



WDE Assessment Updates

Volume 3, Issue 15

April 10, 2015

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Supporting Writing Instruction in Wyoming

Using Wyoming's writing prompts, the WDE Standards and Assessment teams will be offering four two-day professional development sessions to support standards-based instruction for writing. During these sessions, participants will systematically score and norm student papers in order to inform quality writing instruction.

Participants will first need to administer the selected Wyoming prompts (two per grade level) to students and bring writing samples to the norming session. Please find the writing prompts and directions at the link below:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/standards/language-arts/>

During the norming 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 use writing assessments to guide instruction? What opportunities need to be created and maintained across Wyoming to build upon an already strong baseline of writing performance?

Due to the collaborative nature of these sessions, participants are encouraged to attend in teams of two or more. Teams can then more easily work together to implement the norming model at the local level. For their attendance and participation at the two-day workshop, participants will receive 1 PTSB credit. Please see the attached agenda for more information.

Those who are interested in attending one of these two-day workshops 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/KkFwkfYNUi	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.

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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/>

COMPASS Testing Scores

The COMPASS testing window is quickly approaching. In order to ensure that students meet their college application/class placement deadlines, please be sure that they have possession of a printed copy of their scores before leaving your testing facility. Although the department has accommodated summer score requests in the past, summer travel workshops and events limit score accessibility.

Please contact the Assessment office with any questions or concerns, 307-777-2906

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>

-Word of the Week-

Pretest (or Pilot) Item

An item that is administered to candidates simply for the purposes of obtaining data for future psychometric analysis. The results on this item are not included in the score. It is often prudent to include a small number of pretest items in a test.

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

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)