WDE Assessment Updates

May 15, 2015

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2015-2016 Assessment Calendar

Some of you have asked about the 15-16 statewide assessment calendar. Normally, we have published a calendar by this time of the year, but with the change in high school assessments (Explore and Plan will be replaced by Aspire in grades 9 and 10) and the elimination of SAWS, there are different opportunities (and constraints, unfortunately). We've been working with both ETS (for PAWS) and ACT (for Aspire and ACT) to investigate the latest assessment windows possible while still ensuring we get data back in time for state and federal school accountability reporting. Part of our investigation involves potential use of pre- rather than post-equating of PAWS (equating is the process that links one year's test to the next to ensure comparability). When we have all of the information in hand, along with districts' plans for spring break, we'll be able to publish a calendar in June for 2015-16. Thanks for your patience as we work to get results back faster while simultaneously pressing for later testing windows.

Assessment Literacy & 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.

Laramie: July 21-22
Casper: July 23-24
Thermopolis: July 28-29
Rock Springs: July 30-31
Gillette: August 4-5

To register for the free workshop, please click here: https://goo.gl/41n0PM
For any questions, please contact Shelly Andrews at: shelly.andrews@wyo.gov or 307-777-3781.

Assessment Task Force Update

Thanks to those of you who applied to be a member of the Assessment Task Force. Consistent with statute governing the work of the Task Force, the State Board selected participants who are representative of the state. The first meeting of the Task Force will be in Casper at the McMurray Training Center on June 1. The meeting will be all day and is open to the public. Curious about who the members are?
Go to the State Board's website (http://edu.wyoming.gov/board/) to find out. And, as soon as they are available, meeting materials and an agenda will be posted there as well.

Assessment Webpages Updates

If you visited the Assessment pages on the WDE website in the last few weeks, you will have noticed that there are several changes that have occurred. We've added some pages, removed some pages, and moved some information.

Instead of having the PAWS materials separated by grade, on their own separate pages, all of that material has been integrated into 1 PAWS page. We have also created a page called 'Cut Scores' and another called 'Performance Level Descriptors', both of which contain up-to-date information. You will find these pages listed toward the bottom of the State Assessment Topics sidebar. We have also removed the 'Online Test Management System' (TOMS)' page, and placed those links on their respective assessment pages. What this means is, if you are looking for information on PAWS, you can go directly to the PAWS page. If you need information about Wy-ALT, go directly to the Wy-ALT page, etc.

Our hope it to make the web pages more easily navigable, and information easier to find. Please don't forget to update your bookmarks. If you have a problem finding any information, or would like to provide feedback, please contact Michelle Carroll at: michelle.carroll@wyo.gov, or 777-3618.

Performance Levels on Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and PAWS

Late in 2014, staff on the WDE data team analyzed spring 2014 MAP and PAWS data, completing an equipercentile linking to identify RIT score ranges that correspond to PAWS scale score ranges for Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic. These can be used as guidance for districts interested in using MAP RIT scores to predict performance on the PAWS. With the elimination of the WDE 626 data collection, WDE will use the proficient cuts in reading (including 161 for kindergarten) to determine school by school attainment of the 85% goal established in statute (21-3-401). Tables are below. For reference, they have also been posted to the Assessment webpage, along with statewide means and standard deviations.

Table 1. Linking Results, MAP to PAWS, Mathematics

Grade	PAWS Scale Score Ranges				MAP RIT Ranges			
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
1					<174	174-186	187-200	201+
2					<184	184-194	195-206	207+
3	375-549	550-598	599-659	660-850	<194	194-205	206-218	219+
4	400-583	584-636	637-696	697-875	<201	201-217	218-232	233+
5	425-608	609-651	652-726	727-900	<210	210-223	224-242	243+
6	450-628	629-676	677-742	743-925	<214	214-228	229-243	244+
7	475-652	653-696	697-752	753-950	<219	219-233	234-247	248+
8	500-663	664-706	707-762	763-925	<221	221-236	237-253	254+

Table 2. Linking Results, MAP to PAWS, Reading

Grade	PAWS Scale Score Ranges				MAP RIT Ranges			
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
1					<171	171-179	180-194	195+
2					<180	180-190	191-203	204+
3	375-552	553-589	590-640	641-800	<191	191-199	200-212	213+
4	400-565	566-605	606-659	660-825	<196	196-205	206-219	220+
5	425-577	578-619	620-667	668-850	<203	203-212	213-225	226+
6	450-588	589-629	630-680	681-875	<207	207-217	218-228	229+
7	475-605	606-641	642-692	693-900	<211	211-219	220-232	233+
8	500-615	616-655	656-710	711-925	<214	214-223	224-237	238+

Questions on the linking can be directed to Deb Lindsey at deb.lindsey@wyo.gov.
Questions about the early literacy requirements can be directed to Lachelle Brant at lachelle.brant1@wyo.gov

ACT Suite Resources and Testing Information

Please use the phone numbers below for any testing questions or concerns, including returning of materials. Contact WDE with questions concerning policy.

- Explore/Plan: 1-877-789-2925
- ACT Plus Writing/WorkKeys: 1-800-553-6244 ext.2800

More resources, documents, and milestones can be found at:
http://act.org/aap/wyoming/

New ACT Research

ACT has recently released new research find them here:

- Unpacking Career Readiness.
- Condition of Future Educators.
- College Choice Report: Part 3.
- Why Scores on the ACT Test Are Scores You Can Trust.

COMPASS Testing Scores

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.

Prepare for Online Reports

The WDE will be releasing assessment data for confidential district review beginning in late June. In order to start the season off right, here are some helpful tips for accessing the data. (Note: *The data are not currently available.)*

These reports contain a great deal of sensitive student information. Please review your organization's rules and guidelines for how to use and safeguard confidential information. If your team would like additional training, or just have questions on student privacy, contact Leslie Zimmerschied at leslie.zimmerschied@wyo.gov. Everyone needs to take the necessary steps to ensure student data is protected.

The reports will be posted to the Assessment Confidential module of the Data Reporting tab. To navigate to the reports, go to the Wyoming Education Fusion Portal homepage at http://fusion.edu.wyoming.gov and sign in. Click on the Data Reporting icon at the top of the screen. Then click on the Assessment Confidential link on the left. Assessment Confidential is a secured site and only authorized users will be able to access the reports. Authorized users are Superintendents, Business Managers, WISE Coordinators, Assessment Coordinators and approved users with the Assessment Confidential role.

Assigning users to the Assessment confidential role is a district decision and must be done by a local Fusion administrator. If you need to find a Fusion Administrator in your district, follow this link. A short video with instructions to reset Fusion passwords is also available.

Again, data are not posted yet. Districts will be notified when the reports are posted via a Memorandum from the Superintendent. This information is being sent now to help prepare for the review window.

Register for Writing Workshops Now!

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 Jessica Steinbrenner at Jessica.Steinbrenner@wyo.gov or 307-777-8568

Three Checklists for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 in 2015-16

WIDA developed three checklists to provide specific information to support test preparation and administration for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 in 2015–16. These checklists are for the following roles:

1.   *Technology Coordinator* – responsible for all technical and system set up for online testing

2.   *Test Coordinator* – responsible for the overall coordination or test administration activities

3.   *Test Administrator* – responsible for administering ACCESS for ELLs 2.0

Three Checklists for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 in 2015-16 continued.

They are posted to the ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Preparation Resources page on the WIDA website. Here is the link.

https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx

WIDA will update these documents as needed to ensure they maintain current web links to information contained within each checklist.

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

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:

May Preview:

- 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.

Important Upcoming Dates

July (early) — PAWS confidential release
July (late) — PAWS public data release

-Word of the Week-

Validity

Validity is the extent to which scores on a test are appropriate for a particular purpose. The validity of the scores depends on the way they are being interpreted and used. Scores on a test can be highly valid for one purpose and much less so for another. Statistics can provide evidence for the validity of a test, but the validity of a test cannot be measured by a single statistic