



WDE Assessment Updates

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NEW: State Board of Education Assessment Task Force Recruitment

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The Wyoming State Board of Education has been statutorily charged with assembling a statewide assessment task force to study options for future statewide assessments and to make a recommendation to the state board and legislative committees. The Wyoming State Board of Education invites interested members of the Wyoming education community to fill out an expression of interest form to serve on this important task force. Although a work plan for the task force is still being developed, it is anticipated that the task force will meet three to four times over the next few months. It is thought that one or two of those meetings will be face-to-face, and one or two meetings will be over a distance delivery platform. A final recommendation must be determined by October 15, 2015.

If a member of the task force is not affiliated with a governmental subdivision (school district, post-secondary institution, state agency, for example), per diem and travel expenses will be paid. Per diem and travel expenses will not be paid for those task force members who are affiliated with a governmental or political subdivision.

If you are interested in serving on this assessment task force, please fill out an expression of interest form (<http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/board/2015/Assessment-Task-Force-form.pdf>) and submit it **by March 27, 2015**. If you have questions, please contact Paige Fenton Hughes at paige.fentonhughes@gmail.com or 307.349.4506.

Inside this Issue:

- Wy-ALT Test Window Closes **2**
- Supporting Writing Instruction in Wyoming **3**
- Assessment Literacy and Formative Assessment **3**
- ACT and WorkKeys Labels **4**
- Compass, Explore, Plan **4**
- Exemptions Due SAWS Cancelled **4**
- ACCESS 2.0 Heads Up! **5**
- PAWS Allowable Calculators Important Upcoming Dates **5**

PAWS Item, Bias, and Data Review Workshops

The WDE invites teachers from around the state to apply for a position as a teacher panel member for this summer's PAWS workshops. Panel work is open to any teacher employed in a Wyoming School District. As a panel member, you will join educators from around the state in reviewing test questions and test data that will guide the development of PAWS. Please note that filling out an application does not mean automatic appointment. Panelists will be chosen based upon program needs. Teachers are invited and encouraged to apply by April 15.

Teacher Panel Dates:

Activity	Date	Location
Data Review—PAWS	July 13, 2015	Cody, Wyoming
Item Review—PAWS	July 14-16, 2015	Cody, Wyoming
Bias and Sensitivity Review—PAWS	July 15-16, 2015	Cody, Wyoming

Individuals selected will be notified by mail after May 1, 2015. For each of these meetings, participants will be provided with pre-paid hotel accommodations (for those who need them), mileage and meal reimbursement (outside of those provided), and a per diem stipend.

http://wyoming2015.formstack.com/forms/2015_wy_statewide_assessments_application

Wy-ALT Test Window Closes Next Friday, March 27

Hello Wy-ALT personnel -

The Wyoming Alternate Assessment (Wy-ALT) test administration window closes next **Friday, March 27th**. Below is information regarding entering data, retrieving score reports and test completion reports, submitting test irregularities, and test material returns.

Data Entry Interface (DEI)

All data must be entered electronically into the Data Entry Interface (DEI). Watch the [DEI tutorial](#) to review how to enter student scores. All student scores must be submitted into the Data Entry Interface by **11:59pm, March 27**. Failure to submit scores in the DEI will result in no scores being reported. For FAQs regarding the DEI, [view this document](#) on the portal or for more detailed instructions, consult the [DEI User Guide](#).

Online Reporting System (ORS)

Score reports can be viewed in the ORS using the same login information for TIDE and DEI. You can also view and download participation reports according to your level of access—school completion reports for Building Coordinators and district completion reports for District Administrators and Test Coordinators. These reports can be used to check in with TAs and SSs who may not have administered the test or entered data yet.

For more instructions on using the ORS, consult the [ORS User Guide](#) or view the [ORS Walkthrough Tutorial](#).

Testing Irregularities

Certain data entry errors may require that a test be reset in the DEI – for example, a TA or SS submits scores for the wrong student, or a TA/SS submits scores in the wrong test (SS enters scores in the TA test or vice versa). A reset clears the previous test submission and allows the TA/SS to restart data entry.

Incidents may occur during testing that can affect a student's scores and require an invalidation. Possible reasons for invalidation include administration of the wrong grade band test or errors in administration procedures and scoring. A test invalidation permanently invalidates the student's score.

Requests for resets and invalidations must be submitted by the Building Coordinator through TIDE. Directions are in the [TIDE User Guide](#) beginning on page 53. They are then reviewed and approved by WDE.

Test Material Return Procedure

Test materials must be shipped back to the American Institute for Research by April 6. Ensure that all test booklets, printed manipulatives, reading passage booklets, optional scoring worksheets (if used), and any other TA-provided printed manipulatives are packaged for return. You may keep the physical manipulatives. Test Administrators return these materials to their Building Coordinator.

Building Coordinators then affix the provided UPS return shipment label to the top of each box of materials to be returned. If your school has a regularly scheduled UPS pickup, you may send pickup, please contact the Wy-ALT Help Desk at 888-897-8024 and give the agent your name, school, address and tracking numbers as well as the most convenient time and date for pickup.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Wy-ALT Help Desk.

Thank you!

The Wy-ALT Project Team and WDE Assessment Team

Wy-ALT Help Desk

American Institutes for Research

Tel: [1.888.897.8024](tel:1.888.897.8024)

wyalthelpdesk@air.org

Supporting Writing Instruction in Wyoming

Using prompts and anchor papers already developed under the SAWS program, WDE Standards and Assessment teams are planning professional development sessions in order to continue support standards-based instruction in writing. These sessions will follow a range-finding approach similar to what Wyoming teachers, WDE staff, and ETS facilitators have employed with SAWS prompts and student papers. The two day sessions will be held in various locations throughout the state.

Participants will first need to administer selected 2015 SAWS prompts to students and bring student writing samples to these range-finding professional development sessions. The sessions will begin with an informative and interactive presentation focused on the following topics: on-demand writing, the writing process, essential skills, effective prompts, and quality writing assessments.

Participants will then break into grade band groups and analyze student writing samples in relation to the scoring guides. Their discussion will examine students' writing strengths and shortcomings; it will outline teacher responses, concerns, expectations, and determine areas of instructional focus. When teachers complete discussing/scoring all papers and convene as a large group, the discussion will then turn to instructional intent. How do we nurture essential writing skills? What strategies might we use to combat poor writing habits? How do we create sensitive, fair, and consistent local writing assessments of high quality? How do we continue to use results from writing assessments to guide our instruction?

Individuals who would like to participate in this professional development are asked to register their interest by completing a brief survey, found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2015WritingPD>

The survey information will be used to determine the best dates and locations for the PD opportunities. If you have questions about the sessions, please contact Catherine Reeves at Catherine.Reeves@wyo.gov or 307-777-8595

Assessment Literacy and 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.

Gillette: April 13 & 14 Gillette College Tech Center

Cody: April 21 & 22 Holiday Inn

Riverton: April 23 & 24 Holiday Inn convention Center

Evanston: May 4 & 5 Roundhouse

Rawlins: May 6 & 7 Jeffrey Center

To register for the free workshop, please click here: <https://docs.google.com/a/wyo.gov/forms/d/1Fj2NdHe4ssvOFpADuajFqGCgkrj2OvYYh32YmqHSzvc/viewform>

NEW & IMPORTANT: ACT and WorkKeys Labels

The ACT Pre-ID labels that have been shipped to schools for the April administration of the ACT and WorkKeys assessments are incorrect. Schools should securely dispose of these Pre-ID labels (by shredding) as they contain confidential student information. New Pre-ID labels from ACT, to affix to the assessments, will be arriving no later than April 1. In the meantime, schools need to move forward with all plans for pre-test activities. We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

Compass Testing Information

Compass testing will remain on the old platform for this spring. Use the link below to locate information about the Compass assessment. The login site and slides about the setup of the assessment can be found at the bottom of this page:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/act/>

Explore and Plan Information & Ordering

Any school needing **additional** materials not covered in the overage or a **special form** should use the following linked forms:

[Explore Supplemental Form](#)

[Plan Supplemental Form](#)

Initial counts for test materials were given to ACT Inc. based on the WDE684 file submitted by schools in October. School staff should check this file to make sure that they will be receiving enough materials for their 9th and 10th graders. This information is available on the Fusion website in Statistical Report Series 2 under Data Reporting. ACT will include an overage for

EXPLORE and PLAN (except for accommodated formats).

- a. Orders of 1-10 units will receive an overage of 1
- b. Orders of 11-50 units will receive an overage of 3
- c. Orders of 51-200 units will receive an overage of 5
- d. Orders of 201-500 units will receive an overage of 10
- e. Orders of 501-1000 units will receive an overage of 15
- f. Orders of 1001+ units will receive an overage of 20

Exemptions DUE

Reminder: All Exemption Requests for PAWS and WYALT 2015 assessments are due TODAY. Exemptions for high school ACT suite of assessments, Explore, Plan and ACT are due not later than Friday, May 8, 2015. Exemptions may be requested for:

- Students who are EL, have taken the ACCESS, and have been in the country less than one year (12 months cumulative) for the reading portions of the assessment only,
- Students that have been expelled during the testing window,
- Students who have been in an out of state placement for the testing window.

Please remember that documentation is required to receive any exemption.

2015 SAWS Administration CANCELLED

Enrolled Act 50 was signed into law on Monday, March 2nd by Governor Mead. The new statute eliminates the Student Assessment of Writing Skills (SAWS) at grades 3, 5, and 7 from the statewide assessment system effective immediately. This means that the SAWS test scheduled from April 13—May 1, 2015 is cancelled.

In terms of accountability under WAEA, the Achievement indicator at the elementary and middle school levels will be calculated without data from SAWS. The elimination of SAWS has no effect on AYP calculations since writing data are not used for federal accountability.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test Updates and Reminders

Thank you to the districts that are participating in the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Field Test. WIDA is close to reaching most of their goals, but are still seeking 3,000 participants in Reading (grades 4-12), 4,700 participants in Writing (all tiers, grades 1-3; grades 4-12 Tier A). In addition to these areas, we are seeking Tier A participants in all grade clusters and domains. The final date for field testing is April 10th, 2015, so it is not too late to sign up to participate. As a reminder, Field Test sites already registered should begin setting up test sessions at least one week prior to field testing in eDIRECT—the online test administration portal. Data Recognition Corp (DRC) Customer Services is available to help any sites with technological questions and can be reached at (855) 787-9615 or WIDA@datarecognitioncorp.com

HEADS-UP! WDE Survey on Implementation of ELA/Math Standards

In conjunction with our test vendor, ETS, we plan to launch a survey of Wyoming teachers, principals, and curriculum directors regarding supports for implementation of the 2012 Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Survey results will be analyzed along with results from the 2015 PAWS to better understand how implementation of the standards varies across the state and how the variation in implementation affects student achievement. The survey will be online and we expect to release it in mid-April. Please watch the newsletter for more information as we get closer to the opening of the survey window. Note: Only teachers in grades 3-8 who teach reading and math will be asked to participate. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please contact Deb Lindsey at 307-777-8753.

PAWS Allowable Calculators

Reminder: The Proficiency Assessment for Wyoming Students allows for calculators during specific portions of the grades 6-8 assessment. Although they are not considered necessary for students to complete the problems, they also do not interfere with the validity as long as the appropriate calculator is used.

Here are the criteria for selecting an appropriate calculator:

Only four-function or scientific calculators are allowed on the calculator portions of the assessment.

The following calculators are **NOT** approved for use on PAWS:

- Grades 3-5: Calculators are **NOT** allowed on any part of the test.
- Grade 6-8: Calculators with the following features are NOT allowed:
 - Computer Algebra System (CAS), e.g., TI-89, TI-92 Plus, TI-Nspire, ALEFX2.0, ALGEXF 2.0 Plus, CFX-9970
 - QWERTY keyboards (similar to typewriter keyboards)
 - Attached electronic pens
 - Graphing Calculators, e.g., TI-83, TI-83 Plus, TI-84, etc.

These allowable resources and others can be found at:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/download/assessments/AllowableResourcesGuidelines.pdf>

Important Upcoming Dates

March 20 — Spring 684 Snapshot (today)

March 20 — Exemption deadline for grades 3-8 (today)

March 27 — PAWS and Wy-ALT Test Window Closes

March 27 — Deadline to request changes to preliminary accommodations roster for the ACT

March 30– April 8 — ACT accommodation ordering window opens

April 1 — Last day to ship materials back to ETS for scoring

April 20 — **May 12** Explore & PLAN Window

April 28 — ACT Testing

April 28 — High School Accountability Snapshot

May 8 — Exemption deadline for high school

May 12 — ACT Make-up day

-Word of the Week-

Analytic Scoring:

A procedure for scoring responses in a constructed-response test, in which the scorer awards points separately for specific features of the response