



April 26, 2013

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PAWS Timing Study Extended

Upon the closing of the PAWS window, WDE initiated a survey to determine the accuracy of the testing times allotted for each section of the PAWS test. While we had several schools respond, to accurately make some decisions about the actual needed length of the testing sections, WDE is reopening the survey. Please ask your test administrators to fill out the survey for the areas in which they administered the test. The survey has been modified to accommodate those who administered the test in only one content area.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D68QHHV>

SAWS Window Extended: A reminder from last week's assessment newsletter

Given the recent (and long!) snowstorms and subsequent school closures, it has come to our attention that some schools have had a difficult time training staff and organizing materials for testing. In order to make sure all schools have sufficient time for testing, we have decided to extend the SAWS window by two days. The new window is April 22 – May 7th. In order to reduce delays in processing and reporting, however, we ask that you try to complete all testing by the original date, May 3rd, if possible. If you will require the additional two days, please notify Tammy Schroeder via email (tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov) no later than Monday, April 29th, so ETS can plan for the later arrivals.

Return of SAWS Materials - Reminder

Reminder: all SAWS essays must be transcribed into a scannable test and answer booklet. Any essay written or typed on draft and or scratch paper cannot be scored. This includes any student using a Special Form TAB; all essays must be transcribed into the standard TAB provided. Please reference page 25 of the SAWS 2013 Directions for Administration Manual for specific directions.

All draft or scratch paper should be returned to ETS. Please make sure to pack the draft/scratch paper with the non-scorable materials at the bottom of the box to be shipped back to ETS. For review of returning materials please refer to page 26 of the SAWS 2013 Building Coordinator Manual.

If you have any questions please call the ETS Customer Support line at 1-877-327-9415.

Important Upcoming Dates:

May 3	-- EXPLORE, PLAN, COMPASS Windows Close
May 7	-- SAWS Window Closes
May 10	-- SAWS-ALT Window Closes

Smarter Balanced Technology Readiness

As we've previously communicated, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is developing CCSS-aligned assessments focusing on college and career readiness. This assessment, covering both literacy and mathematics, will be delivered on-line in the spring of 2015. SBAC is working with states and their districts/schools to assess technology readiness for implementing on-line assessments. Along with other consortia, SBAC has developed an on-line tool that gives schools a convenient way to capture and report on various indicators of school/district technology readiness for the new, online next-generation assessment systems.

The Technology Readiness Tool, deployed via a survey, assesses current capacity and compares that to the technology that will be needed to administer the new online assessments in four areas:

1. Computers & other devices
2. Ratio of devices to test-takers
3. Network and infrastructure
4. Personnel (staffing & training)

Please watch for more specific information on this survey tool in the next two weeks. We will post information to the WDE SBAC website (http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/statewide_assessment_system/smarter-balanced-assessment.aspx) and share information via this newsletter as well.

Meanwhile, you can also use the bandwidth checker, available here: <https://sbac.tds.airast.org/networkdiag/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?section=sectionDiagnostics>

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Marsh, Assessment Supervisor and the Wyoming State Readiness Coordinator, at 307-77-3498 or stephen.marsh@wyo.gov.