



# WDE Assessment Updates

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## Update: SBAC Field Testing: Spring 2014

As noted in previous editions of this newsletter, Wyoming will participate in the Spring 2014 (mid-March to early June) SBAC 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 assessments. As a Governing State, we are expected to have 20% of our students participate.

We've been often asked if a school can select the subject to be tested; the answer is "no," although you must indicate if you plan to take one subject or both subjects. We've also been often asked if a school can have some, but not all, of the students in the school participate. The answer to that question is "yes," with a caveat. You must plan to test all of the students within the grade you register – but not students with significant cognitive disabilities. Also, you do not need to register all eligible grades in your school. Just pick the one(s) you want to participate.

As of this writing, just 18 schools have signed up in Wyoming. We need your help to reach our 20% goal, especially in grade 11! 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.**

-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

## 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.

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

Pre-registration is required so that we know many participants to expect. Please register using the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/a/wyo.gov/forms/d/1ux4ZG9iAWyVpOCmih1z1xm7QvrFt6XGbeWWrkZmQ-JU/viewform>

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**SBAC Technology Readiness Tool (TRT)**

To date, we have received completed TRT reports from 35 of our 48 districts. We have almost doubled the number of completed reports in ONE MONTH! We want to take a moment to thank you all for your cooperation with this effort!

We will be in contact with the remaining districts to see how we can help you complete your reports. As an FYI, the newest version of the online reporting tool allows for both the creation of data upload files and the HAND ENTERING of your data in the online system. You should choose the method that works best for you based on your district size, the diversity of your technology by school, the accessibility of your technical data regarding your devices, bandwidth, utilization, etc.

We will be sharing your data from the TRT with the State Board, legislators, and the State Department of Enterprise Technology services in November and December. Please make sure your district is represented in our presentations!

*If you have any questions, issues or concerns, please contact Steve Marsh, the Wyoming State SRC at Office 307-777-3498, Cell 307-777-3498 or [stephen.marsh@wyo.gov](mailto:stephen.marsh@wyo.gov).*

**ACT Inc. College Readiness Benchmarks**

After review, ACT made some adjustments to their college readiness benchmarks. Reading was increased by a point and science was decreased by a point. Here is the table of ACT's current college readiness benchmarks:

ACT Subject-Area Test	ACT Explore Benchmark Grade 9	ACT Plan Benchmark Grade 10	The ACT Benchmark Grade 11
English	14	15	18
Mathematics	18	19	22
Reading	17	18	22
Science	19	20	23

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

- Oct. 21 - Nov. 8      -- COMPASS Comparability Study
- TODAY                -- Deadline for testing staff online ACT establishment
- Dec.                    -- ACT Administration Webcast becomes available
- Jan. 24                -- Application for ACT Approved Accommodations Due