WDE Assessment Updates

August 7, 2015

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NEW: Assessment Task Force Update

The Wyoming Assessment Task Force was convened for two days in Laramie on July 28-29. The group discussed potential recommendations for statewide summative assessments as well as interim and formative components.   The next meeting is a web-ex on August 21st.   Meeting minutes as well as the list of task force members can be found here: http://edu.wyoming.gov/in-the-classroom/student-assessments/#ATF

NEW: High School Assessment Results: Confidential Review Period Ends August 14

On Monday, August 3, WDE released confidential student level results from the Explore, Plan, and ACT in Fusion. Districts will be given until Friday, August 14 to review the results in Fusion. District Superintendents will be asked to verify online that they have received and reviewed the data at https://portals.edu.wyoming.gov/Confirm/View/2015ACT.

District or school staff should review their assessment results for accuracy. Examples of things that can be fixed include WISER ID errors and tested students who are missing from the file. We cannot change any demographics or program fields like Free/Reduced Lunch status. These data were reviewed and approved after the spring WDE684. It is important that data are accurate because they will be used to calculate school, district, and statewide aggregate assessment proficiency percentages, as well as state and federal accountability results.

All results are embargoed until the aggregated statewide results are released publicly. The public release will be August 17th, and the WDE will issue a press release on that day. Districts may NOT present results to their Boards or the local media prior to the 17th.

NEW: Training Dates for Aspire, Grades 9 & 10

Since Explore and Plan are now officially retired, they have been replaced by ACT Aspire, an online assessment in ELA, math, science, and writing. In order to ensure Wyoming high schools are ready to implement this new test, WDE has scheduled training in 5 locations throughout the state in October. The dates and locations are listed below. A successful online administration will require a thorough understanding of technology and implementation requirements. **The training sessions will be a half day, and it is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that every district assessment coordinator, district technology coordinator, and school assessment coordinator attend.** Watch the newsletter for registration and specific site information, but please mark your calendars now.

October 2, afternoon, Sheridan
October 5, afternoon, Jackson
October 6, afternoon, Rock Springs
October 7, afternoon, Laramie
October 8, morning AND afternoon sessions, Casper

NEW: Lexile and Quantile Web-Ex Sessions

Have you ever wondered what Lexiles and Quantiles are? Have you wondered how to use them to improve instruction for your students? WDE is partnering with Metametrics, the company that provides Lexile and Quantile data on PAWS, to provide a series of Web-Ex meetings to answer your questions. These sessions are intended for teachers, instructional facilitators, curriculum directors, assessment coordinators, principals – anyone who wants to learn more about using Lexiles and Quantiles. Please share the information widely about these opportunities. Each of the sessions will be held for one hour, beginning at 3:30 on the dates listed below to facilitate teacher attendance. Once we have the Web-Ex specifics, we'll share the log in information via the newsletter.

September 10: An Introduction to the Lexile Framework for Reading
This presentation offers an introduction to the Lexile Framework for Reading and addresses the following points:

- What is the Lexile Framework for Reading?
- Where are Lexile measures Found?
- How does the Lexile Framework relate to text complexity?
- How can the Lexile Framework be used?
- What are the benefits of the Lexile Framework?
- What resources for the Lexile Framework are available?

September 15: An Introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics
This presentation offers an introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics and addresses the following points:

- What is the Quantile Framework for Mathematics?
- Where can Quantile measures be found?
- What can be done with Quantile measures?
- How will the Quantile Framework help students?
- How can Quantile measures be used in the classroom?
- What resources for the Quantile Framework are available?

September 17: Addressing Text Complexity in the Common Core State Standards
The Common Core State Standards outline a new text complexity analysis model that can help educators select texts for core instruction. The model offers a lens through which we can validate that the balance of literary and informational texts we ask students to read are of an appropriate complexity to address these new standards. This presentation provides an overview of the importance of text complexity within the Standards and shares tools and resources to use in analyzing texts through this lens.

October 13: Maximize the Match: Understanding Text Complexity and Reader Ability
In order to be college and career ready, students need to be reading more challenging texts. However, educators know that challenge must be balanced with accessibility and engagement. This presentation will explore the concept of text complexity in relation to student interest and reading ability as explained by the Lexile Framework for Reading, a developmental scale that spans all content areas in grades K-16.

October 15: Differentiating Instruction Using the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks
This presentation offers insight into how the Lexile Framework for Reading and the Quantile Framework for Mathematics can each be used to help differentiate instruction for students. By modifying materials, content, instruction, student projects and products, and assessment, educators can meet the learning needs of individual students. In a differentiated classroom, teachers recognize that all students are different and require varied teaching methods to be successful in school.

NEW: Individual Student Growth Reports on PAWS Available on the Wyoming Transcript Center

WDE is pleased to release our first-ever growth reports for individual students in grades 3 - 8 (we plan to provide high school growth reports in the next month or so). These new "fan" reports show a student's growth on PAWS over time and show the projected growth into the 2015-16 school year. These new reports are available in .pdf format and are available in the Wyoming Transcript Center. We have also created an interpretive guide for the student growth reports that can be printed and used with parents to help explain the new reports. More information can be found in the Memo to Superintendents: **Memo 2015-083:** Student Growth Reports

We are hosting two informational web-ex sessions for anyone with questions on these new reports. These one hour sessions are scheduled for Monday, August 17th at 3:30 PM and Thursday, August 20th at 9:00. Web-Ex information is below:
Mon, Aug 17, 3:30 pm | When it's time, join the meeting from here: https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/meetings/join?uuid=M1XQ6JW2DROHVUMDJVIVPSF4Z5-4O2&epwd=51e5c354402a3b3f597c046274
WebEx Online Meeting number: 195 205 917
Meeting password: growth2015
Audio Connection +1-415-655-0001 US TOLL Access code: 195 205 917

Thu, Aug 20, 9:00 am | When it's time, join the meeting from here: https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/meetings/join?uuid=MEOWM1DDJVXUX6U1ZSIOT2SG4V-4O2&epwd=efd3acc35b4a4256131803545a5d5e
WebEx Online Meeting number: 192 799 522
Meeting password: growth2015
Audio Connection +1-415-655-0001 US TOLL Access code: 192 799 522

REPEAT: 2015-16 Assessment Calendar

Wyoming State Assessment Calendar, 2015-16							
Grade	**PAWS** Mar 7 - 25	**Wy-ALT** Feb 29 - Mar 25	**ACCESS for ELLS** Jan 19 - Mar 4	**Aspire*** Apr 11 - May 3	**ACT Plus Writing** Apr 19 (May 3)	**WorkKeys*** Apr 19 - May 3	**COMPASS** Oct 5 - 23 Apr 11 - May 3 (optional)
K			x				
1			x				
2			x				
3	x	x	x				
4	x	x	x				
5	x	x	x				
6	x	x	x				
7	x	x	x				
8	x	x	x				
9		x	x	x			
10		x	x	x			
11		x	x		x	x	
12			x			x	x

* Aspire is online. WorkKeys can be taken either online or via paper/pencil.

<u>NEW: Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training Now Registering for Fall 2015</u>

The Wyoming Department of Education continues to provide 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. Registration for the fall two-day regional sessions is now open. The conference runs from 8am - 4pm, both days, venue site to be determined.

> Green River: October 1-2
> Powell: October 12-13
> Buffalo: October 14-15
> Casper: October 19-20
> Cheyenne: October 21-22

To register for the free workshop, please click here: http://goo.gl/forms/0eCeqb2B7w
For any questions, please contact Shelly Andrews at: shelly.andrews@wyo.gov or
307-777-3781.

<u>Site File for ACCESS 2.0</u>

As you know, the ACCESS for ELLs will be an online test beginning in the 2015-16 school year (ACCESS 2.0). WIDA and DRC are providing exhaustive resources for Assessment coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators on the website located here: https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx#

All training should be provided to test administrators and technology coordinators through these online resources which include webinars, powerpoints, FAQs, etc.

We have received the Site File for ACCESS 2.0, attached. Please share this with the appropriate people in your district. DRC has also included a sample site file.

Also included is the Technology Coordinator checklist and the July updates from WIDA. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Holbrook at robin.holbrook@wyo.gov or 307-777-5217. WIDA and DRC are also available to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

<u>REPEAT: Assessment and Accountability Release Schedule Summer/Fall 2015</u>

Accountability reports (both AYP and SPRs) will be released for the two week confidential review period on August 21; these reports are expected to become public on 9-4-15.

August 3 – ACT, Explore, and Plan results are released confidentially for two weeks
August 17 – ACT, Explore, and Plan results are available to public
August 21 – Accountability reports are released confidentially for two week district review
September 4 – Accountability reports are available to public

Accountability System Updates

On June 3rd, the WDE presented to the Select Committee several changes to the school accountability system. These changes, approved by the Select Committee, were proposed in order to improve the system overall. Specifically, the changes include the following:
 Changes for Schools with Grades 3 through 8

♦ Achievement and Growth Indicators are unchanged
♦ Equity indicator changes:
  ◊ Definition of the consolidated subgroup no longer based upon below proficient scores in the prior year
  ◊ Cut-points were identified that will identify approximately 23% of the lowest performing students in reading and/or math for inclusion in the consolidated subgroup
  ◊ The school equity score will be the median student growth percentile (MGP) of the consolidated subgroup

Changes for High Schools

♦ Alternative schools will not receive indicator target levels or a school performance
♦ level. They will receive confidentially reported scores on the indicators for information only
♦ Academic Performance will include achievement, growth and equity
  ◊ Growth will be reported in reading and math based upon subject area test scores from Explore to Plan to ACT
  ◊ ACT will provide Wyoming with student scores for a new Wyoming scale on the Explore and Plan reading and math tests. A score of 150 on the Wyoming Scales will be predictive of later ACT proficient performance (also 150 on the Wyoming scale).
  ◊ The school equity score will be the MGP of the consolidated subgroup
♦ There is just one change to overall readiness
  ◊ The Hathaway Scholarship Level additional readiness sub-indicator will
  ◊ include the success curriculum level from the student's transcript

A detailed description of the complete school accountability model may be found in the *Implementation Manual* located on the Wyoming Department of Education Website at the following url: http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/accountability/2015/implementation-handbook.pdf

Assessment Webpages Updates

If you recently visited the Assessment pages on the WDE website, you probably noticed that many changes that have occurred. We've added some pages, removed some pages, and moved some information hoping to make the site more easily navigable. We have also begun the process of updating testing materials. The items which are updated have been uploaded to their respective pages. Those not updated have been annotated with their projected posting date.

All materials related to PAWS are currently on the PAWS page, this includes test ordering information (TOMS). There are now pages called 'Cut Scores,' and 'Performance Level Descriptors.' Both contain up-to-date information. You will find these pages listed toward the bottom of the State Assessment Topics sidebar.

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.

Important Upcoming Dates

August 21 — Assessment Task Force
September 9 — Assessment Task Force

-Word of the Week-

Comparable

Two scores are comparable if they can be meaningfully compared. Raw scores on different forms of a test are not comparable because the questions on one form can be more difficult than questions on another form. Scaled scores on different forms of a test are comparable if the process of computing them includes equating. Percentile scores are comparable if they refer to the same group of test takers.