



WDE Assessment Updates

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2015-16 Assessment Calendar

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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

Wyoming Statewide Assessment Calendar, 2015-16

Grade	PAWS Mar 7 - 25	Wy-ALT Feb 29 - Mar 25	ACCESS for ELLS Jan 19 - Mar 4	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				
2			x				
3	x	x	x				
4	x	x	x				
5	x	x	x				
6	x	x	x				
7	x	x	x				
8	x	x	x				
9		x	x	x			
10		x	x	x			
11		x	x		x	x	
12			x			x	x

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NEW: 2016 PAWS Blueprint and Cut Scores

The PAWS blueprints in science, math, and reading are unchanged from 2015. These can be found on the WDE assessment website and identify the content emphases on the tests. Click here: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/>

The score ranges associated with each of the four performance levels in all three subject areas are also unchanged. Science cuts have been in place since 2006 and the new reading & math cuts were established in 2014. All cuts will remain in place into the foreseeable future. The cuts can be found on the WDE website: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/cut-scores/> Descriptors for the performance levels are also found on the web; just click on the Performance Level Descriptors link.

NEW: Assessment and Accountability Release Schedule Summer/Fall 2015

All districts should review the student level PAWS (grades 3-8) and Wy-ALT (grades 3-11) data released by WDE on June 29th. District staff should follow the instructions in the Memorandum to Superintendents to approve their results.

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/communications/memos/2015/2015-074.pdf>

Individual student reports (ISRs) for PAWS should all be in districts by now; please ensure that one copy is sent home to parents. Individual reports for the Wy-ALT are available in the Online Reporting System and should also be distributed to parents. All PAWS and Wy-ALT data will be considered final and used in federal and state accountability calculations after the confidential review period ends on July 13, 2015. Aggregate reports that summarize school performance will become public on July 13th. ACT, Explore, and Plan results will be confidentially released for a two-week review period on or before August 3rd. Accountability reports (both AYP and SPRs) will be released for the two week confidential review period on August 21; these reports are expected to become public on 9-4-15.

July 13 – Confidential PAWS review ends; aggregate data become available

August 3 – ACT, Explore, and Plan results are released confidentially for two weeks

August 17 – ACT, Explore, and Plan results are available to public

August 21 – Accountability reports are released confidentially for two week district review

September 4 – Accountability reports are available to public

Accountability System Updates

On June 3rd, 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

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>

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 or 307-777-3781.

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 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.businessforcore.org/interactive-map/> and info specific to Wyoming can be found here:

<http://www.businessforcore.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.

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 or at 307-777-8568 with any questions.

-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.

Important Upcoming Dates

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