



WDE Assessment Updates

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IMPORTANT: Exemptions for the 2014-15 School Year

Earlier this fall, we announced via this newsletter that all assessment exemptions were being eliminated. After careful consideration and review of historical data, it's been decided that the only exemptions that will be eliminated are those for students who are medically fragile. The three other exemption categories will remain in place. This means that WDE will be accepting exemption requests in the following three categories:

- ◆ Students who are expelled but still receiving services from the district
- ◆ Students who are served in out of state placements, and
- ◆ Students who are ELs who have been in US schools for less than a year (students must participate in the ACCESS in order to receive the exemption, and they are still required to participate in math and science (if applicable))

Attached to this newsletter is the updated WDE673 form. In order to ensure confidentiality of these sensitive materials, please note that the submission process has changed from prior years. The ONLY method for submission of the WDE673 form and associated documentation is via the Wyoming Transcript Center. Faxes and mail are NOT acceptable methods of submission.

At least one person in each district has rights to upload files and/or documents to the Wyoming Transcript Center. In most districts, this person is the WISE Coordinator. Please check in your district to determine who has the appropriate rights. Once logged in to the Wyoming Transcript Center, you should see this screen:

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IMPORTANT: Exemptions for the 2014-15 School Year (Continued)

To upload an exemption request for a student, first scan and save each request, including associated documentation, as a single .pdf file. Do not upload multiple .pdfs for a single request. Use the following naming convention when saving and submitting a request: districtname_studentWISERID (e.g. Laramie1_87654321.pdf). Then, log into the Transcript Center, and click on Send Documents. At the next screen, click on Upload, then Choose File, and Send to WDE Administration.

If your WISE Coordinator does not see the Documents section of the Transcript Center after logging in, s/he will need to contact Elizabeth Foster, Data Collection Specialist at the WDE, who can adjust roles in the Transcript Center (Elizabeth.foster@wyo.gov)

Exemption requests will be accepted and processed through the 15th day of the testing window (March 20 for students in grades 3-8 on PAWS); for students in high school grades, exemption requests will be accepted and processed through May 8. Note the change in dates given student mobility, we have extended the submission dates into each assessment window.

ACTION NEEDED—Submit Current Roster of Students for 2015 NAEP

NAEP building coordinators need to upload a current listing of student names and birth dates in grades four or eight via the online MyNAEP system. This is a critical step within MyNAEP's "Prepare for Assessment" section.

The upload needs to occur within five school days following the Holiday break. Here's a link to a brief video tutorial describing the submission process: [Submit Current Roster](#).

NAEP building coordinators are advised to review the Submit Roster tutorial and to consult with data staff in their school or district about obtaining a student list file from their school's student information system. Please direct all questions and technical assistance needs regarding the list upload to the NAEP HelpDesk at [\(800\) 283-6237](tel:800-283-6237), 8:00 am-5:30 pm EST or NAEPhelp@westat.com.

For general questions regarding the 2015 NAEP in Wyoming, please contact Will Donkersgoed at [\(307\) 777-5133](tel:307-777-5133) or william.donkersgoed@wyo.gov.

PAWS/SAWS Building Coordinator Training—Register Now!

Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Wyoming Department of Education will be hosting four Building Coordinator Training sessions at two locations to review the responsibilities of the Building Test Coordinator for the 2015 PAWS/SAWS administrations.

Tuesday, January 27th—AFTON

Location: 150 S. Washington St.
Afton, WY 83110

Session 1: 9:00 am—11:00 am

Session 2: 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Thursday, January 29th—CASPER

Location: Nichols Auditorium
125 College Drive
Casper, WY 82601

Session 1: 9:00 am—11:00 am

Session 2: 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

To register visit: <http://goo.gl/forms/NG5xYVRuKm>

ACT Suite Question and Answer Session

Have questions about the ACT Suite? ACT is holding two additional Q&A sessions to answer your questions. To register for a Q&A session, go to the appropriate URL from the table below. You need to register by **the Friday prior to** the session date.

Date	Time	Registration URL
Tuesday, January 13	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	https://act.ilinc.com/register/jrtwwmv
Wednesday, February 18	3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	https://act.ilinc.com/register/kfpffc

Note: Each session is tentatively scheduled for an hour.

ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations System

Please remember, the ACT deadline to submit accommodations requests is **January 23, 2015**.

For more information and additional training resources, visit <http://www.act.org/aap/wyoming/act.html>.

Wy-ALT TIDE—Pre-ID Window Closes TODAY, January 9th!

The Wy-ALT Online Management system, called TIDE, is now open. In TIDE, a Building Coordinator can see the students (according to the 684) who are expected to take the Wy-ALT in their building and the students who need a second scorer. The Building Coordinator can also assign roles to others (such as test administrators and second scorers) and add students. To access TIDE visit:

<http://wyoassessment.org/building-coordinators/>

TIDE's initial pre-ID window closes on **January 9th**. Although the system itself is easy to navigate and the [TIDE User Guide](#) is available, our vendor has also provided a video [walk-through of TIDE](#) for reference.

Wy-ALT Training Window ends January 30th!

Wy-ALT training window ends January 30th in Casper.

Test Administrators and Second Scorers are REQUIRED to attend one of the sessions.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., training will begin at 9:00 a.m., and end by 4:00 pm. If you need to register, please contact Nadia Vasquez at Nadia.Vasquez@wyo.gov or 307-777-2906.

Training Date	Location
Monday, January 12, 2015	Jackson
Tuesday, January 13, 2015	Riverton
Thursday, January 15, 2015	Green River
Friday, January 30, 2015	Casper

Alt Standards Kick Off—Save the Date!

The Wyoming Department of Education is providing a two day training to introduce the Wyoming Extended Standards in ELA and Math. The training will cover several topics including discussing the changes in instructional expectations, the communication needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities, and linking effective literacy and mathematics instruction with the Wyoming Extended Standards. A range of resources and Strategies will also be shared. Watch the newsletter for registration details!

Training Date	Location
February 23-24, 2015	Laramie
February 25-26, 2015	Rock Springs
February 27-28, 2015	Dubois
March 2-3, 2015	Cody
March 4-5, 2015	Buffalo

-Word of the Week-**NAEP**

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Also known as The Nation's Report Card, NAEP assessments are conducted periodically in mathematics, reading, science, writing, the arts, civics, economics, geography, U.S. history, and beginning in 2014, in Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL).

2015 is a NAEP year! For more information on the NAEP, contact Will Donkersgoed or visit:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/>

Home School Students and Assessment/Accountability in Wyoming

We've received a number of calls so far this year regarding home school students and testing/accountability. The Assessment team, conferring with the Data team at WDE, is providing guidance on this topic for districts.

According to the WDE684 Guidebook, "StudentHomeSchooled" means the following:

"StudentHomeSchooled - Is this student receiving their primary educational instruction in a home environment for reasons other than health and attending public school 50% or less of the school day? Yes or No."

If an enrollment record is submitted with a value of Yes (Y) in the StudentHomeSchooled field, the student is NOT required to be tested, and s/he will NOT be included in accountability determinations nor in aggregate public assessment reporting. This has been case historically as well.

Another WDE684 field with implications for reporting is the WDE684 StudentConcurrentEnrollment field. The WDE684 guidebook currently states that any student reported with StudentConcurrentEnrollment = No (N) will be included in "public reporting and AYP determinations". But, this is NOT (and has NOT been) the case when StudentHomeSchooled is reported as Yes (Y), in which case the student is NOT required to be tested and is NOT included in "public reporting and AYP determinations". This specific situation will be more completely described in future guidebooks.

NOTE: Most home schooled students who also take one or two supplemental classes at a local school are properly reported on the WDE684 with StudentHomeSchooled = Y and StudentConcurrentEnrollment = N because the school at which each student is taking a course or two is the only school at which the student has an enrollment.

NOTE: Students who are court order placed into institutions or who are enrolled in Wyoming's distance education programs hosted by Niobrara #1 and Big Horn #1 are NOT "home school" students. Please contact Brian Wuerth at [307-777-6748](tel:307-777-6748) or brian.wuerth@wyo.gov with any WDE684 reporting questions.

Important Upcoming Dates

Jan. 12-15, 30— Alternate Assessment Administration Training

Jan. 19— ACCESS for ELLs Testing Window Opens

Jan. 27 & 29 — PAWS/SAWS Building Coordinator Training

Feb./Mar. — ALT Standards Professional Development

Feb. 23— ACCESS for ELLs Testing Window Opens

Feb. 23— Wy-ALT Testing Window Opens