



WDE Assessment Updates

October 17, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 30

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2013-14 School Accountability Implementation Manual NOW AVAILABLE

The final version of the Implementation Manual for 2013-14 school accountability reports (SPRS) is now available both on the WDE Accountability website and attached to this newsletter. Please distribute widely to promote a greater understanding of the metrics reported in the SPRs.

http://edu.wyoming.gov/download/accountability/SCHOOL%20PERFORMANCE%20RATING%20MODEL%20FOR%202014_100914.pdf

Wyoming School Accountability Update - Consolidated Subgroup

Changes to student performance levels were enacted for 2014 testing in order to align the student performance expectations with new Wyoming standards for math and English/language arts which were adopted by the Wyoming State Board of Education. The definition of the consolidated subgroups for the 2014-15 school year have been revised to better reflect the purpose of the equity indicator given the new student performance levels.

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For schools serving grades 4 through 8 the consolidated subgroup will consist of students with *below basic* performance in math and/or reading on the spring 2014 PAWS test.

For high schools, the definition of the consolidated subgroup will remain unchanged from 2013-14. Specifically, the consolidated subgroup will consist of students with prior year grade 10 PLAN scores on the mathematics subject area test below 17 and/or with scores on the reading subject area test below 16.

The best method for improving equity scores for school accountability under WAEA is to assure that students in the consolidated subgroup are receiving the educational services needed to assure they are making as much progress as possible in math and reading during the 2014-15 academic year.

2015 ACT Assessment Establishment

School establishment for the ACT assessment ends today, **Friday Nov. 17**. Test Coordinators should have received an email from ACT with information about establishment. Please be sure to check your SPAM folder if you do not feel you have received this information. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jessica Steinbrenner at Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov or at 307-777-8568. Thank you.

NWEA Map Training

In November, the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) will be offering a series of professional development workshops around the state from their MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) Foundation series. The workshops will help educators gain strategies for using MAP reports to engage in high-impact goal setting, and connecting MAP data to a variety of needs—including how to use the data to support the transition to more rigorous state standards like the Common Core. The workshops will also address the use of differentiated instruction to meet the needs of students through the use of flexible groupings and instructional ladders.

Workshop locations:

Location: Evanston, WY

Dates: November 11th and 12th

Venue: Educational Service Center
Board Room
537 10th Street
Evanston, WY 82930.

Location: Gillette, WY

Dates: November 11th and 12th

Venue: Campbell County School District Central Services
525 W. Lakeway Rd.
Gillette, WY 82718

Location: Cheyenne, WY

Dates: November 12th and 13th

Venue: Laramie County School District #1
Storey Gym Board Room
2811 House Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82001

Location: Lander, WY

Dates: November 18th and 19th

Venue: Fremont County School District #1 Offices
863 Sweetwater St.
Lander, WY 82520

Location: Casper, WY

Dates: November 19th and 20th

Venue: Natrona County School District Central Services Facility
Jefferson Room
970 N. Glenn Rd.
Casper, Wyoming 82601

Please use the following link to register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TQS5JJZ>

PAWS/SAWS Test Order Management System Webinar

Save the Date: Wednesday, **December 3rd**, tentatively 1:00 – 3:00 PM.

Educational Testing Service (ETS) will be hosting a training webinar for all Building Coordinators to review the Test Operational Management System (TOMS), the demographic collection database to be used for the 2014 PAWS/SAWS administrations.

Please make sure all key staff who use TOMS attend the training. The webinar will also be posted to the ETS – TOMS site as well as the WDE homepage to view if staff are unable to attend the live webinar.

Professional Development Opportunity: Standards Extensions for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD)

UPDATE: WDE will be sponsoring 5 two-day training sessions (Day 1 will focus on ELA and Day 2 will focus on mathematics) for Special Educators and related service providers, conducted by a representative from the Center for Literacy Disability Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The training will focus on literacy and the newly developed standards extensions that align to the WyCPS in English language arts and mathematics. During this opportunity, that will be offered in various regions of the state, participants will have a sneak peek at literacy for students w/SCD. Participants will have the opportunity to dig in to the new ALT standards and take away some lesson plans to use immediately in their classroom as well. A follow up, more in-depth session is being also planned for the summer 2015.

Save the Dates:

- ◆ December 1 & 2 Laramie
- ◆ December 3 & 4 Rock Springs
- ◆ December 5 & 6 Dubois
- ◆ December 8 & 9 Cody
- ◆ December 10 & 11 Buffalo

Registration and facility locations will be announced soon.

Assessment Professional Development Coming December 10—Save the Date!

The Wyoming Department of Education would like to offer an opportunity for teachers and pre-service teachers to learn about assessment. The purpose of this professional development is to share information on how to access, interpret, and use data from state assessments. We are also planning to provide further information surrounding Lexile and Quantile measures. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for more information and the registration for this upcoming professional development opportunity planned for **December 10** in Casper.

Wyoming Alternate Assessment Administration Training—Save the Date!

On July 1st, the State Board approved a new contract with American Institutes for Research (AIR) to deliver the Spring 2015 and 2016 alternate assessment. The Wyoming Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (Wy-ALT) will be replacing the PAWS-ALT for 2015. Please note that the mandatory administration training will take place this January, 2015, on the dates and in the locations listed below. If you have any questions about the new assessment, contact Pari Swanson, ALT Assessment Consultant, at 324-8122 or email pari.swanson@wyo.gov.

- ◆ January 6 Cheyenne
- ◆ January 8 Gillette
- ◆ January 12 Jackson
- ◆ January 13 Riverton
- ◆ January 15 Green River

Please watch the newsletter for more information about registration.

PAWS/SAWS Building Coordinator Training—Save the Date!

Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Wyoming Department of Education will be hosting two Building Coordinator Training sessions to review the responsibilities of the Building Test Coordinator for the 2015 PAWS/SAWS administrations.

- ◆ Tuesday, **January 27th** Casper, WY – location TBD
- ◆ Thursday, **January 29th** Afton, WY – location TBD

Wy-ALT Portal

The portal for the new Wyoming Alternate Assessment (Wy-ALT) is now open. The portal can be accessed by visiting the Wy-ALT Assessment page on the WDE's website or by going to <http://wyoassessments.org>. This portal is a resource for information about Wyoming's new Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. This site will host important information for the Wy-ALT including:

- ◆ Important Dates
- ◆ TIDE
- ◆ Wy-ALT Sample Tasks
- ◆ The Data Entry Interface
- ◆ The Online Reporting System
- ◆ And many other resources

Website Updates

As we move forward this year the assessment team would like to highlight some websites that serve as great resources for those looking for more information surrounding assessment.

- ◆ The Wyoming Department of Education Assessment website: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/>
- ◆ The Wyoming ACT State Testing website: <http://act.org/aap/wyoming>
- ◆ The new Wyoming Alternate Assessment portal: <http://wyoassessment.org>
- ◆ The new Wyoming Measures Up website: <http://wyomingmeasuresup.com>

ACT Performance Level Descriptors

In the early fall of 2014, WDE worked with research scientists at the ACT to develop written descriptors of each of the performance levels that reflect the recommendations made by the standard-setting panelists in August of 2014. As you can see from the descriptors below, the proficient cuts in the content areas were developed in a way that results in approximately a 50% probability (range: 44-53%) of students earning a B or higher in entry-level credit bearing courses in college and about a 60% chance (range: 57-65%) of enrolling in college the fall after high school graduation. Given the emphasis of our state's adopted standards on college and career readiness – and given that ACT's research indicates that the skills necessary for most careers are very similar to those required for success in higher education, these PLDs and associated cuts are appropriate for adoption in Wyoming.

Mathematics

Basic--Students meeting the Basic standard in math have a 22% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in math, and a 51% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Thirty-six percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Basic standard in math enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Proficient--Students meeting the Proficient standard in math have a 44% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in math, and a 69% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Fifty-seven percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Proficient standard in math enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Advanced--Students meeting the Advanced standard in math have a 73% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in math, and a 85% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Seventy-two percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Advanced standard in math enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

ACT Performance Level Descriptors Continued...**Reading**

Basic—Students meeting the Basic standard in reading have a 33% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in social science, and a 63% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Forty percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Basic standard in reading enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Proficient—Students meeting the Proficient standard in reading have a 53% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in social science, and a 76% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Sixty-two percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Proficient standard in reading enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Advanced—Students meeting the Advanced standard in reading have a 69% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in social science, and a 85% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Seventy-four percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Advanced standard in reading enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Science

Basic—Students meeting the Basic standard in science have a 26% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in science, and a 59% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Forty-seven percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Basic standard in science enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Proficient—Students meeting the Proficient standard in science have a 49% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in science, and a 77% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Sixty-five percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Proficient standard in science enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Advanced—Students meeting the Advanced standard in science have a 77% probability of earning a B or higher in a first-year credit-bearing college course in science, and a 91% probability of earning a C or higher in the course. Seventy-two percent of the 2013 ACT-tested graduating class in Wyoming who met the Advanced standard in science enrolled in college the fall after high school graduation.

Smarter Balanced Update: October 2014

As the work of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium moves from development to implementation, the day-to-day management of SBAC has moved from the State of Washington to the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST), located within the Graduate School of Education at the University of California-Los Angeles. Despite the move, governance of the Consortium remains essentially the same, with member states taking the lead to make decisions on important topics like test design, reporting, staffing, and the budget.



National Center for Research
on Evaluation, Standards, & Student Testing

UCLA | Graduate School of Education & Information Studies

Because Wyoming will not be administering an SBAC assessment in the spring of 2015, it has not formally re-joined the Consortium at UCLA-CRESST. This means that, effective October 1, 2015, Wyoming is no longer a Governing State in SBAC. The WDE Assessment Division will continue to closely monitor the activities of the Consortium, including the experiences of others states as they administer SBAC assessments in the spring of 2015, the first operational year for the new assessments.

Important Dates

- Nov. 11-20** -- NWEA MAP Training opportunities
- Dec. 1-12** -- Standard Extensions Professional Development Opportunity
- Dec. 3** -- Test Order Management System Training
- Dec. 8** -- ACT Test Administration webcast available on ACT Wyoming State Testing website
- Dec. 10** -- ACT Test Accommodation Q&A session
- Dec. 10** -- Assessment Professional Development
- Jan. 6-15** -- Alternate Assessment Administration Training
- Jan. 27 & 29** -- PAWS/SAWS Building Coordinator Training

Grade 11 ACT Performance Level Descriptors

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Wyoming ACT Scale Score Ranges

Math	Basic	122 - 149
	Proficient	150 - 169
	Advanced	171 +
Reading	Basic	129 - 149
	Proficient	150 - 163
	Advanced	164 +
Science	Basic	127 - 149
	Proficient	150 - 173
	Advanced	174 +