WDE Assessment Updates

September 27, 2013

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-Tammy Schroeder-
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-Jessica Steinbrenner-
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-Pari Swanson-
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-Will Donkersgoed-
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- Robin Holbrook -
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SBAC Field Test

As a Governing State in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), Wyoming will participate in the Spring 2014 (mid-March to early June) Field Test. Schools in our state will have the opportunity to experience a next-generation assessment that is closely aligned with the content, configuration, and length of the SBAC operational assessments in the spring of 2015. The Field Test will include students in grades 3-8 and 11, engaging in online assessments in mathematics and English language arts (ELA)/literacy. (A small number of grade 9 and 10 students in our state will also participate in a special study to help develop the scale used in the operational test in 2015.)

Field testing is critical to ensuring that assessment items are accessible to all students and that the assessment produces results that are valid, reliable, and fair. The Field Test helps guarantee that the Smarter Balanced assessment items are placed on an accurate scale to determine final achievement level descriptors (i.e., cut scores).

Students will gain hands-on experience with the functionality of innovative items and newly designed performance tasks with related classroom activities. *School Staff* will gain valuable exposure to administration logistics during this "trial run," allowing them to better prepare for smooth and successful participation in the operational assessments in the 2014-15 school year.

Look for an update in next week's newsletter on how to volunteer for the spring, 2014 field test!

SBAC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) Progress Report

Thanks to all of technology readiness coordinators who have completed their technology readiness surveys. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in completing the project.

To those of you who are still working on the project, the online survey tool allows you a great deal of flexibility when it comes to reporting your district/ school data. The option to hand-enter or create local files has been made easier in the updated version of the TRT. Please call Steve if you have questions regarding either of those procedures.

Please also remember that the final step in this project is to accept the data that you have entered into the system for each school. This is sort of a final QC check.

To complete this task, go to the SETUP tab and under the Data Management header, choose MARK DATA ENTRY COMPLETE.

This function allows you to review any messages that may exist for each of your schools. The steps are fairly easy, just select your school or schools, select Mark Data Entry Complete and hit the Begin Task bar. Your TRT submission is complete only once you've addressed any error messages and accepted the data for each school.

Again, please call if you have questions.

Establishment for the ACT

High school principals should be receiving their establishment information now. Here are the key dates for establishment:

Oct. 11 -- Deadline for *Principal* to complete their portion

Oct. 25 – Deadline for the *Test Supervisor, Back-up Test Supervisor,* and *Test Accommodations Coordinator* to complete their portion

It is also a good time to begin collecting information for students requiring accommodations. The deadline for the *Application for ACT-Approved Test Accommodations* is **January 24.**

ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshop

This interactive workshop provided jointly by ACT and WDE staff, will teach educators how to find key data points in their ACT solutions reports, translate these data into insights about their curriculum and instructions, and improve teaching and learning.

Target Participants – Educators who have their ACT Explore and ACT Plan Student and School Reports including:
- District Leaders (Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment)
- School Leaders (Principals, Assistant Principals, Department Chairs)
- Core Content Teachers (English, Mathematics, Reading, Science)
- Assessment Coordinators
- Counselors

Learning Outcomes – Participants in this workshop will be able to:
- Identify key characteristics of the assessments (e.g., test blueprints) to build their assessment literacy
- Develop insights about curriculum from the analysis of data
- Identify implications of the data for classroom and formative assessment
- Develop insights about instruction from the analysis of data
- Identify implications for student intervention/support structures through the analysis of data

Please register at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V6PTFKS

Date	Time	City	Address
Monday Oct. 21	8 am - noon	Rock Springs	*Western Wyoming Community College* 2500 College Drive
Wednesday Oct. 23	8 am - noon	Casper	*University of Wyoming Extension Building* 951 North Poplar Street
Thursday Oct. 24	8 am - noon	Cheyenne	*Wyoming Department of Education* 2300 Capitol Avenue, Hathaway Building

SBAC State Network of Educators

WDE is still recruiting for participants in the State Network of Educators. We will soon be selecting the participants for this project, so please forward the names and email addresses of nominees to bailey.anthony@wyo.gov. A description of the project is below:

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) in ELA and math. Resources for other content areas will also be catalogued in the digital library, as well as exemplar professional development resources. 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 materials in ELA/literacy and mathematics. In addition, the library will include professional learning and instructional materials contributed by SNEs in all content areas. The library will be interactive, allowing users to rate materials and to share their expertise with educators across their own states and across the country.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Aug. 15 - Nov. 30   -- Fall MAP Window

Sep. 30 - Oct. 25   -- ACT Test Online Establishment Window

Oct. 7 - 25   -- Fall COMPASS Window

Oct. 11   -- Deadline for Principal online ACT establishment

Oct. 25   -- Deadline for testing staff online ACT establishment

Oct. 21 - Oct. 25   -- ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshops

Oct. 21 - Nov. 8   -- COMPASS Comparability Study