



WDE Assessment Updates

January 18, 2013

Volume 1, Issue 1

CURRENT IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ACT Training Webcast Available Online

- Test Order Management System (TOMS) open for demographic updates and additional ordering

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Greetings!

I'm happy to present the inaugural edition of the WDE Assessment newsletter! As the new State Assessment Director, it's my goal to ensure district and school staff have as much information as possible regarding the state assessment system. To that end, we will be publishing a newsletter most Fridays between now and the end of the school year. We hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have ideas for topics you'd like us to cover in the newsletter, don't hesitate to call me at 307-777-8753. Thanks!

--Deb Lindsey, Director

Welcome to our first assessment update!

According to our records, you are working in a role that requires you to be informed of pertinent assessment information. If this is incorrect, if this information needs to go to someone else, or if roles change, please inform Bailey Anthony (Bailey.Anthony@wyo.gov) so she can keep the distribution list up to date.

Assessment Team - who to call for specific answers

- **Deb Lindsey** - Director of Assessment - 307-777-8753
 - ◆ SBAC, Legislative Updates, Policy and General Assessment
- **Tammy Schroeder** - Test Development Program Manager - 307-777-3618
 - ◆ SAWS, PAWS, General Accommodations
- **Jessica Steinbrenner** - Assessment Operations/ACT Program Manager - 307-777-8568
 - ◆ PAWS, General Accommodations, EXPLORE, PLAN, ACT Plus Writing, Work Keys
- **Pari Swanson** - Alternate Assessment Coordinator - 307-777-5292
 - ◆ PAWS-ALT, SAWS-ALT, Specific Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- **Will Donkersgoed** - NAEP Coordinator - 307-777-5133
 - ◆ NAEP
- **Robin Holbrook** - Foreign Languages/Health Consultant - 307-777-5217
 - ◆ ACCESS, Accommodations for English Learners
- **Bailey Anthony** - Administrative Assistant - 307-777-5296

Assessment Calendar

As many of you know, there have been many changes to the state assessment system in the past year. The table below may help you answer the questions you get from staff regarding which assessment is administered, when it's administered, and in which grade.

Wyoming State Assessment Calendar, 2012-13

Grade	NAEP Jan 28 - Mar 8	PAWS Mar 11 - Apr 5	PAWS-ALT Feb 25 - Apr 5	SAWS Apr 22 - May 3	SAWS-ALT Apr 15 - May 10	ACCESS Feb 4 - Mar 8	ACCESS-ALT Feb 4 - Mar 8	EXPLORE Apr 22 - May 3	PLAN Apr 22 - May 3	ACT Plus Writing Apr 23 (May 7)	WorkKeys Apr 24 (May 8) Optional	COMPASS Apr 22 - May 3
K						x						
1						x						
2						x	x					
3		x	x	x	x	x	x					
4	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
5		x	x	x	x	x	x					
6		x	x	x	x	x	x					
7		x	x	x	x	x	x					
8	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
9						x	x	x				
10						x	x		x			
11			x		x	x	x			x	x	
12						x	x				x	x

Important Upcoming Dates:

Don't forget:

- ACT training webcast training available online
- TOMS open for demographic updates and additional ordering

- NOW -- ACT training webcast available online
- Test Order Management System (TOMS) open for demographic updates and additional ordering
- January 23 -- Alternate ACCESS training webinar
- January 24 -- 9:30 - 11 a.m. PAWS-ALT/SAWS-ALT building coordinator training
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. PAWS/SAWS building coordinator training
- January 25 -- Applications for ACT Approved Accommodations due
- January 29 -- 3 p.m. Q&A webinar sessions for ACT administration
- February 12 -- 3 p.m. REPEAT Q&A webinar sessions for ACT administration
- March 12 -- 3 p.m. Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE
- March 14 -- 1 p.m. REPEAT Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE

WISER IDs

The WISER ID is a unique identifier necessary for longitudinal analyses of student outcomes and for school and district accountability, including AYP calculations. It is essential that this number is accurate in all of the WDE data collections, including on test answer booklets, pre-ID labels, and answer folders. Please pay special attention to the accuracy of the WISER ID on assessment materials to ensure the right students are coded to your school. Remember; WISER IDs are required and any inaccuracies may cause delays in the processing of test results and AYP calculations.

Distance Education

A student may live within your district but is enrolled as a fulltime student in a distance education program provided by another Wyoming school district. In this case, the student's average daily membership (ADM) and adequate yearly progress (AYP) are tied to the nonresident school district providing the distance education program. The nonresident school district is responsible for administering PAWS to any fulltime transfer students enrolled into their distance education program. However for the ACT suite, these transfer students will be assessed at the brick and mortar schools within your district. Although your staff will be proctoring the ACT, it is important to note that the students' scores will be attributed to the nonresident schools where they are actually enrolled. If the participation of these fulltime transfer distance education students requires additional proctoring help, please contact the distance education program for support.

Ordering Test Materials

Initial orders and information for pre-ID labels for PAWS, SAWS, PAWS-ALT, and SAWS-ALT have been made based on information in the Test Order Management System, TOMS, as of January 8th. However, school staff must continue to enter updates (e.g. student accommodations, new students) into TOMS to ensure the system reflects the actual student population during the test window. In addition, you'll need to order extra test materials for students who entered your buildings after January 8th.

Initial orders for EXPLORE and PLAN have been made based on data taken from the WDE 684 fall upload. We are working with the ACT on a process for school staff to view those numbers and to request additional materials. Watch this newsletter for updates on this process.

Orders for the ACT Plus Writing are underway through the ACT's ordering link. This link was sent via email to the ACT contact at each high school.

COMPASS

As noted in December's Memorandum to Superintendents (<http://edu.wyoming.gov/sf-docs/suptmemos/2012-178.pdf?sfvrsn=2>), the COMPASS is required of all 12th grade students (except those who would ordinarily take an alternate) as a component of the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act. As noted in the Memorandum, COMPASS does not run on a Mac or other Apple computers. Schools must ensure their buildings are ready and have appropriate technology available for the assessment. Specifics on the technology requirements of COMPASS can be found here: <http://www.act.org/Compass/tech/>.

Please use caution when entering WISER IDs. Any inaccuracies may cause delays in the processing of data.

Alternate Assessment Training

The on-line training is now open. Please go to <https://wy.ziptrain.com/> to register and view the materials. Please remember that the alternate assessment requires a qualified test administrator as well as a qualified second scorer. Both must pass the proficiency test with a score of 80% before administering the assessment. Upon completion, there is a certificate that you will print out and retain for your records. It is recommended that one person be the second scorer for the entire administration of the PAWS-ALT and the SAWS-ALT. If that is not possible, please remember that all second scorers must be qualified.

The format for the on-line training is the same as in the past years. The window is open from now until April for training, reference, and materials. The training was designed to be accessible any time and you may log in as many times as necessary. There is also a list of Qualified Trainers to offer support which you can find on the training website under the Proficiency tab.

TOMS (Test Order Management System)

Please check in TOMS and verify that all the students who need the ALT assessment are checked in BOTH the PAWS-ALT and SAWS-ALT. There has been some confusion in this area. Students who take the PAWS-ALT will also take the SAWS-ALT. And remember that students with significant cognitive disabilities in grade 11 will also take the PAWS-ALT and SAWS-ALT. If you have students who are not accurately identified as ALT-takers in TOMS, you will need to manually add them into the system. For questions or help, please call ETS customer care 1-877-327-9415.

In 2013, there will not be alternate assessment available for students with significant cognitive disabilities at grades 9, 10, and 12. Please be aware that lack of participation by this population will NOT adversely affect school performance ratings under the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act in 2013. Exemption forms are not necessary.

Accommodations

PAWS & SAWS: Please verify that students with IEP, 504, or EL accommodations are marked correctly in TOMS. It is important to pay special attention to the distinction between IEP/504 and EL as this has been a problem in the past. Please remember that the accommodations used for testing must also be documented on the IEP and utilized for instruction.

EXPLORE & PLAN: Accommodations used the day of testing must be marked in the Answer Folder. As with PAWS and SAWS, please remember that the accommodations used for testing must also be documented on the IEP and utilized for instruction.

ACT Plus Writing: Accommodation requests must be sent to ACT by January 25, 2013. For questions about ACT's approved accommodation applications please email ACT at ACTStateAccoms@act.org or call their accommodations support staff at 800-553-6244, ext. 1788.

Resources

For key dates, training links, and other helpful information regarding the ACT suite of assessments, please visit <http://act.org/aap/wyoming>

We have also updated our website with information pertinent to this year's tests. For example, you can find the transition plan for PAWS as we move to full alignment with the Common Core State Standards. You can find the 12 point scoring guides for the SAWS, the statewide assessment schedule, and information on accommodations for English learners and students with disabilities. All this and more can be found at:

http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/statewide_assessment_system.aspx