



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

IMPORTANT: SBAC Field Testing: Spring 2014

As noted in last week's newsletter, Wyoming will participate in the Spring 2014 (mid-March to early June) SBAC Field Test. To indicate your interest in having your schools participate in the 2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test, click on this link: <http://www.formstack.com/forms/fieldtest-smarterfieldtest>. **Please indicate your interest no later than November 1, 2013.** Note that you will need to separately indicate your interest for each school (by grade) in your district as well as select a window that's most convenient for your schools.

For logistics and scheduling purposes, participating schools should plan for approximately 3.5 hours of testing per grade and content area. Testing is intended to be administered over multiple sessions of about 45 minutes each, but it may be administered in shorter or longer session as appropriate for the students and the school. The Field Test will approximate the length of the 2015 operational assessments.

To promote ease of implementation, the online Smarter Balanced Assessment System was designed to operate within the technology infrastructures that currently exist in most schools and districts. Detailed information on the minimum necessary specifications to operate the assessment system can be found in the *Smarter Balanced Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications* report, available on the Technology page of the Smarter Balanced website: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/#specifications>. For example, this report specifies that headphones are required to participate in some of the new multimedia items that assess listening activity.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact Deb Lindsey, Assessment Division Administrator at 307-777-8753 or Steve Marsh, Assessment Supervisor, at 307-777-3498.

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NEW! Save-the Date!

Wyoming Growth Model Professional Development Opportunities

Now that the new School Performance Reports have been released for confidential review by school and district staff, do you have questions about the Wyoming growth model? Do you wonder how to interpret the data that's presented in the reports? If yes, then plan to attend one of the PD sessions we are offering in the state. In addition to the sessions noted below that will be held in Cheyenne, Casper, and Thermopolis in November, we are also planning sessions for January in Rock Springs and Gillette. Watch this newsletter for details on specific locations and how to register.

Cheyenne	November 7	8:30-11:30 <u>and</u> 1-4
Casper	November 12	1-4
Thermopolis	November 13	8:30-11:30

Alternate Assessment News

This school year, 2013-2014, all students in grades 3 through 11 that meet the criteria for taking the Alternate Assessment will be taking the PAWS-ALT. The students in grades 3, 5, 7 and 11 will take the SAWS – ALT. The addition of grades 9 & 10 in Reading, Mathematics and Science is new this year.

In preparation for this assessment, there will be a mandatory training. Test administrators and all second scorers need to complete the training and have the completion certificate on file. The dates/ locations for the regional trainings are:

- ◆ November 1 Gillette
- ◆ November 8 Laramie
- ◆ November 12 Riverton
- ◆ November 18 Green River
- ◆ December 6 Casper

Please use the [link](#) to register for the training that best fits your schedule. Specifics regarding each session will be emailed to participants prior to the training. The session will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

In addition to the assessment administration training, participants will have the opportunity to see the drafted alternate standards, collaborate with peers , ask questions about instruction and assessment of students with severe cognitive disabilities and take home some practical strategies/ lessons that can be used in the classroom.

Please direct question/concerns to Pari Swanson. Email is the best way to contact pari.swanson@wyo.gov. You may also call 307-777-5292.

ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshop

This is your last chance to register for the ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshops.

Rock Springs: <https://www.regonline.com/rockspringsworkshop>

Casper: <https://www.regonline.com/casperworkshop>

Cheyenne: <https://www.regonline.com/cheyenneworkshop>

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

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

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Sep. 30 - Oct. 25 -- ACT Test Online Establishment Window
- Oct. 7 - 25 -- Fall COMPASS Window
- Oct. 21 - Oct. 25 -- ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshops
- Oct. 21 - Nov. 8 -- COMPASS Comparability Study
- Oct. 25 -- Deadline for testing staff online ACT establishment