



WDE Assessment Updates

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NEW: ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Transition News

Please refer to the WIDA website for a listing of updated webinars and resources. This information is located under the assessment tab. Click on the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 drop-down menu and go to Preparation Resources.

Below are a few highlights:

April Events:

- Live Webinar: ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Live Webinar/Question and Answer Session (April 24th at 2:00pm Central Time)
- Initial checklists outlining roles and responsibilities for the online test for SEAs/LEAs (late April 2015)

May Preview:

- Live Webinar: ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Technology Coordinator Session (May 1st at 2:00pm Central Time)
- Accommodations guidelines and supporting materials available for LEAs (end of May)

General Information:

1. The Kindergarten ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs are part of the new ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 system, but available only as a paper based test.
2. The new features of the online ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 simplify test administration and scoring.
 - A. *Online Speaking test can be administered to multiple students at the same time which reduces amount of time educators/students are away from the classroom.*
 - B. *Centralized scoring for all four domains; no need to score student responses on site*
 - C. *For students who can keyboard responses, there is no need for any paper-based material*
3. WIDA is here to help throughout the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 transition period with revised training, website resources, and Client Services Center support.

Call the Client Services Center at 866-276-7735 or email: help@wida.us.

NEW: Wyoming Educator Survey on Implementation of ELA/Math Standards

Wyoming teachers (grades 3—8), elementary and middle school principals, and curriculum directors are invited to participate in a survey regarding 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.

All responses to the survey will be confidential. If you would like to be entered in a raffle to win prizes like an iPad Mini, lunch with Superintendent Balow, or an assortment of education-related books, then you can enter your contact information at the end of the survey.

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NEW: Wyoming Educator Survey on Implementation of ELA/Math Standards continued.

The online survey is expected to take no more than 20 minutes to complete. It launched on April 16 and will be open through May 15. The link below will give you access to the survey.

<http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/2072429/Wyoming-Educator-Survey>

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Deb Lindsey, director of State Assessment, at 307-777-8753 or deb.lindsey@wyo.gov. Thanks in advance for your participation.

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 PTSE 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

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 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 may limit our ability to provide COMPASS results quickly.

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

-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.

Explore and Plan Information

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](#)

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

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

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.

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 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 (early) — PAWS confidential release

July (late) — PAWS public data release