



# WDE Assessment Updates

January 16, 2015

Volume 3, Issue 3

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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:

The screenshot shows the Wyoming Transcript Center website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Wyoming Transcript Center logo and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are several sections:

- Items Requiring Attention:** A list of items with counts: Inbound Requests (0), Inbound Records/Transcripts (0), Inbound Documents (0), Rejected Outbound Requests (0), and Rejected Outbound Records/Transcripts (0). There is a Refresh button below this list.
- Top 10 Record/Transcript Sources:** A table with columns for Institution, %, and Total. The data shows ST JOSEPHS CHILDRENS HOME, TORRINGTON, WY with 100% and 1 total record.
- Send Records/Transcripts:** A list of actions: Send one record/transcript, Send multiple records/transcripts, View pending outbound records/transcripts (0), and View completed transactions.
- Manage Records/Transcripts:** A list of actions: Manage uploaded records/transcripts and Manage received records/transcripts.
- Requests:** A list of actions: Request a record/transcript and View pending outbound requests (0).
- Documents:** A list of actions: Send documents, View pending outbound documents (0), and Manage documents.
- Reporting:** A list of actions: Top 10 Record/Transcript Sources.

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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](mailto: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.

**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: *Session is now full*

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 an additional Q&A session to answer your questions. To register for the Q&A session, visit the URL from the table below. Please register by **the Friday, February 13th**.

| Date                   | Time             | Registration URL  |
|------------------------|------------------|---|
| Wednesday, February 18 | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | <a href="https://act.ilinc.com/register/kfpffcv">https://act.ilinc.com/register/kfpffcv</a> |

*Note: Session is tentatively scheduled for an hour.*

**ACT Test Accessibility and Accommodations System**

Please remember, the ACT deadline to submit accommodations requests to the Test Accessibility and Accommodations System (TAA) is **January 23, 2015**.

**If you do not have access to the TAA with Trusted Agent privileges, please request access as soon as possible as it can take up to 5 days to process.** To request access log-in into your CCRIS account at <https://readiness.act.org/ccr/app/home> and click the CCRIS Manage Organization and Trusted Agent Access icon.

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

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 it will end by 4:00 pm. If you need to register, please contact Nadia Vasquez at [Nadia.Vasquez@wyo.gov](mailto:Nadia.Vasquez@wyo.gov) or 307-777-2906.

| Training Date            | Location |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Friday, January 30, 2015 | Casper   |

**Alt Standards Kick Off—Save the Date!**

The Wyoming Department of Education Special Programs staff 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      |

**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. Tables are below and attached. For reference, they will also be 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+     |

## **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:

"Student Home Schooled - 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](mailto:brian.wuerth@wyo.gov) with any WDE684 reporting questions.

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

**Jan. 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 Kick Off

**Feb. 23**— ACCESS for ELLs Testing Window Opens

**Feb. 23**— Wy-ALT Testing Window Opens

### **-Word of the Week-**

#### **Equipercntile Linking**

This is a method of making the results of two different tests comparable. It equates scores on two tests so that — by design— the scores reflect the same percentiles or performance distribution.