



WDE Assessment Updates

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PAWS Item, Bias, and Data Review Workshops

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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

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NEW: MATERIAL RETURN FOR PAWS

Friday, March 27th is the last day to administer the PAWS assessment. All materials should be picked up by UPS on or before Wednesday, April 1st. Detailed Return Instructions are included in your Building Coordinator Kit and Building Coordinator Manual. Here are a few reminders when packaging materials for return.

- A. Make sure the materials to be scored and the materials not to be scored (used and unused textbooks, CDs, etc.) are separated. These are considered separate shipments, even if they are picked up on the same day by UPS.
- B. The UPS label for materials to be scored has **one** orange stripe (UPS 2nd Day Air).
- C. The UPS label for **not** to be scored materials has **two** orange stripes (UPS Ground).
- D. Return boxes are not considered on shipment. For example, if you have two scorable boxes, the UPS label should read: box 1 of 2, box 2 of 2. If you have three boxes of non-scorable materials, those boxes should be labeled box 1 of 3, box 2 of 3, and box 3 of 3. The shipments should not be combined.

Thank you!
Rebecca Rabin-Reed, ETS

Wy-ALT Test Window Closes Next Friday, March 27**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 will be providing professional development sessions to 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 4 regional locations throughout the state: Cody, Casper, Riverton, and Cheyenne (registration information will be in next week's newsletter) .

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 writing assessments of high quality? How do we continue to use results from writing assessments to guide our instruction?

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>

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

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.

-Word of the Week-

Norms

Statistics that describe the performance of a group of test takers for the purpose of helping test takers and test users interpret the scores.

Norms information is often reported in terms of percentile ranks.

Important Upcoming Dates

March 27 — PAWS and Wy-ALT Test Window Closes (today)

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

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