



# WDE Assessment Updates

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**-Deb Lindsey-  
777-8753**

**-Steve Marsh-  
777-3498**

**-Tammy Schroeder-  
777-3618**

**-Jessica  
Steinbrenner-  
777-8568**

**-Pari Swanson-  
777-5292**

**-Will Donkersgoed-  
777-5133**

**- Robin Holbrook -  
777-5217**

**-Bailey Anthony-  
777-5296**

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### 2013 PAWS and SAWS Individual Student Reports

By now, each district office should have received a shipment of individual student reports. Two copies were sent – one for the school files and one to be sent to the parents. If you have not received your shipment, please contact your district assessment coordinator. If you ARE the district assessment coordinator, and you have not received the shipment from ETS, please contact us.

### 2013 SAWS Data on Fusion

As many of you have already observed, we have not yet posted SAWS results to Fusion. WDE IT staff have necessarily focused their time and attention on data elements required for AYP calculations and WAEA school ratings. Once AYP results are out to the schools and the initial push for WAEA school ratings is complete, then our short-handed IT staff will be able to turn their attention to SAWS. We currently anticipate that the data will be posted near the end of September. Thanks for your patience.

### COMPASS Comparability Study

ACT is planning to launch the new ACT Compass® in Spring 2014. To ensure that the new ACT Compass will produce score distributions similar to those of the current ACT Compass program, ACT is inviting its customers to participate in a comparability study, which will take place from October 21, 2013, to November 8, 2013.

By participating in the study, you will:

- Be able to preview and use the [new ACT Compass](#)
- Earn free units in the new ACT Compass system for every test students take in both the current and new systems

ACT is in particular need of sites to administer:

- Numerical Skills
- College Algebra
- Geometry
- Trigonometry
- eWrite
- ESL (Reading, Grammar, Listening, eWrite)

To learn more and register for the study, go to: [Compass Comparability Study](#)

If you have questions, please call ACT Compass Customer Services at [800.645.1992](tel:800.645.1992), option 4, or email [COMPASSCustomerServices@act.org](mailto:COMPASSCustomerServices@act.org).

### Important Upcoming Dates:

- Aug. 15 - Nov. 30 -- Fall MAP Window
- Week of Sep. 30 -- ACT Test Center Establishment Packets out to schools
- Oct. 7 - 25 -- Fall COMPASS Window
- Oct. 21 - Nov. 8 -- COMPASS Comparability Study

**ACT Cut Scores**

State statute required the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) to substitute the ACT Plus Writing for the PAWS assessment at grade 11 for state and federal accountability this year. This change required the WDE to develop cut scores and associated proficiency levels on the ACT that were comparable to the PAWS from prior years.

With assistance from experts on our Technical Advisory Committee and the National Center for Assessment, we established interim proficiency levels for the grade 11 ACT for 2013. The cut scores and proficiency levels for the ACT were communicated to districts in the WDE Assessment Division Newsletter on March 29, 2013, and applied to the 2013 assessment.

Since the WDE posted the data to Fusion for district review, we discovered a fluctuation in proficiency rates that cannot be credibly attributed to real changes in student performance.

The WDE asked experts from the National Center on Assessment to review the results; based on their analysis, they advised that we increase the cut scores by one score point at each performance level in both Reading and Math.

The updated cut scores and proficiency levels are below:

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Basic</b>	12	14	14
<b>Proficient</b>	16	17	20
<b>Advanced</b>	25	25	25

We have updated the data available on Fusion to reflect the new cuts. we apologize for any confusion caused by the changes. If you have questions about this change, please contact Deb Lindsey, Assessment Division Administrator at 777-8753.

## New-ACT Website Updates

ACT has posted some valuable resources on the ACT Wyoming State Testing website: <http://www.act.org/aap/wyoming/index.html>

There are two sets of features available those that can be found under the ACT/ACT WorkKeys link and similar features to be found under the ACT Explore and ACT Plan links.

Some key features of the [ACT/ACT WorkKeys](#) link to be aware of are:

1. [Accommodations Application/Header/Procedures](#)
2. [Checklist of Dates](#)
3. Manuals and Documents
  - a. [Summary of Requirements](#)
  - b. [Avoiding Testing Pitfalls](#)
  - c. [ACT WorkKeys Supervisor's Manual – State Testing](#)
  - d. [ACT WorkKeys Supervisor's Manual – State Special Testing](#)
4. Score Reporting
  - a. [Using Your ACT Results](#)
  - b. [Understanding ACT WorkKeys Scores](#)

Please direct any questions about the ACT and WorkKeys assessment information to:

General Inquiries

800.553.6244, ext. 2800

Website: [Contact Us](#)

Accommodations Questions

800.533.6244, ext. 1788

[ACTStateAccoms@act.org](mailto:ACTStateAccoms@act.org)

[ACT Explore](#) and [ACT Plan](#) site features are:

1. Milestones Schedule: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
2. Manuals and Documents
  - a. Supervisor's Manual: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - b. Answer Folder: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - c. Instructions for Completing Your Answer Folder: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - d. School Header: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - e. Guidelines for Providing Accommodations: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - f. Why take this assessment? : [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
3. Score Reporting
  - a. Using Your Results: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - b. Student Record Layout: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - c. Interp Guide for Student and School Reports: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - d. IRSR Interpretive Guide: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)
  - e. Student Report No State Option: [Explore](#), [Plan](#)

Please direct any questions about the ACT Explore and ACT Plan assessment information to 877-789-2925 [customerservices@act.org](mailto:customerservices@act.org)

## The ACT Career and College Readiness Standards and the Wyoming State Standards

As we move into this new year, it is helpful to have a clear understanding of our goals. Assessments are used to measure standards and the standards are the overarching content goals.

When looking at the Wyoming State Standards and the ACT Career and College Readiness Standards, we see a lot of agreement. There are a few differences, however, that may be useful in gearing up for the year.

Below are some of the differences found in the mathematics and language arts standards.

Mathematics:

In mathematics, the biggest difference between the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards and the Wyoming State Standards is the inclusion of content typically seen in additional courses beyond Algebra II. This additional content found on the ACT Plus Writing is:

- ◆ Number and Quantity
  - The Complex Number System
    - \* Perform arithmetic operations with complex numbers
      - Find the conjugate of a complex number; use conjugates to find moduli and quotients of complex numbers
    - \* Represent complex numbers with their operations on the complex plane-all of this cluster
    - \* Use complex numbers in polynomial identities and equations
    - \* Extend polynomial identities to the complex numbers
    - \* Know the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra; show that it is true for quadratic polynomials
    - \* Vector and Matrix Quantities-all of the content found in this domain
  - Algebra
    - \* Arithmetic with Polynomials and Rational Expressions
      - Rewrite rational expressions
      - + Understand that rational expressions form a system analogous to the rational numbers
    - \* Solve Systems of Equations
      - Represent a system of linear equations as a single matrix equation in a vector variable
      - Find the inverse of a matrix if it exists and use it to solve systems of linear equations
  - Functions
    - \* Building Functions
    - \* Trigonometric Functions
  - Geometry
    - \* Similarity, Right Triangles, and Trigonometry
      - Apply Trigonometry to general triangles-everything in this cluster
    - \* Circles
      - Understand and apply theorems about circles
      - + Construct a tangent line from a point outside a given circle to the circle
    - \* Expressing Geometric Properties with Equations
      - Translate between the geometric description and the equation for a conic
      - + Derive the equations of ellipses and hyperbolas given the foci
    - \* Geometric Measurement and Dimension
      - Explain volume formulas and use them to solve problems
      - + Give informal argument using Cavalier's principle for formulas

**Continued...**

- Statistics and Probability
  - \* Conditional Probability
    - Use the rules of probability to compute probabilities of compound events
      - + Apply general Multiplications Rule in a uniform probability model
      - + Use permutations and combinations to compute probabilities
  - \* Using Probability to Make Decisions-both of these clusters

## English Language Arts:

When diving further into 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, it's apparent there are some standards included in the Wyoming Standards but not in the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards.

All of the reading and language standards are included in both sets of standards.

All of the speaking and listening standards in the Wyoming Standards are not included in the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards.

The standards included in the Wyoming State Standards for writing that are not included in the ACT College and Career Readiness Standards are:

- ◆ Writing
  - Text Types and Purposes
    - \* Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
  - Production and Distribution of Writing
    - \* Use technology, including the internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information
  - Research to Build and Present Knowledge-everything in this cluster
- ◆ Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.-everything in this domain

### **SBAC Technology Readiness Survey**

Near the end of the 2012-13 school year, we first deployed the SBAC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) to all district technology coordinators. This survey collects information regarding each district's readiness to implement the on-line assessments we may use in 2015. Data are collected on four indicators, including numbers of computers and other devices, ratio of devices to test-takers, network infrastructure, and personnel (staffing as well as training). Data from the survey are available to each LEA as well as WDE; SBAC also uses the data to report state-by-state readiness to the US Department of Education in its annual report.

At this point, only about one-half of Wyoming districts have completed this important survey despite numerous communications. Today, we were notified that we've been granted a two week extension to collect data from all of our districts to ensure the information reported to US ED is accurate. Please contact Steve Marsh, our state's Technology Readiness Coordinator, (777-3498) if you need assistance to complete the TRT.

### **Smarter Balanced Assessment Professional Development Opportunities**

Becoming a governing state in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) has a number of benefits, including the opportunity for Wyoming educators to participate in professional development activities associated with the assessment. Currently, WDE staff is working on two projects that will include Wyoming teachers:

**Smarter Balanced Item Writing:** WDE will select 24 ELA and 24 mathematics teachers to write items that will appear on the SBAC field test. Teachers will receive training from WDE on selecting stimuli (ELA), reviewing SBAC item specifications and targets, and writing the types of items that will appear on the SBAC test. Two item writing sessions will take place in Casper, one in November and one in early December. Teachers will receive a stipend for attending after hours training sessions. WDE will apply for PTSB credit. Please contact Bailey Anthony at [bailey.anthony@wyo.gov](mailto:bailey.anthony@wyo.gov) if you would like to nominate educators (teachers, instructional facilitators, or district level curriculum staff) from your district to participate. Please remember that we will be selecting educators from across the state, so not everyone nominated will be selected. Nominations must be submitted by Sept. 6, 2013.

### **State Network of Educators: Smarter Balanced Digital Library of Tools and**

**Resources for Formative Assessment:** WDE will be selecting approximately 60 educators to participate in the State Network of Educators (SNE). Participants in this project will help develop the Smarter Balanced Digital Library, an online collection of professional learning and instructional resources, focused on classroom-based assessment resources that teachers can use as they implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Providing teachers with formative assessment tools and resources is an integral component of the Smarter Balanced assessment system, which also includes a year-end summative assessment and optional interim assessments. The Digital Library will focus on the classroom-based formative assessment processes and will contain differentiated resources aligned to the CCSS for educators with varying interests and professional learning needs. These resources are to include a series of assessment literacy modules and exemplar instructional modules in ELA/literacy and mathematics. In addition, the library will include professional learning and instructional materials contributed by SNEs. The library will be interactive, allowing users to rate materials and to share their expertise with educators across their own states or across the country.

SNE members will gain valuable knowledge, skills, and experience in evaluating and selecting materials that align with the Smarter Balanced assessment targets and the CCSS. Training will be via webinars, and participants will receive a stipend as goals of the project are met. WDE will apply for PTSB credit. If you are interested in participating in the SNE, please email Bailey Anthony at [bailey.anthony@wyo.gov](mailto:bailey.anthony@wyo.gov).

If you have questions about these projects, please contact Tammy Schroeder at [tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov](mailto:tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov).

## MAP Testing

Most school districts in Wyoming have been administering the Northwest Evaluation Association's (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments and have developed contracts with NWEA for this purpose. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, administration of this assessment has become a required component of the District Assessment System (DAS). The references in statute are:

The Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (W.S. 21-2-204) established a duty of the State Board of Education to require each district to administer, "...common benchmark adaptive assessments statewide in reading and mathematics for grades one (1) through eight (8) in accordance with W.S. 21-3-110 (a) (xxiv)."

W.S. 21-3-110 (a) (xxiv) further states that, "Beginning school year 2013-2014 and each school year thereafter, a component of the district assessment system shall include common benchmark adaptive assessments for reading and mathematics in grades two (2) through eight (8), common to all districts statewide, administered at least two (2) times during any one (1) school year and administered once in grade one (1)."

The MAP assessment was selected to fulfill this requirement because a) it is a common benchmark adaptive assessment, b) most districts had been already administering it, and c) the Bridges Summer School study has required data from MAP for a period of time.

All districts that have been administering the MAP will experience no change and should continue with their current procedures. Districts new to the MAP assessment will need to contact NWEA and contract directly with them. In addition, the district will need to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NWEA to provide MAP assessment data directly to WDE. You can contact NWEA at 503-624-1951. You can also find a wealth of information on their website at: [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org).

In the past WDE established testing windows for MAP assessments. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year the NWEA default test window dates will be used. These dates are:

**Fall:** 8/15 – 11/30

**Winter:** 12/1 – 2/28

**Spring:** 3/1 – 6/15

**Summer:** 6/16 – 8/14

Districts will need to contact NWEA to arrange testing dates within these windows. Please note that NWEA requires submission of a list of students to be tested 14 days prior to the opening of your testing window. Be sure to plan enough time to complete this task.

The statute requires assessment two (2) times a year for grades two (2) through eight (8) and once for grade one (1). Bridges requires that the two (2) administrations for grades two (2) through eight (8) occur in the fall and spring along with a fall administration for grade nine (9). A winter or spring administration is recommended for grade one (1). Additional administrations are the option of the district.

Please direct any questions to Dianne Frazer at [Dianne.frazer@wyo.gov](mailto:Dianne.frazer@wyo.gov) or at 777-8676