



WDE Assessment Updates

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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 Casper, and Thermopolis in November, we are also planning sessions for January in Rock Springs and Gillette.

Casper	November 12	1-4	Activities Association Building
Thermopolis	November 13	8:30-11:30	Hot Springs County Museum

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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High School Equity Subgroup for the 2013-14 School Year

The purpose of the equity component of the Wyoming school accountability system is to promote the academic progress of lower performing students. In 2014 the high school equity indicator will be different than the indicator used in 2013. Specifically, the students who are in grade 11 during the 2013-14 school year were measured on the PLAN test last year, during the 2012-13 school year, when they were in grade 10. This permits the equity measure to reflect achievement progress during 2013-14 for students with low scores on the 2012-13 PLAN subject area tests for reading and math. A *consolidated subgroup* will be established. Membership in this group will be established based upon a student's performance on the subject area tests in mathematics and reading on the 2012-13 PLAN test. Any student with low performance on either the mathematics subject area test or the reading subject area test or both the mathematics and reading subject area tests will become members of the consolidated subgroup. Scale scores below 17 on the 2012-13 PLAN math subject area test and/or below 16 on the 2012-13 PLAN reading subject area test will be placed in the high school consolidated subgroup.

Minimum *n* rules for the consolidated subgroup are presently under investigation and changes are anticipated prior to next year. The minimum *n* in 2012-13 was 15 but it is anticipated that the minimum *n* will be lower in 2013-14. Once the minimum *n* is established, school districts will be notified in the *WDE Assessment Update*.

The equity score for a school will be a score that shows progress against a specific benchmark from 2012-13 to 2013-14 for students in the consolidated subgroup. The benchmark will be a measure of statewide performance of all students on the respective tests. More details about this will be forthcoming.

This information is being provided now so that high schools are able to ensure that students in the consolidated subgroup are receiving appropriate services and opportunity to learn.

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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. Students in grades 3, 5, 7 and 11 will also 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 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. College Readiness Benchmarks

After review, ACT made some adjustments to their college readiness benchmarks for 2013. 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

Update on ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Technology Requirements

In an effort at timely dissemination of information, WIDA/ASSETS has released the Technology Requirements for the ACCESS 2.0 **operational** assessments in 2015. This information is intended to assist with purchasing decisions and other preparations. The technology requirements document in its current form is provided as a reference. Please note that none of the operating system or specification descriptions will change. The *only* remaining decision relates to device support. A document with the final technology requirements will be available by approximately the end of November, 2013.

[Current ASSETS Technology Requirements Operational](#)

ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshop

Thank you to all of those who attended the ACT Inc. Instructional Support Workshop. For those of you who would like a second look and those who would like to take a peek at the content of this workshop, here are a few links to information from the presentation:

- ◆ [ACT Instructional Support Workshop Powerpoint](#)
- ◆ [ACT Core Practice Framework](#)
- ◆ [WDE ACT Suite Page](#)

Important Upcoming Dates:

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|---------|--|
| Dec. | -- ACT Administration Webcast becomes available |
| Jan. 24 | -- Application for ACT Approved Accommodations Due |