



WDE Assessment Updates

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SAWS Professional Development Opportunity (How ARE those Papers Scored?)

The Wyoming Department of Education and Educational Testing Service (ETS) will be providing four, half-day Online Training Sessions on Scoring SAWS Responses for Wyoming 3-8 teachers. These sessions will provide training on how to score 12-point Wyoming Student Assessment of Writing Skills (SAWS) essays. The training will be facilitated by the Chief Scoring Leader for SAWS and ETS Assessment Development staff.

Participants will join an online Microsoft Live Meeting and call-in. They will then:

- walk through the certification process (qualifying for being a rater for SAWS scoring, benchmark papers and annotations, and rater training materials) for scoring a Grade 3 or Grade 6 Expressive prompt.
- log-in to ETS's Online Scoring Network (OSN) system and have the opportunity to score at least one set of Grade 3 or Grade 6 responses (depending on the session) in the OSN system and see the functionalities for interacting with Scoring Leaders, either by phone or e-mail.
- interact with the Chief Scoring Leader for SAWS after she reviews the scores from participants in the OSN system and explains why each response received its "true score."
- learn how to become a rater for scoring SAWS responses this spring.

The Online Training Sessions are scheduled as follows:

Grades 3-5 (using Grade 3 papers)

- March 5th 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
- March 6th 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Grades 5-7 (using Grade 6 papers)

- March 12th 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- March 13th 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Interest in participating in one of these sessions must be received by **February 13th**. You can apply for a session by e-mailing ETS at: WFO.OSNreaders@ets.org Please use the Subject line: SAWS Scoring Training. In your e-mail please include your name, preferred e-mail address, contact information (e.g., phone number), the school and the grade level you are currently teaching, and which session you would like to attend. **NOTE: Space is limited and participants will be selected to represent a cross-section of Wyoming teachers.**

Participant Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a certified K-12 teacher and currently employed by a Wyoming school district
- Must have access to a personal computer that accommodates the minimum PC requirements found [here](#). **NOTE: Macintosh computers are not currently supported.** (However, Macintosh computers *will* be supported for the spring SAWS scoring.)

Participant Stipend: Participants will be paid a **\$125.00** stipend for a half-day session

For more information, contact Tammy Schroeder at 307-777-3618 or tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov

Common Core State Standards and Traffic Signal Report Survey

In December, the WDE presented information about the state assessment system to the Management Audit Committee of the legislature as a follow-up to a December, 2010 audit of PAWS. During the meeting, we were asked for information regarding district implementation of the Common Core State Standards as well as the use of Traffic Signal reports from PAWS. In order to obtain district-by-district information regarding these two issues, we are asking that Superintendents, District Curriculum Coordinators, and Principals complete a brief survey *no later than February 1st*. We estimate the survey will take less than fifteen minutes to complete. If you are in one of these roles, and you have not yet completed the survey, please access it by clicking [here](#).

Thanks in advance for your time and assistance!

Helpful Materials for Scheduling Testing

Do you need to know how long different sections of our state tests are so that you can coordinate logistics in your building? Below are links to information you may find helpful for scheduling your testing sessions:

- ◆ [PAWS](#)
- ◆ [SAWS](#)
- ◆ [EXPLORE](#)
- ◆ [PLAN](#)
- ◆ [ACT Plus Writing](#)
- ◆ [COMPASS](#)

Hathaway Eligibility and Accommodations on the ACT

All students taking the ACT state assessment will be considered for the Hathaway Scholarship. This includes students with both ACT-approved accommodations and those who receive state-allowed accommodations. ACT approval of accommodations does not determine state scholarship approval.

Exemptions for Out of State Placements

In 2013, we are not permitting out of state testing for students who are officially enrolled in a Wyoming school. To ensure that WDE takes students with out of state placements out of your school's denominator for calculation of participation rates, you must complete an exemption form, [WDE673](#).

Writing Scoring Guides Updates

SAWS Scoring Guides are posted on the WDE website [here](#). The scoring guides have recently been updated, and they reflect the four types of writing that will appear on this year's SAWS assessment. To find the scoring guides, scroll down to the lower half of the page, and click on the desired grade. Also, on this part of the webpage you will find the link to documents describing the SAWS assessment design. Contact Tammy Schroeder at 307-777-3618 or tammy.schroeder@wyo.gov.

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 12 -- 3 p.m. REPEAT Q&A webinar sessions for ACT administration
 March 12 -- 3 p.m. Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE
 March 14 -- 1 p.m. REPEAT Q&A webinar sessions for PLAN & EXPLORE

Building Test
Coordinator
Training
Presentation
located [here](#).

Training for the Alternate Assessment (PAWS-ALT & SAWS-ALT)

Please be reminded that the training window is now open.

Log on to <https://wy.ziptrain.com/>. Below is the list of Qualified Trainers. If you are a Special Ed Director, please share with the trainers the names of those in your district who will be administering the ALT (or serving as the second scorer) so they can reach out and support those people. They are very invested in making contact and answering questions.

Stephanie Wodhl	swodahl@acsd1.org	Albany1, BOCES 5, Carbon 1, Platte 1&2
Shannon Brow	sbrow@platte1.k12.wy.us	Big Horn 1,2,3,4
Shelly Noble	nobles@laramie1.org	Campbell 1, Laramie 1,2, Niobrara 1
Cathy Hansen	chansen@uinta1.com	Converse 1,2, Uinta 1,4,6, Goshen 1
Lani Giessinger*	giessingerl@uinta4.com *note-corrected email address	Fremont 1,2,6,14,21,24, Sheridan 1,2,3 Sublette 1,9
Kay Cranney	kcranney@lcsd2.org	Fremont 25, 38 Weston 1,7, Crook 1, Lincoln 1,2
Katie Harmon	wengerk@sw2.k12.wy.us	Hot Springs 1, Park 1,6,16
Kristi Borchardt	borchak@sw2.k12.wy.us	Carbon 2, Sweetwater 1,2 Teton 1
Cindy Collins	c_collins@mac.com	Johnson 1, Natrona 1, Washakie 1,2

Test Ethics and Test Security

Maintaining test security is important to ensure that decisions made at the student, classroom, school, district, and state levels are made with valid and reliable data. At WDE, we work with our test vendors as well as Wyoming teacher teams to ensure that our assessments meet technical standards with respect to fairness, reliability, and validity. School and district staff are also responsible to ensure that all aspects of test preparation, administration, and security are appropriate and in no way compromise the integrity of the assessment system.

So that all of those involved in PAWS and SAWS assessment are aware of appropriate practices for test preparation, administration, and security, WDE publishes *Directions for Administration* and *Building Coordinator's Manuals*. Each of the documents contains an appendix with a Test Administrator Security Agreement that is to be signed by staff involved in testing. Please train appropriate staff using information in the manuals and then retain records of the signed Security Agreements from the participants. In addition to the manuals, you may use a slide presentation on test security located [here](#) on the WDE website.

Please call us if you have questions about what's appropriate and what's not.

**SAWS &
Alternate
Building
Coordinator
Manuals are
now posted on
[TOMS](#).**

ACCESS for ELLs

Wyoming is a member of the WIDA (World Class Instructional Design and Assessment) consortium. Thirty one U.S. states and territories now belong to the WIDA Consortium. Among WIDA's purposes is the development of assessments for English Learners (ELs) that meet and exceed the goals of No Child Left Behind. ACCESS for ELLs™ (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to State for English Learners) is the required annual assessment given to English learners in Kindergarten through twelfth graders to monitor students' progress in acquiring academic English. The ACCESS testing window for 2013 opens on February 4th and closes March 8th. This window is shorter than in previous years and allows for score reports to be returned to Districts beginning May 15 through May 18. Receiving score reports earlier should help in planning for next year.

The shorter testing window means that there may be new to the country / first year in school in the US students that enter districts after March 8th, are identified as ELs, and do not take the ACCESS for ELLs assessment. These new to the country / first year in school in the US students that are identified as ELs, will not be eligible for the Reading exemption on PAWS. These students will need to take the Reading portion on PAWS in order to meet participation rates.

There is an ACCESS for ELLs™ Wyoming training webinar on the WIDA website, www.wida.us, in the download library.

Note: Score reports will not be sent to any district until all districts in Wyoming have shipped completed test materials to MetriTech. The deadline to ship materials is March 14, 2013.

Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

This year Wyoming is offering the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs, an assessment of English language proficiency for students who are classified as English learners and have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs™ assessment. Dates for administration of the Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ are the same as the ACCESS for ELLs™, February 4 – March 8. More detailed information and an Alternate ACCESS for ELLs™ Wyoming training webinar can be found on the WIDA website, www.wida.us, in the download library.

ASSETS Consortium

Wyoming is also a member of the ASSETS consortium. ASSETS is a 30-state consortium, building on the work of the WIDA consortium, to create the next generation of English Language Proficiency tests. This work is supported through a federal Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG). This grant supports the development of a technology-based assessment system for English learners. The transition to a computerized version of ACCESS for ELLs™ is scheduled for 2015-16. For more information, please visit: <http://assets.wceruw.org/> If you have questions, please contact Robin Holbrook (robin.holbrook@wyo.gov).