



WDE Assessment Updates

December 12, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 37

IMPORTANT: Exemptions for the 2014-15 School Year

Earlier this fall, we announced via this newsletter that all assessment exemptions were being eliminated. After careful consideration and review of historical data, it's been decided that the only exemptions that will be eliminated are those for students who are medically fragile. The three other exemption categories will remain in place. This means that WDE will be accepting exemption requests in the following three categories:

- Students who are expelled but still receiving services from the district
- Students who are served in out of state placements, and
- Students who are ELs who have been in US schools for less than a year (students must participate in the ACCESS in order to receive the exemption, and they are still required to participate in math and science (if applicable))

In January, we'll post an updated WDE673 form, along with a new submission process. Exemption requests for students in grades 3 – 8 will be accepted and processed through the first day of the PAWS testing window (March 2); for students in high school grades, exemption requests will be accepted and processed through April 20.

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ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations System

The ACT contract has been finalized. It is now okay to send materials to ACT, including supporting information for the accommodations requests. Please remember, the accommodations deadline to submit requests is **January 23, 2015**.

ACCESS for ELLs Test Ordering Window—Now Open!

It is currently the ACCESS for ELLs test ordering window (through December 22). If you have not yet received ordering instructions, please contact MetriTech at [1-800-747-4868](tel:1-800-747-4868) and ask for WIDA support or email wida@metritech.com. The ACCESS for ELLs testing window is January 19-February 23. Please contact Robin Holbrook with questions at robin.holbrook@wyo.gov or [\(307\)777-5217](tel:307777-5217).

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test

December 15, 2014 will be the first day that students can take the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test. WIDA is still in the process of recruiting districts for the Field Test (December 15, 2014—April 10, 2015). We currently have 10,768 students registered. We need to recruit a total of 21,000 students. Alex Bauer, as bauer@wisc.edu, is happy to assist with Field Test registration and with questions regarding the Field Test.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0: Preparation Resources for Operational Test

WIDA has created several resources to assist educators in planning for the transition to the new online operational test for the 2015-16 school year. For more information please see the attachment.



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Resources for the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Field Tests

WIDA is pleased to announce that the following resources are now available for your use in preparation for the **ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Online Field Tests!**

Online Test Administration Manual (O-TAM)

This is accessed by logging on to eDIRECT (<http://wida.drccedirect.com>) and clicking: **General Information → Documents → Show Documents button.**

Alternatively, the O-TAM can also be accessed from the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test website (www.wida.us/2.0/FT) on the “Preparation Resources” tab.

The O-TAM provides guidance on the procedures for preparing for and administering the Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking Field Tests. If clarification is needed beyond the manual, please contact the WIDA Client Services Center at help@wida.us.

Video Tutorials

These helpful and short videos can be used to provide test administrators and students an overview of how to access and navigate through the online field test system. The videos can be accessed by going to eDIRECT (<http://wida.drccedirect.com>) and clicking **Test Setup → General Information → Test Tutorials tab.** You do not need to have an account to access the Video Tutorials.

Student Directions and Practice Items:

The Student Directions and Practice Items are a hands-on opportunity for students to practice and become familiar with the online field test system prior to the field test.

These are accessed by double-clicking the ‘**ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 FT Online Assessments**’ desktop shortcut on a computer that has had the INSIGHT test system installed. If you do not have the icon on your desktop, please check with your school or district Field Test Technology Coordinator.

Once the test system opens, click on the ‘**Student Directions and Practice Items**’ link and select the appropriate domain and grade cluster, as desired, and login with the User Name and Password provided on the login screen. This will begin the Student Directions and Practice Items for the student. **Please note there is no limit to the number of times a student can access any Student Directions and Practice Items.

Please do not hesitate to contact WIDA Customer Support with any questions.

Farewell Customer Support
Data Recognition Corporation (DRC)
[855-787-9615](tel:855-787-9615)
WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com



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2015 NAEP Update—Preparing for Assessment via the Online MyNAEP System

The “Prepare for Assessment” section of the MyNAEP online system is now active. Each step within Prepare for Assessment has a brief 3-5 minute video tutorial, describing how to get your school ready for NAEP.

Here are links to the Prepare for Assessment tutorials:

[Prepare for Assessment \(an overview\)](#)

[Update List of Sampled Students](#)

[Include Students](#)

[Manage Questionnaires](#)

[Notify Parents](#)

Before leaving school for the holiday break, we strongly recommend that building coordinators log-on to the online MyNAEP system at www.MyNAEP.com and begin reviewing/updating their student-level information as described in the “Update List of Students” and “Include Students” tutorials.

Additionally, NAEP representatives are calling building coordinators this week to establish contact and discuss next steps/timelines. Your NAEP representative is THE go-to person and #1 point-of-contact for school staff and all preparations for NAEP in your building

These are important discussions, so we advise that if building coordinators are unavailable to take their NAEP representative’s initial call to the school, that they return the phone call immediately or as soon as possible. Thank you.

Please contact Will Donkersgoed at [\(307\) 777-5133](tel:307-777-5133) or william.donkersgoed@wyo.gov with general questions regarding the 2015 NAEP in Wyoming.

PAWS/SAWS Building Coordinator Training—Save the Date!

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

Tuesday, January 27th—AFTON

Location: 150 S. Washington St.

Afton, WY 83110

Session 1: 9:00 am—11:00 am

Session 2: 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Thursday, January 29th—CASPER

Location: 125 College Drive

Casper, WY 82601

Session 1: 9:00 am—11:00 am

Session 2: 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Registration information coming soon!



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New Report in Fusion

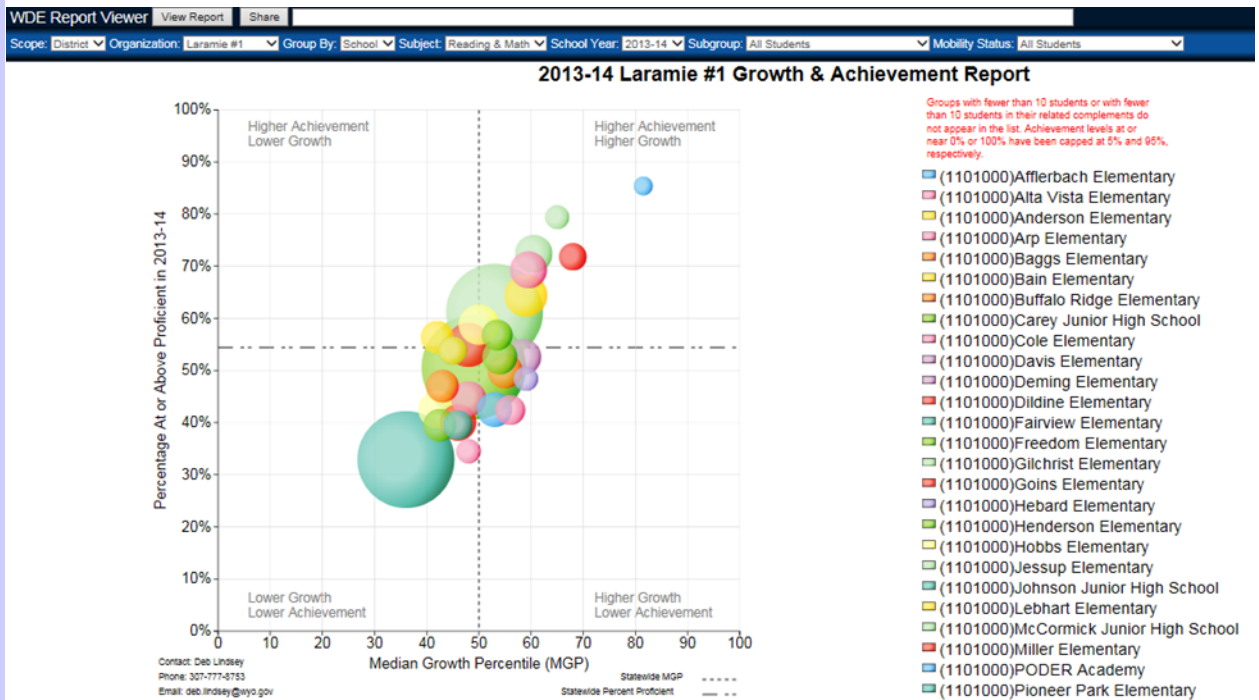
The WDE data and assessment teams are pleased to announce a new report has been added to the Fusion repository. The new report, called Growth and Achievement, employs data visualization techniques to present information on both achievement (reported in terms of the percent of students proficient) and growth (reported in terms of the median growth percentile from the Wyoming growth model). Both growth and achievement data are presented simultaneously so that viewers can see schools (or student groups within schools) in one of four quadrants: high growth, high achievement; low growth, low achievement; high growth, low achievement; and low growth, high achievement.

In the example below, each bubble represents a school. School size determines the size of the bubble. In addition to the legend that appears on the right, users can hover over a bubble to see the name of the school it represents. Users can employ multiple filters to look at reading or math results, disaggregate by different student groups, and select a year to depict (only 2013-14 appears now) for districts, schools, and grades within schools.

At a glance, it's easy to see which schools/grades have similar achievement but very different patterns of growth. Educators might find it useful to work with peer schools to identify particular instructional support strategies that help students with similar achievement to grow more quickly academically.

These reports will be fully accessible to the public under the Accountability folder in Fusion; suppression rules have been applied to ensure confidentiality for individual students.

If you have questions about the information in these reports, please contact Deb Lindsey at 777-8753.





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Alternate Assessment Training

In the spring of 2015, a new alternate assessment will be administered in Wyoming. The new test, called the Wy-ALT, will not require a second scoring for every test administered. Instead, 25% of the students statewide will be selected for second scoring. We will also design the sample so that at least one student per grade span (3-5, 6-8, 9-11) has a second scorer in each district. The new second scorer plan will reduce burden in districts with many students with significant cognitive disabilities.

WDE is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the training for the new test. Test Administrators and Second Scorers are **REQUIRED** to attend one of the face-to-face sessions. To register for training, go to this link: <http://wyoassessment.org/wy-alt-training-registration>

Registration sign-in will open at 8:30 a.m. at each location, and training will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. The training will adjourn no later than 4:30 p.m. Training locations have limited capacities, so TAs may only register for one date.

Please note that there will be no on-line training opportunities for this test. All staff administering the test must attend face-to-face training. Any questions can be directed to the Wy-ALT Help Desk – wyalthelpdesk@air.org

Tuesday, January 6th – CHEYENNE

Capacity: 100 participants
Location: LCCC CCI
Building –Centennial Room
1400 E College Dr.
Cheyenne, WY 82007

Tuesday, January 13th – RIVERTON

Capacity: 100 participants
Location: Holiday Inn
900 E Sunset Dr.
Riverton, WY 82501

Thursday, January 8th – GILLETTE

Capacity: 100 participants
Location: Gillette College –
Presentation Hall
300 W. Sinclair St.
Gillette, WY 82718

Thursday, January 15th – GREEN RIVER

Capacity: 100 participants
Location: Hampton Inn &
Suites
1055 Wild Horse Canyon Rd
Green River, WY 82935

Monday, January 12th – JACKSON

Capacity: 75 participants
Location: Teton County Ag – 4
-H Center 255 W Deloney Ave.
Jackson, WY 83001

Friday, January 30th -- CASPER

Capacity: 50 participants
Location: District Office
970 North Glenn Road
Casper, WY 82601

-Word of the Week-**Criterion Referencing**

Making test scores meaningful without indicating the test taker's relative position in a group.

On a criterion referenced test, each individual test taker's score is compared with a fixed standard, rather than with the performance of the other test takers. Criterion referencing is often defined in terms of proficiency levels. The test score required to attain each proficiency level is specified in advance. The percentages of test takers at the different proficiency levels are not fixed; they depend on how well the test takers perform on the test.

The PAWS is a criterion-referenced test. This means that the performance expectations for students are aligned to our state's adopted standards (the criterion). In principle, all students could earn scores of proficient/advanced, since the cut scores are aligned to grade level expectations articulated in the standards.

Wy-ALT Online Management System, TIDE—Now Open!

The Wy-ALT Online Management system, called TIDE, is now open. In TIDE, a Building Coordinator can see the students (according to the 684) who are expected to take the Wy-ALT in their building, the students who need a second scorer, assign roles to others (such as test administrators and second scorers) and can add students.

Wy-ALT Building Coordinators will receive a link from TIDE containing a temporary password to activate their account and instructions on setting up their account. If you have not received this email, please check your spam folder. Building Coordinator accounts must be set up within 30 days of receiving the activation email.

To access TIDE visit: <http://wyoassessment.org/building-coordinators/>

PAWS/SAWS Test Order Management System (TOMS) Webinar

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) hosted a webinar about TOMS for all building Coordinators to review TOMS, the demographic collection database to be used for the 2015 PAWS and SAWS Administration. In this training, ETS reviewed the current TOMS system.

Miss the training? Visit the link below for the training's recording.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xWJlxNqNrus>

Assessment Professional Development

Thank you to all participants who attended the full day of professional development on December 10th provided by the WDE Standards and Assessment teams.

If you were unable to attend the training, please continue to watch the newsletter for a link to the recordings and resources used at the training.

School Improvement Leadership Conference

The date for this training, as previously reported, has changed. WDE is hoping to schedule it for mid-February dependent upon speaker availability. Further information will be posted in this newsletter after final arrangements are confirmed.

Important Dates

Dec. 22 — ACCESS for ELLs Test Ordering Window Closes
Jan. 6-15, 30— Alternate Assessment Administration Training
Jan. 19— ACCESS for ELLs Testing Window Opens
Jan. 27 & 29 — PAWS/SAWS Building Coordinator Training
Feb./Mar. — ALT Standards Professional Development
Feb. 23— ACCESS for ELLs Testing Window Opens