



# WDE Assessment Updates

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## NEW: Assessment Task Force Update

The Wyoming Assessment Task Force was convened for a full day in Casper on September 9th. The group discussed potential recommendations for statewide summative assessments as well as interim and formative components. The Assessment Task Force will present their recommendations to the State Board on September 23 and to the Joint Education Committee on October 30, 2015.

The **draft report**, meeting minutes, as well as the list of task force members can be found here: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/resources/> Please note that many edits were suggested to this report, so remember that it is only a draft—and an early one!

## REPEAT: ACT Aspire System Check

ACT Aspire is replacing Explore and Plan for the 2015-2016 test administration. ACT Aspire is an online assessment. In order to ensure that your technology infrastructure is compatible with Aspire’s requirements, please use the following link to perform a system check: <http://systemcheck.actaspire.org/>

## REPEAT: REGISTER NOW: Training Dates for Aspire, Grades 9 & 10

Since Explore and Plan are now officially retired, they have been replaced by ACT Aspire, an online assessment in ELA, math, science, and writing.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 trainings 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.**

Register now at <http://goo.gl/forms/bnkBxdK1Mi>

- October 2, afternoon, Sheridan, TBD
- October 5, 1:00-4:30 pm, Jackson, 4H Building, 255 W. Deloney Avenue
- October 6, 1:00-4:30 pm, Rock Springs, Western Wyoming Community College, Lecture Hall RSC 1302
- October 7, 1:00-4:30 pm, Laramie, Albany County School District, Special Services, 509 S. 9th Street
- October 8, 8:00-11:30 am AND 1:00-4:30 pm sessions, Casper, Oil & Gas Conservative, 2211 Kings Boulevard

## NEW: Aspire Training Date and Location Added

Due to numerous requests, WDE has decided to offer a training session in the northwest corner of the state.

Register now at <http://goo.gl/forms/bnkBxdK1Mi>

November 2, morning, Powell, Support Services Building

**Please note:** If you have already registered, but would like to change your registration to the new location, please contact Jessica Steinbrenner at (307)777-8568 or [jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov) to confirm your attendance.

## NEW: Standards Yearly Newsletter

Please take a look at the newsletter linked below for information about the standards team and the work they do. This newsletter also includes information concerning the PAWS assessment. One of the key features is a vocabulary list of important terms on the PAWS assessment for ELA and math. Please visit the link below to read this newsletter:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/download/standards/Standards-Newsletter-Sept-2015.pdf>

## **UPDATED: REGISTER NOW: Upcoming 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.

### **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?

*The presentation will be held September 15th at 3:30 pm. [Register Now!](#)*

*Meeting Number: 638 616 703*

*Meeting Password: Wyoming1*

### **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.

*The presentation will be held September 17th at 3:30 pm.*

*Meeting Number: 633 919 822*

*Meeting Password: Wyoming1*

### **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.

*The presentation will be held October 13th at 3:30 pm.*

*Meeting Number: 638 720 891*

*Meeting Password: Wyoming1*

### **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.

*The presentation will be held October 15th at 3:30 pm.*

*Meeting Number: 638 660 043*

*Meeting Password: Wyoming1*

### **Note:**

You may also join any of these WebEx sessions by phone by calling (toll-free) (866)469-3239 and using access code 638 660 043.

#### **Word of the Week-**

#### **Equating**

**Statistically adjusting scores on different forms of the same test to compensate for differences in difficulty (usually, fairly small differences). Equating makes it possible to report scaled scores that are comparable across different forms of the test.**

## **REPEAT: REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2015: Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training**

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.

October 1-2, Green River

October 12-13, Powell

October 14-15, Buffalo

October 19-20, Casper

October 21-22, Cheyenne

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](mailto:shelly.andrews@wyo.gov) or 307-777-3781.

## **REPEAT: Save the Date! ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Webinar Offerings**

Registration for the fall webinars is now available. School and district staff can sign up on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Test Preparation Page; scroll down to September 23 to find the registration link. (<https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx>). WIDA has added an additional webinar for Technology Coordinators to allow more flexibility in scheduling. These webinars will be recorded and posted to the website for reference. The fall webinars are listed below.

September 23, **Test Coordinator Overview Webinar**, 9: 30 am & 12:00 pm

September 24, **Test Coordinator Overview Webinar**, 9: 30 am & 12:00 pm

September 30, **Test Administrator Overview Webinar**, 9: 30 am & 12:00 pm

October 7, **Technology Coordinator Overview Webinar**, 2:00 pm

October 9, **Technology Coordinator Overview Webinar**, 9:00 am

October 2015-April 2016, **ACCESS for ELLs Q&A Webinars**, 12:00 pm,  
first Wednesday of each month

Registration will fill up quickly so **register soon** for the webinars you wish to attend. Also, districts may use one registration and watch the webinar in groups to allow more people to register.

The Q&A webinars will not require registration and are an additional drop-in opportunity for Test Coordinators and Test Administrators as they get closer to the testing window.

## **REPEAT: 2015-16 ACCESS Administration Test Schedule**

Description	Start Date	End Date
District and School Site File to DRC	9/8/2015	9/8/2015
Test Materials Ordering	10/19/2015	12/4/2015
Pre-ID Files to DRC	11/10/2015	11/10/2015
Online Test Setup	12/18/2015	3/4/2016
Districts Receive Test Material (On or Before)	1/4/2016	1/4/2016
<b>Test Window</b>	<b>1/19/2016</b>	<b>3/4/2016</b>
Additional Test Material Window	1/6/2016	2/26/2016
Districts Pack Completed Test Material	1/20/2015	3/11/2016
Districts Ship Completed Test Material to DRC	1/20/2015	3/11/2016
All Test Material Received at DRC	3/18/2016	3/18/2016
Pre-Reporting Data Validation Window	4/4/2016	4/15/2016
DRC Provides Data File to SEA for Simultaneous Data Validation	4/4/2016	4/15/2016
Districts Receive Reports - Printed and Online (On or Before)	5/2/2016	5/2/2016
Final Data Available to State	5/2/2016	5/2/2016

**NEW: Fall WDE684 - Student Demographic File Training**

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) announces that Fall 2015 WDE684 data collection training will be conducted via the WebEx. Remember that this file is an important part of the assessment reporting. Proper reporting will expedite the work of the department and likewise improper reporting will cause delays so please take note of the opportunities below.

The three WDE684 training events will take place at the following days and times:

Sept. 28, 10-11 am

Sept. 30, 2-3 pm

Oct. 2, 10-11 am

For more information about this collection please contact Brian Wuerth at [brian.wuerth@wyo.gov](mailto:brian.wuerth@wyo.gov) or 307-777-6748.

**NEW: Introducing ACCESS for ELLs 2.0**

Welcome to a new school year! WIDA is excited to announce the availability of a number of new resources to support educators who will administer ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Paper or Online tests in 2015-16. This message outlines the new materials that are available as well as others that are upcoming. Check out the attachment for information about the new materials that are available and other upcoming materials.

For more information contact Robin Holbrook at [robin.holbrook@wyo.gov](mailto:robin.holbrook@wyo.gov)

**REPEAT: REGISTER NOW: Writing Workshop in Cheyenne, Dec. 8-9**

Using Wyoming's writing prompts, the WDE Standards and Assessment teams will be offering a two-day professional development workshop in Cheyenne on December 8th and 9th focused on analyzing student writing. During this session, participants will systematically score student papers in order to inform quality writing instruction.

Participants should administer the selected Wyoming prompts to students and submit samples of the 8 point prompt to the Department to assemble for use in the workshop. Please make sure that student names and personally identifiable information are removed before submission of these materials. Visit the following site for links to prompts and other materials: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/standards/language-arts/>.

You may register for this event at <http://goo.gl/forms/XfFqIQlq7B> and submit papers to [Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:Jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov).

The deadline for registration and submission is **Nov. 20, 2015**.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

<b>Sept. 15</b>	Web-Ex: An Introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics
<b>Sept. 17</b>	Web-Ex: Addressing Text Complexity in the Common Core State Standards
<b>Sept. 23</b>	ACCESS Test Coordinator Overview Webinar, 9:30 am & 12 pm
<b>Sept. 24</b>	ACCESS Test Coordinator Overview Webinar, 9:30 am & 12 pm
<b>Sept. 30</b>	ACCESS Test Administrator Overview Webinar, 9:30 am & 12 pm
<b>Oct. 1-2</b>	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Green River)
<b>Oct. 2</b>	Aspire Training (Sheridan)
<b>Oct. 5</b>	Aspire Training (Jackson)
<b>Oct. 6</b>	Aspire Training (Rock Springs)
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Aspire Training (Laramie)
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Technology Coordinator Overview Webinar, 2 pm
<b>Oct. 8</b>	Aspire Training (Casper)
<b>Oct. 9</b>	Technology Coordinator Overview Webinar, 9 am
<b>Oct. 12-13</b>	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Powell)
<b>Oct. 13</b>	Web-Ex: Maximize the Match: Understanding Text Complexity and Reader Ability
<b>Oct. 14-15</b>	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Buffalo)
<b>Oct. 19-20</b>	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Casper)
<b>Oct. 21-22</b>	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Cheyenne)