



WDE Assessment Updates

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Status Change for Wyoming and SBAC

At its meeting on May 30th, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to proceed with establishing Wyoming as a Governing State with the Smarter Balanced Consortium. One of the implications of that decision is that we'll establish a State Network of Educators (SNE) with 70-100 WY educators to participate in SBAC training statewide. Please call Bailey Anthony (777-5296) to indicate your interest in participating in the Wyoming SNE. Please spread the news to teachers of the opportunity to help lead state assessment efforts into 2015!

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SBAC Practice Tests Released

Teachers, parents, and students across the country can now access online practice tests aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium** (SBAC) released sets of example test questions for grades 3–8 and 11 in both English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The Practice Tests provide a preview of the types of questions that will be featured in the summative assessment beginning in 2014-15, including selected-response items, constructed-response items, technology-enhanced items, and performance tasks—extended activities that challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to real-world problems. The Practice Tests are freely available on the Smarter Balanced website: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>.

Please note that the Practice Tests do **not** include all the features of the operational assessments. For example, students and teachers will not receive reports or scores from the Practice Tests. Although Smarter Balanced assessments will be computer adaptive, the Practice Tests follow a fixed-form model. By fall 2013, Smarter Balanced will make enhancements to the Practice Tests, including the addition of performance tasks in mathematics, new accommodations for students with disabilities, and scoring rubrics.

The release of the Practice Tests follows the Smarter Balanced Pilot Test, the first large-scale tryout of items and performance tasks. The Pilot Test allowed the Consortium to gather information about the performance of assessment items and the test delivery system under real-world conditions. More than 5,000 schools in 21 Smarter Balanced Governing States were recruited to participate in the Pilot Test from February 20 – May 24, 2013. Development of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System will continue after the release of the Practice Tests and through summer 2014 in collaboration with member states and educators.

SBAC has released many different resources as it develops next-generation assessments. In October 2012, Smarter Balanced released its first set of sample assessment items and performance tasks. The Consortium has also published content specifications that translate the standards into assessment claims and targets, item and task specifications that specify how individual questions are to be written, and the preliminary test blueprints that describe the content of the test and how it will be assessed. These materials are available online at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/>.

Inside this issue:

- SBAC 2
- Technology Tool
- Testing Data on Fashion 2

SBAC Technology Tool (TRT)

WDE has communicated with all district technology coordinators listed in Fushion about the upcoming TRT reporting deadline of June 14th. It's important that the TRT be completed by all districts so that we can report to both the State Board and the Legislature on the needs of our districts as we move to implement Smarter Balanced in 2015. Please double check internally to see if the reporting is on-track. If you have any questions about this project, contact Steve Marsh, Assessment Supervisor, at 777-3498. You may also reference the May 21st Memorandum to Superintendents on this topic found here: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/sf-docs/suptmemos/2013-065--sbac-technology.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Testing Data on Fushion

WDE is making plans to release PAWS and PAWS-ALT data in Fushion/ART within the next few days. We will keep you posted, but please plan on a two week district review period before the public release. Remember that the results are embargoed until the public release date. Wondering about SAWS and SAWS-ALT? Those data aren't scheduled to be delivered to WDE until the end of June, so our release of writing data to Fusion/ART for district review will be scheduled for mid-July. The only report that is vendor-provided is the individual profile report. We've scheduled those to arrive in each district office in August.

Data from the ACT won't be available in ART until sometime in August since it doesn't arrive to WDE until mid-July. Watch this newsletter for updates on data availability for all assessment programs.