



# WDE Assessment Updates

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**-Deb Lindsey-  
777-8753**

**-Jessica Steinbrenner-  
777-8568**

**-Michelle Carroll-  
777-3618**

**-Will Donkersgoed-  
777-5133**

**-Emily Brantz-  
777-5296**

**-Nadia Vasquez-  
777-2906**

## **REGISTER NOW! Standards Extensions Kick Off**

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. For more information see the attached flyer or register at:

<http://goo.gl/forms/ZpwZ8yl4kK>

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

## **NEW! Released Test Questions Now Available!**

The WDE Standards and Assessment teams are pleased to announce that the newest set of Released Test Questions (RTQs) are now available on the WDE Assessment website. You can use these items to illustrate the nature of PAWS and SAWS test items. Each RTQ has information about the item difficulty and its depth of knowledge and identifies the standard that is addressed. To the greatest extent possible, we have now released at least one item per reporting category and grade in reading, math, and science. We hope you will find these useful. The RTQs can be found here:

Grade	Link
Grade 3	<a href="http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-3/">http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-3/</a>
Grade 4	<a href="http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-4/">http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-4/</a>
Grade 5	<a href="http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-5/">http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-5/</a>
Grade 6	<a href="http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-6/">http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-6/</a>
Grade 7	<a href="http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-7/">http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-7/</a>
Grade 8	<a href="http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-8/">http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/grade-8/</a>

## **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.*

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

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## PAWS and SAWS Building Coordinator Training

A big thank you to everyone who joined us in Afton and Casper this past week for the PAWS and SAWS Building Coordinator Training! For those of you who were unable to attend, we will be posting a video of the training and the PowerPoint for you to view as soon as Possible. Please continue to watch the newsletter for updates.

If you are looking for materials to review until the new information is posted, visit:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/materials/>

## 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 the new 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+

## 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:

Request a new institution | Request institutional updates | Terms of use | Privacy policy | Contact us  
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**FERPA COMPLIANT**  
WDE IS A FERPA COMPLIANT SOLUTION

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.

## **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**

**Feb./Mar.** — Standards Extensions Kick Off

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

**Feb. 23**— Wy-ALT Test Window Opens

**March 2** — PAWS Test Window Opens

**March 20** — Spring 684 Snapshot

**March 27** — PAWS Test Window Closes

**April 13—May 1** — SAWS Test Window

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

#### **WAEA**

This is the acronym for the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act.

WAEA has two major phases; the first phase addressed components of school accountability while phase II establishes a framework for teacher and school/district leader evaluation.