



WDE Assessment Updates

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Inside this Issue:

- Compass, Explore, Plan
- Assessment Literacy and Formative Assessment
- PAWS Item, Bias and Data Review Workshop
- Wy-ALT Test Material Return Procedures
- Heads Up!
- Important Upcoming Dates

Supporting Writing Instruction in Wyoming

Using 2015 prompts and anchor papers already developed under the SAWS program, WDE Standards and Assessment teams will be offering two-day professional development sessions to support standards-based instruction relative to 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.

Participants will first need to administer the selected 2015 SAWS prompts to students and bring student writing samples to the range-finding session. Please find directions for prompt administration and the SAWS writing prompts at the link below:

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

During the range-finding sessions, teachers will score and analyze student writing. Discussions will examine the strengths and shortcomings of student writing; it will outline teacher responses, concerns, and expectations. When scoring is complete, 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 rigorous, fair, and consistent writing assessments? How do we use writing assessments to guide our instruction?

2 Due to the collaborative nature of these sessions, it may be beneficial for participants to attend in teams of two or more. Teams can then more easily work together to implement the range-finding model at the local level. For their attendance and participation at the two-day workshop, participants will receive 1 PTSB credit.

3 Those who are interested in attending a two-day workshop on assessing student writing will need to register using the link below. Registration closes on May 19th and will be capped at 50 participants per location on a first-come, first-served basis.

<http://goo.gl/forms/KkFwkyYNUi>

June 9-10 (Tuesday/Wednesday)	Cheyenne
June 11-12 (Thursday/Friday)	Riverton
June 15-16 (Monday/Tuesday)	Cody
June 17-18 (Wednesday/Thursday)	Casper

If you have questions about the sessions, please contact Catherine Reeves at Catherine.Reeves@wyo.gov or 307-777-8595

NEW: ACT and WORKKEYS LABELS

You should be receiving your *new* ACT and WorkKeys pre-ID labels. Please be sure and securely dispose of the *old* pre-ID labels (those from the graduation class of 2014).

Your *new ACT* labels will be *yellow* and your *new WorkKeys* labels will be *white*.

Please note that the WorkKeys labels provided this year are only those for the junior level students. Seniors will need to fill in the student demographic information for this assessment.

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

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

[Explore Supplemental Form](#)

[Plan Supplemental Form](#)

Labels began shipping to schools on Monday, March 30. To see a checklist of dates or milestone schedule go to:

<http://www.act.org/aap/wyoming/index.html>

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

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>

Wy-ALT Test Material Return Procedures

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)

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.

Important Upcoming Dates

March 30– April 8 — ACT accommodation ordering window opens

April 6— Last day to ship materials back to AIR

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

July (late) — PAWS data released (tentatively)

-Word of the Week-

Scaling

Statistically transforming scores from one set of numbers (called the scale score) to another. Some types of scaling are used to make scores of different test comparable.