



WDE Assessment Updates

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NEW: Opportunity to Submit Instructional Resources

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Achieve is continuing to accept submissions for the Equip Call to Action. Educators and developers can submit high-quality units aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Achieve launched this effort with Student Achievement Partners to strengthen resources to meet teachers' needs to implement the CCSS. Through Achieve's Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) initiative, submitted units will be evaluated for quality and alignment to the specified standards by a panel of peer reviewers representing more than 1,000 years of teaching expertise.

Developers of units submitted through this process and identified as Exemplars by the EQuIP quality review process will receive an award of \$1,500 as well as wide dissemination and recognition of their efforts. All Exemplar units will be made freely available for download and use by educators across the country.

Note: The WDE does not endorse instructional materials, resources, or curriculum.

The submission process is open to everyone. However, the developers of successful submissions will possess deep understanding of the instructional shifts found in the CCSS, instructional materials development experience, and content are expertise. Interested individuals, teams, or organizations must register and submit materials online at: <http://lessons.achieve.org>. The deadline for submitting units is October 1, 2015. Full details about the submission process are available in the call to action.

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NEW: High School Assessment Results Public Release, August 17

The school summary reports for the ACT suite are now available on Fusion. To see the reports, log into Fusion and open the Assessment Confidential folder. Remember, though that the high school assessment results are embargoed until August 17th, so please do NOT release summary information to the media or your local community until after 2:00pm on Monday.

On Monday, August 3, WDE released confidential student level results from the Explore, Plan, and ACT in Fusion. Districts will be given until today, August 14 to review the results in Fusion. District Superintendents are asked to verify online that they have received and reviewed the data at

<https://portals.edu.wyoming.gov/Confirm/View/2015ACT>.

NEW: Domain Reports for PAWS are NOW Available!

Many of you have asked for a report that helps you better understand relative strengths and needs on PAWS domains. We are pleased to announce that the new Domain Report is now available. With this report, you can 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 mean scale scores 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 than the state) represents an area of potential focus for school improvement planning teams. This is especially true if you see the same trends over time. The gaps appear on the reports as well to ease use and interpretation. Let us know if you have any questions!

Since Explore and Plan are now officially retired, they have been 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 has scheduled training in 5 locations throughout the state in October. The dates and locations are listed below. 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 newsletter for registration and specific site information, but please mark your calendars now.

October 2, afternoon, Sheridan
October 5, afternoon, Jackson
October 6, afternoon, Rock Springs
October 7, afternoon, Laramie
October 8, morning AND afternoon sessions, Casper

Repeat: Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training Now Registering for Fall 2015

The Wyoming Department of Education continues to provide 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. Registration for the fall two-day regional sessions is now open. The conference runs from 8am - 4pm, both days, venue sites to be determined.

Green River: October 1-2
Powell: October 12-13
Buffalo: October 14-15
Casper: October 19-20
Cheyenne: October 21-22

To register for the free workshop, please click here: <http://goo.gl/forms/0eCeqb2B7w>
For any questions, please contact Shelly Andrews at: shelly.andrews@wyo.gov or 307-777-3781.

Repeat: Site File for ACCESS 2.0

As you know, the ACCESS for ELLs will be an online test beginning in the 2015-16 school year (ACCESS 2.0). WIDA and DRC are providing exhaustive resources for Assessment coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators on the website located here: <https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx#>

All training should be provided to test administrators and technology coordinators through these online resources which include webinars, powerpoints, FAQs, etc.

We have received the Site File for ACCESS 2.0, attached. Please share this with the appropriate people in your district. DRC has also included a sample site file.

Also included is the Technology Coordinator checklist and the July updates from WIDA. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Holbrook at robin.holbrook@wyo.gov or 307-777-5217. WIDA and DRC are also available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Repeat: Lexile and Quantile Web-Ex Sessions

Have you ever wondered what Lexiles and Quantiles are? Have you wondered how to use them to improve instruction for your students? WDE is partnering with Metametrics, the company that provides Lexile and Quantile data on PAWS, to provide a series of Web-Ex meetings to answer your questions. These sessions are intended for teachers, instructional facilitators, curriculum directors, assessment coordinators, principals – anyone who wants to learn more about using Lexiles and Quantiles. Please share the information widely about these opportunities. Each of the sessions will be held for one hour, beginning at 3:30 on the dates listed below to facilitate teacher attendance. Once we have the Web-Ex specifics, we'll share the log in information via the newsletter.

September 10: An Introduction to the Lexile Framework for Reading

This presentation offers an introduction to the Lexile Framework for Reading and addresses the following points:

- What is the Lexile Framework for Reading?
- Where are Lexile measures Found?
- How does the Lexile Framework relate to text complexity?
- How can the Lexile Framework be used?
- What are the benefits of the Lexile Framework?
- What resources for the Lexile Framework are available?

September 15: An Introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics

This presentation offers an introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics and addresses the following points:

- What is the Quantile Framework for Mathematics?
- Where can Quantile measures be found?
- What can be done with Quantile measures?
- How will the Quantile Framework help students?
- How can Quantile measures be used in the classroom?
- What resources for the Quantile Framework are available?

September 17: Addressing Text Complexity in the Common Core State Standards

The Common Core State Standards outline a new text complexity analysis model that can help educators select texts for core instruction. The model offers a lens through which we can validate that the balance of literary and informational texts we ask students to read are of an appropriate complexity to address these new standards. This presentation provides an overview of the importance of text complexity within the Standards and shares tools and resources to use in analyzing texts through this lens.

October 13: Maximize the Match: Understanding Text Complexity and Reader Ability

In order to be college and career ready, students need to be reading more challenging texts. However, educators know that challenge must be balanced with accessibility and engagement. This presentation will explore the concept of text complexity in relation to student interest and reading ability as explained by the Lexile Framework for Reading, a developmental scale that spans all content areas in grades K-16.

October 15: Differentiating Instruction Using the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks

This presentation offers insight into how the Lexile Framework for Reading and the Quantile Framework for Mathematics can each be used to help differentiate instruction for students. By modifying materials, content, instruction, student projects and products, and assessment, educators can meet the learning needs of individual students. In a differentiated classroom, teachers recognize that all students are different and require varied teaching methods to be successful in school.

Repeat: Individual Student Growth Reports on PAWS Available on the Wyoming Transcript Center

Note: Per statute, these individual student growth reports are to be uploaded to the districts' student information system as a part of each student's permanent record.

WDE is pleased to release our first-ever growth reports for individual students in grades 3 - 8 (we plan to provide high school growth reports in the next month or so). These new "fan" reports show a student's growth on PAWS over time and show the projected growth into the 2015-16 school year. These new reports are available in .pdf format and are available in the Wyoming Transcript Center. We have also created an interpretive guide for the student growth reports that can be printed and used with parents to help explain the new reports. More information can be found in the Memo to Superintendents: **Memo 2015-083: [Student Growth Reports](#)**

We are hosting two informational web-ex sessions for anyone with questions on these new reports. These one hour sessions are scheduled for Monday, August 17th at 3:30 PM and Thursday, August 20th at 9:00. Web-Ex information is below:

Mon, Aug 17, 3:30 pm | When it's time, join the meeting from here: <https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/meetings/join?uuid=M1XQ6JW2DROHVUMDJVIVPSF4Z5-4O2&epwd=51e5c354402a3b3f597c046274>

WebEx Online Meeting number: 195 205 917

Meeting password: growth2015

Audio Connection +1-415-655-0001 US TOLL Access code: 195 205 917

Thu, Aug 20, 9:00 am | When it's time, join the meeting from here: <https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/meetings/join?uuid=MEOWM1DDJVXUX6U1ZSIOT2SG4V-4O2&epwd=efd3acc35b4a4256131803545a5d5e>

WebEx Online Meeting number: 192 799 522

Meeting password: growth2015

Audio Connection +1-415-655-0001 US TOLL Access code: 192 799 522

Repeat: Assessment Webpages Updates

If you recently visited the Assessment pages on the WDE website, you probably noticed that many changes that have occurred. We've added some pages, removed some pages, and moved some information hoping to make the site more easily navigable. We have also begun the process of updating testing materials. The items which are updated have been uploaded to their respective pages. Those not updated have been annotated with their projected posting date.

All materials related to PAWS are currently on the PAWS page, this includes test ordering information (TOMS). There are now pages called 'Cut Scores,' and 'Performance Level Descriptors.' Both contain up-to-date information. You will find these pages listed toward the bottom of the State Assessment Topics sidebar.

Our hope it to make the web pages more easily navigable, and information easier to find. Please don't forget to update your bookmarks. If you have a problem finding any information, or would like to provide feedback, please contact Michelle Carroll at: michelle.carroll@wyo.gov, or 777-3618.

Repeat: Assessment and Accountability Release Schedule Summer/Fall 2015

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

Repeat: Assessment Task Force Update

The Wyoming Assessment Task Force was convened for two days in Laramie on July 28-29. The group discussed potential recommendations for statewide summative assessments as well as interim and formative components. The next meeting is a web-ex on August 21st. Meeting minutes as well as the list of task force members can be found here:

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

-Word of the Week-**Assessment, test, Examination**

Terms that refer to devices or procedures for getting information about knowledge, skills, or other characteristics of the people being assessed, tested, or examined. The three terms are often used interchangeably, but there are some differences between them. Assessment is the broadest of the three terms, examination is the narrowest.

Repeat: 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>

Important Upcoming Dates

August 17 — ACT, Explore, and Plan results available to the public.

August 21 — Accountability reports confidentially released for 2 weeks for district review

August 21 — Assessment Task Force

September 4 — Accountability reports released to the Public

September 9 — Assessment Task Force

October 1-2 — Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Green River)

October 2 — Aspire Training (Sheridan)

October 5 — Aspire Training (Jackson)

October 6 — Aspire Training (Rock Springs)

October 7 — Aspire Training (Laramie)

October 8 — Aspire Training (Casper)

October 12-13 — Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Powell)

October 14-15 — Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Buffalo)

October 19-20 — Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Casper)

October 21-22 — Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Cheyenne)