



WDE Assessment Updates

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UPDATED Growth Distribution Reports Now Available

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has updated the three confidential reports in Fusion (State Accountability Confidential) that provide a visual representation of the growth percentile distribution at the state, district and school levels. These color coded reports show the percent of students within different groups 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.

Access the updated reports to answer questions like:

- ◆ How does our overall growth compare to the growth of students statewide?
- ◆ In which subject area do we have the strongest growth?
- ◆ In which grade(s) do we struggle the most?
- ◆ Which of our student groups show strong growth? Which ones have less growth? How did their growth compare to the growth of those same student groups across the state?

Remember that, by definition, approximately 35% of the students in Wyoming will be in the Low Growth category, approximately 30% will be in the Typical Growth category, and about 35% will be in the High Growth category. You can use these as benchmarks for comparison and goal-setting.

If you have questions on these reports, please contact Deb Lindsey at 777-8753 or via email (deb.lindsey@wyo.gov).

2015 ACT Assessment Establishment Update

Thank you to all the schools who have established and given their initial information to ACT. If you have yet to establish please do so ASAP. 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.

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

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.

POSTPONED: Professional Development on Alternate Standards for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (SCD)

As noted in last week's newsletter, WDE is sponsoring 5 two-day training sessions for special educators and related service providers to support implementation of the newly developed alternate standards for students with significant cognitive disabilities. 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 mathematics alternate standards aligned to the CCSS in ELA and math. During this PD opportunity, participants will dig in to the new ALT standards and develop some lesson plans for immediate application in the classroom. Follow up sessions are also being planned for the summer 2015.

Although last week's newsletter announced several December dates and locations, we are re-scheduling those sessions for February and March, after the required alternate assessment training sessions in January. Please watch the newsletter for updates on dates and locations!

Assessment Professional Development Coming December 10 - Register Now!

The Wyoming Department of Education will be offering a professional development opportunity for teachers and pre-service teachers to learn about statewide assessments (PAWS, SAWS, ACT). Participants will be provided with information about accessing, interpreting, and using data from state assessments, including blueprints, PLDs, etc. We will also provide further information surrounding Lexile and Quantile measurements. The workshop will be held on December 10 in Casper. Please use the link to register: <http://goo.gl/forms/hmxKMe5iBF>

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 Deb Lindsey at deb.lindsey@wyo.gov or 777-8753.

- ◆ 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

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.

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.

FREE Field Test Opportunity - Traditionally Non-Tested Grades and Subjects

WDE has been notified that one of the major assessment providers, American Institutes for Research (AIR) has developed a new bank of secure test items to assess the hard-to-measure subjects of Music, Art, Physical Education, and Health called OnCore™.

According to AIR, these are some of the most engaging items they have ever created, and they serve teachers & students in the subjects that until now never had formal summative assessments tied to the national standards established by each subject's national association. AIR content specialists developed well over 1,000 items in each subject area, and then pulled together a committee of experts from all across the US to review each item to ensure it met the standards. Those two steps are complete.

The next step in the process is Field Testing. AIR is inviting any and all **WY districts to participate in the FREE Field Test this fall**. The assessments cover grades 3-12 and participation is not only free, but it would grant participating districts a 50% discount on any future operational assessments you may deliver. If you are interested, please contact Mark Nixon (mnixon@air.org) at 904-874-2266. The Field Test window is open now through December 1, 2014, so contact Mr. Nixon ASAP if interested.

Please be aware that we are sharing this information as a service to districts. WDE does not endorse this product, or any other, for use in local assessment systems.

Important Dates

- Nov. 11-20** -- NWEA MAP Training opportunities
- 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
- Feb/Mar** -- ALT Standards Professional Development, dates TBD

OnCore Field Test Information Packet

Introduction:

The way we see it, we're breaking new ground in the world of instruction and assessment and we invite you to continue this journey with us. It's exciting. We have created a new way to truly and effectively measure a student's progress in the subjects of Art, Music, Physical Education, and Health. Imagine the impact this will have on how students learn and teachers teach these subject areas.

Please consider participating in our OnCore™ Field testing program this fall. The goal in this effort is straightforward: we aim to deliver each item enough times, in enough different demographic areas, to enough students and grade levels for our psychometricians to ensure the efficacy of the items, fairness in terms of gender, ethnicity, race, and other socio-economic measures.

Your involvement would be twofold: first, the teacher(s) would be asked to deliver a 30-40 minute online test this fall with a target date in of October. Secondly, the teacher(s) and students would be asked to participate in a short survey soon afterward. That's it!

Field Test Subjects:	Art, Music, Physical Education, & Health
Grade Levels:	3 rd through 12 th Grades
Field Test Target Dates:	October, 2014, through December 1 st , 2014
Delivery System:	Online, Web-Based, Secure Browser
Test Duration Target:	30-40 Minutes

Field Test:

Field Test:

Unlike an operational test, a field test is all about gathering data on the *items*, not the students or teachers, so the results have no consequence for your teachers or students whatsoever.

Benefits for Field Test Participants:

- Participation is **FREE!**
- You will be fostering progress with never-before-delivered, innovative items
- OnCore is web-based, so it's **easy** to install and access for students and teachers,
- OnCore works on a wide range of devices and operating systems
- Participating districts will get a good feel for the value of the assessment for future years at no risk
- Participating districts will receive a discount should they choose to deliver an operational assessment the following school year
- AIR will provide detailed reporting at the student, teacher, building, and district level, but those reports will be delivered 8-10 weeks after the close of the field test assessment window to allow the psychometricians time to complete their analysis.
- AIR will share the survey results with the districts participants

We know how busy you are. We know how precious a classroom period can be. But we hope you see the value in delivering OnCore's assessments in the subjects of Art, Music, Physical Education & Health as worth that investment in time.

Field Test/Production Assessment Pricing:

Fall 2014 Field Test:	\$0
First Operational Assessment:	\$2.25/Student (50% Discount off Market Price)
Market Price:	\$4.50/Student
Minimum:	\$5,000.00
On-Site Set-Up & Training Package: (Optional)	\$5,000.00

System Requirements for Online Testing

This document was developed by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and contains technology requirements to help states, districts, and schools prepare for online testing using AIR's Test Delivery System.

Minimum Hardware Requirements

Desktops and Laptops

Your computers must meet the minimum requirements for each operating system as shown in the table below. Online testing will function effectively with these minimum specifications. However, faster processors and more disk space will improve performance.

Operating Systems	Minimum Requirements for Current Computers	Minimum Recommended Specifications
Windows XP (Service Pack 3 [SP3]), Vista, 7, 8.0, 8.1	Pentium 233 MHz processor 128 MB RAM 52 MB hard drive	1.3 GHz processor 2 GB RAM 80 GB hard drive
Mac OS X 10.4 (Intel or PowerPC) 10.5 (PowerPC) 10.5 (Intel), 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9	Intel x86 or PowerPC G3, G4, or G5 processor 128 MB RAM 200 MB hard drive	
Linux Fedora Core 6+ (K12LTSP 4.2+) Ubuntu 9–12	Pentium II or AMD K6-III 233 MHz processor 64 MB RAM 52 MB hard drive	

Tablets and Chromebooks

Supported tablets often cannot be modified in terms of hardware specifications. The supported tablets have been tested for use with AIR’s Test Delivery System and may be used by students and Test Administrators.

Chromebooks may be used “as is,” provided they are running ChromeOS version 31 or higher for secure testing. While Chromebooks are intended for use with the student testing sites, they may be used for other sites as well.

Supported Android Tablets 4.0.4–4.2	Supported iOS Tablets 6.0–7.0	Supported ChromeOS Netbooks 31+ for secure browser 18+ for Chrome browser
Google Nexus 10 Motorola Xoom Motorola Xyboard Samsung Note 10.1 Samsung Tab 2 (10.1)	iPad 2 iPad 3 iPad 4 (Retina Display)	Chromebooks

Secure Browsers for Online Testing

The secure browsers must be downloaded and installed on all computers that will be used for student testing during the Field Test.

- The secure browser for Chromebooks and iPads requires these devices to be in kiosk mode.

Refer to the *Technical Specifications Manual for Online Testing* for instructions on downloading and installing the secure browsers.

Operating Systems	Supported OS Versions	Supported Devices	Secure Browser
Windows	XP (SP3), Vista, 7, 8.0, 8.1 Server 2003, 2008	Desktops Laptops	Windows Secure Browser 6.3
Mac OS X	10.4 (Intel and PowerPC) 10.5 (PowerPC)	Desktops Laptops	Mac Secure Browser 5.6
	10.5 (Intel) 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9	Desktops Laptops	Mac Secure Browser 6.3
Linux	Fedora Core 6+ (K12LTSP 4.2+) Ubuntu 9-12	Desktops Laptops	Linux Secure Browser 6.3
iOS	iOS 6.0-7.0	Supported tablets	Mobile Secure Browser (AIRSecureTest app)
Android	4.0.4-4.2	Supported tablets	Mobile Secure Browser (AIRSecureTest app)
ChromeOS	31+	Chromebooks	Mobile Secure Browser (AIRSecureTest kiosk app)



Students will NOT be permitted to log in if they are using the incorrect secure browser.

Some machines with Mac OS 10.5 were shipped with PowerPC processors; others with Intel-based processors. Please ensure you download the **correct** secure browser for these machines. To determine which OS and processor your machine is running, go to the Apple (Finder) menu, and click "About This Mac." The screen will display your operating system version and processor type.

Requirements for Appropriate Display

- Screen Dimensions: 10" class or larger (iPads with a 9.5" display are included in this class)
- The minimum supported resolution for desktops and laptops is 1024 x 768.
- The minimum supported resolution for tablets is 1024 x 600.

Depending on the screen size, some individuals may need to use vertical and/or horizontal scroll bars to view all test-related information. Students may also use the Zoom tool in the online test to enlarge the content on the screen.

For More Information:

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