



# WDE Assessment Updates

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## 2015-16 Assessment Calendar

-Deb Lindsey-  
777-8753

-Jessica Steinbrenner-  
777-8568

Shelly Andrews  
777-3781

-Michelle Carroll-  
777-3618

-Will Donkersgoed-  
777-5133

-Emily Brantz-  
777-5296

-Nadia Vasquez-  
777-2906

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 Jan 19 - Mar 4	Aspire* Apr 11 - May 3	ACT Plus Writing Apr 19 (May 3)	WorkKeys* Apr 19 - May 3	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

\* Aspire is online. WorkKeys can be taken either online or via paper/pencil.

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## NEW: Training for Aspire, Grades 9 & 10

Since Explore and Plan are now officially retired, they will be replaced by ACT Aspire, an online assessment in ELA, math, science, and writing. In order to ensure Wyoming high schools are ready to implement this new test, WDE will schedule training in 5 locations throughout the state in October. A successful online administration will require a thorough understanding of technology and implementation requirements. **The training sessions will be a half day, and it is *STRONGLY RECOMMENDED* that every district assessment coordinator, district technology coordinator, and school assessment coordinator attend.** Watch the assessment newsletter for details on dates, times, and locations for this training.

**NEW: Report Information: Grades 3-11**

As previously communicated, Individual Student Reports (ISRs) for PAWS were scheduled for delivery in districts no later than the first week of July; 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.

For high school, Explore, Plan, and ACT individual student reports were shipped to schools earlier this month as well. In addition, a copy of the ACT student reports was mailed to each student's home, assuming a valid mailing address was entered on the answer folder. School level aggregate ACT reports will not be shipped to schools until late in August.

All PAWS and Wy-ALT data are now considered final and will be used in federal and state accountability calculations. Aggregate reports that summarized school performance have been public since July 13th when the embargo was lifted. In order to see greater detail on your performance, log into Fusion to see disaggregated performance by student group.

You can also see performance by domain (e.g geometry) on PAWS by logging into Fusion, opening the Assessment Confidential folder, and running the Domain Report. This report displays by grade, subject, and domain, your school's performance compared to the district and state averages. Since the difficulty of the items in each domain may change every year, we recommend you focus your attention on the **gap** between your school and the state - domains where the gap is greatest (and your mean scale score is lower) represents an area of potential focus for school improvement planning teams. The gaps appear on the reports as well to ease use and interpretation.

**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 29<sup>th</sup>. 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>

Aggregate reports that summarize school performance became public on July 13<sup>th</sup>. ACT, Explore, and Plan results will be confidentially released for a two-week review period on or before August 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

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

## **2016 PAWS Blueprint and Cut Scores**

The PAWS blueprints in science, math, and reading are unchanged from 2015. These identify the content emphases on the tests and can be found on the WDE assessment website.

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 2008 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.

## **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. The conference runs from 8am - 4pm, both days.

Thermopolis: July 28-29

located at: Thermopolis Middle School, 1450 Valleyview Dr.

Rock Springs: July 30-31

located at: Rock Springs City Hall, 212 D Street, Rock Springs

Gillette: August 4-5

located at: Gillette College, Peabody Energy Hall

To register for the free workshop, please click here: <https://goo.gl/41nOPM>

For any questions, please contact Shelly Andrews at: [shelly.andrews@wyo.gov](mailto:shelly.andrews@wyo.gov) or 307-777-3781.

## **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.

-Word of the Week-

Classical test theory:

A statistical theory that forms the basis for many calculations done with test scores, especially those involving reliability. The theory is based on partitioning a test taker's score into two components: a component called the "true score" that generalizes to other occasions of test with the same test, and a component called "error of measurement" that does not generalize. The size of the error of measurement component is indicated by the standard error of measurement.

## **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

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>

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

**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