



# WDE Assessment Updates

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## **NEW: 2015-16 State Assessment Calendar**

Below please find the statewide assessment calendar for next year. After many discussions with our vendors, our Technical Advisory Committee, and with district staff, we've decided to keep the PAWS window during the month of March. We struggled with the timing of districts' spring breaks along with the need to get data files from vendors as early in June as possible. And, we've heard consistently from the field, "Please stop changing the state assessment system!" Moving the test window to April would have complicated the spring 684 data collection for accountability, thereby delaying reporting of assessment and accountability results by at least a month, and made performance comparisons to prior years less meaningful given the additional time for instruction. All in all, we think it's a better idea to shift the timing of statewide assessment when we make the shift to a new assessment system. Thanks to all of you for your patience as we carefully examined all of our options.

Wyoming State Assessment Calendar, 2015-16

Grade	PAWS Mar 7 - 25	Wy-ALT Feb 29 - Mar 25	ACCESS for ELLS TBD	ACCESS-ALT for ELLS TBD	Aspire Apr 11 - May 3	ACT Plus Writing Apr 19 (May 3)	WorkKeys Apr 20 (May 4)* (optional)	COMPASS Oct 5 - 23 Apr 11 - May 3 (optional)
K			x					
1			x	x				
2			x	x				
3	x	x	x	x				
4	x	x	x	x				
5	x	x	x	x				
6	x	x	x	x				
7	x	x	x	x				
8	x	x	x	x				
9		x	x	x	x			
10		x	x	x	x			
11		x	x	x		x	x	
12			x	x			x	x

\* The online window for WorkKeys is April 20 through May 4.

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## **NEW: Accountability System Updates**

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the WDE presented to the Select Committee several changes to the school accountability system. These changes, approved by the Select Committee, were proposed in order to improve the system overall. Specifically, the changes include the following:

Changes for Schools with Grades 3 through 8

- ◆ Achievement and Growth Indicators are unchanged
- ◆ Equity indicator changes:
  - ◇ Definition of the consolidated subgroup no longer based upon below proficient scores in the prior year
  - ◇ Cut-points were identified that will identify approximately 23% of the lowest performing students in reading and/or math for inclusion in the consolidated subgroup
  - ◇ The school equity score will be the median student growth percentile (MGP) of the consolidated subgroup

**NEW: Accountability System Updates continued.**

## Changes for High Schools

- ◆ Alternative schools will not receive indicator target levels or a school performance level. They will receive confidentially reported scores on the indicators for information only
- ◆ Academic Performance will include achievement, growth and equity
  - ◇ Growth will be reported in reading and math based upon subject area test scores from Explore to Plan to ACT
  - ◇ ACT will provide Wyoming with student scores for a new Wyoming scale on the Explore and Plan reading and math tests. A score of 150 on the Wyoming Scales will be predictive of later ACT proficient performance (also 150 on the Wyoming scale).
  - ◇ The school equity score will be the MGP of the consolidated subgroup
- ◆ There is just one change to overall readiness
  - ◇ The Hathaway Scholarship Level additional readiness sub-indicator will include the success curriculum level from the student's transcript

A detailed description of the complete school accountability model may be found in the *Implementation Manual* located on the Wyoming Department of Education Website at the following url: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/accountability/2015/implementation-handbook.pdf>

**NEW: Assessment Task Force Update**

One of the provisions of Enrolled Act 87 authorizes the State Board to “conduct a review and evaluation of the statewide assessment system” that “strives for a high quality, rigorous, an effective assessment adhering to principles of sound education policy and test measurement, with due consideration given to cost, testing time requirements for students and assessment burdens placed upon school districts.” This review is to be completed by an Assessment Task Force which will “review assessment options available to the state and shall recommend an approach for the state.” No later than October 15, 2015, the state board is required to report to the JEC and the Select Committee findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

The first meeting of the Task Force was June 1 in Casper. Additional meetings are as follows:

June 29- 9:00 AM-Noon MDT via WebEx

July 28-29—8:30 AM-5:00 PM- Laramie

August 21—9:00 AM-Noon MDT via WebEx

September 9—8:30 AM-5:00 PM—Rock Springs

All meetings are open to the public, and WDE/SBE will post meeting materials to the web, including information necessary for logging into the web-ex meetings. You can find the June 1 meeting materials, along with a list of Task Force members, here:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/in-the-classroom/student-assessments/>

If you have questions about the Task Force, please contact Deb Lindsey at 777-8753 or [deb.lindsey@wyo.gov](mailto:deb.lindsey@wyo.gov).

**NEW: Compass Information**

Recently, ACT sent an email blast concerning COMPASS, stating that ACT is eliminating the COMPASS assessment. The WDE, however, is working with ACT to provide the COMPASS through the fall of 2016. Given the planned obsolescence of COMPASS, we will not transition to the new COMPASS 5.0 system as previously planned and communicated. Please feel free to contact Jessica Steinbrenner, [Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov) or at 307-777-8568, with any questions.

## **Information on States' Assessment Systems**

New documents have been created by the US Chamber of Commerce to help educators communicate with families and the broad community on issues related to higher standards and related assessments. State by state information can be found here:

<http://www.businessforcere.org/interactive-map/> and info specific to Wyoming can be found here:

<http://www.businessforcere.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/WY-for-Web.pdf>

Text in the Wyoming primer is up-to-date and references the statutorily required Assessment Task Force. It may be useful as you prepare for this summer's data releases.

## **Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training**

The Wyoming Department of Education is providing five regional two-day professional development opportunities for teachers on assessment literacy and formative assessment resource development. The training will be presented by Jan Hoegh, Associate Vice President of Marzano Research.

Laramie: July 21-22

Casper: July 23-24

Thermopolis: July 28-29

Rock Springs: July 30-31

Gillette: August 4-5

To register for the free workshop, please click here: <https://goo.gl/41n0PM> For any questions, please contact Shelly Andrews at: [shelly.andrews@wyo.gov](mailto:shelly.andrews@wyo.gov) or 307-777-3781.

## **Technical Specifications for the New, online 9th and 10th Grade State Assessment**

As we finish the 2014-2015 school year, we begin preparing for the 2015-2016 school year. As many of you already know, ACT Explore and ACT Plan will no longer be available for statewide administration. Beginning this upcoming 2015-2016 school year, ACT Aspire will be used to assess students in grades 9 and 10. Below is the link to the technical specifications for ACT Aspire.

<http://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments/technical-requirements/>

Please contact Jessica Steinbrenner at [Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov) or at 307-777-8568 with any questions.

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

**June 15-16** — Cody, Supporting Writing Instruction in Wyoming Training

**June 17-18** — Casper, Supporting Writing Instruction in Wyoming Training

**June 29**— Assessment Task Force

**July (early)** — PAWS confidential release

**July (late)** — PAWS public data release

**July 21-22** — Laramie, Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training

**July 23-24** — Casper, Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training

**July 28-29** — Thermopolis, Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training

**July 28- 29**— Assessment Task Force

**July 30-31** — Rock Springs, Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training

**August 4-5** — Gillette, Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training

**August 21** — Assessment Task Force

**September 9** — Assessment Task Force

**-Word of the Week-**

**Scaling**

**Statistically transforming scores from one set of numbers (called the scale score) to another. Some types of scaling are used to make scores of different test comparable.**