setting" in SBAC parlance) in US history. Using information from this spring's field test, participants will make recommendations about how much students need to know and be able to do on Smarter Balanced assessments in order to earn scores in each of the four performance categories (proficient, advanced, etc). SBAC plans for both in-person panels as well as on-line ones. Individuals have already been nominated from each governing state to participate in the in-person panels, but SBAC recruitment for the unique, on-line panels is now underway. The Online Panel will take place in mid-October and will allow thousands of teachers, educational administrators, higher education faculty and administrators, and members of the general public to evaluate a test and enter a cut score for Level 3 (considered the college/career readiness level for high school and the on-target level for grades 3-8). Registered educators and members of the public in Smarter Balanced states will log in to take a practice test for a selected grade and content area, review content standards and Achievement Level Descriptors, and examine items for that grade/content test. They will place a bookmark to make a recommendation for the Level 3 (proficient) cut score. Please share the opportunity to participate in this important project within your community! Those interested in participating must **visit [this link](#) and complete the easy four-step registration process**. Panelists will choose a 2-day window between October 6 and 17, 2014, for participation.

Updated Version of the Smarter Balanced Practice Tests NOW Available

The Smarter Balanced Practice Tests were first 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 now available includes new questions and performance tasks. Enhancements also include a more comprehensive reflection of 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.

NEW MATHEMATICS FEATURES

- ◆ Questions that include the range of item types expected to appear on the operational assessment
- ◆ Questions that span the range of difficulty for the grade level from “very easy” to “very difficult”
- ◆ Improvements to question wording, format, and directions based on input from experts in content and accessibility and accommodations

NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS FEATURES

- ◆ 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 ACCOMMODATION FEATURES

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

You can access the Practice Tests 24/7 via this address: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/>