



WDE Assessment Updates

January 21, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 3

PAWS/SAWS and PAWS-ALT and SAWS-ALT Building Coordinator Training

Don't forget to register for the Building Coordinator Training for the 2014 PAWS/SAWS/PAWS -ALT/SAWS-ALT administrations.

Tuesday, **Jan. 28** Casper, WY – Casper College CS Bldg in the Sharon Nichols Auditorium [click here for a map](#)

[Please register here!](#) Registration ends **Jan. 21** end of the day – You may register up to four attendees including yourself.

Coming Soon ACT Testing Numbers

As we approach our testing windows, we would like to remind schools that there may be students who are not enrolled in your school but who require admittance into the ACT test. In the near future, this newsletter will provide a link to a Google document with updated and current counts for students who need the opportunity to take the ACT test. This will be posted in the next couple of weeks so stay tuned!

Reminder: TOMS Pre-ID Window Closes on January 23, 2014

Remember that the Pre-ID window is closing for TOMS. Please make sure to go in and check that your students are in the system and are registered for the correct assessment, whether it's PAWS, SAWS, PAWS-ALT, or SAWS-ALT. If you need assistance, call the ETS help line at 877-327-9415.

Technology Requirements for ACCESS

[Attached](#) are the technology requirements for ACCESS 2.0 which will be operational in 2015-16. This information is very important to districts making purchasing decisions. Additional information about ACCESS for ELLs 2.0, including a timeline as we move toward 2015 implementation, is available on the ASSETS website at <http://assetsproject.org/implementation/technology.aspx>

ACCESS Testing Window

The ACCESS Testing window opens January 20. New ACCESS Test administrators must complete the online training course and pass the quizzes before administering the ACCESS test. Veteran test administrators must also pass the quizzes before administering the ACCESS test. For questions regarding ACCESS training and administration, please contact Robin Holbrook at [307-777-5217](tel:307-777-5217) or robin.holbrook@wyo.gov

Resources for the CCSS

The Common Core Advocate, a resource from the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, aims to provide pro-Common Core communications resources, including talking points and op-eds, on a bi-weekly basis. Individuals may subscribe to this bi-weekly service by sending an email to CommonCore@edexcellence.net.

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Form 673 Test Exemption Form

Consistent with past practice, certain students can be exempted from taking state tests, including PAWS, SAWS, ACT Plus Writing, Explore, Plan or associated alternates. Please remember that students must fall into one of the following four areas to qualify for an exemption: Medically Fragile students who have been deemed by a physician as unable to be tested; EL students who have been in the program for less than one year as of March 4, 2014 AND who have taken the ACCESS for ELLs test; students who attend an out of state education program; and students who have been expelled from school for what amounts to be the duration of the testing window. An exemption is only valid after obtaining written approval by the Wyoming Department of Education.

The Form 673 is available via the Data Collection section of the WDE website. It can be accessed by clicking on, or cutting and pasting the following link: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/DataCollections/WDE673%20Exemption%20Request%20Form.pdf>

Steve Marsh, WDE Assessment Supervisor, will be handling the 673 forms for this year. The request may be submitted by Fax at [307-777-6234](tel:307-777-6234) Attention: Steve Marsh or by mail to the Wyoming Department of Education, 2300 Capitol Avenue, 2nd Floor Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002 Attention: Steve Marsh. Please include sufficient student information and/or current documentation in order to review and process the request.

Smarter Balanced Updated Technology Specifications

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) has updated its technology specifications. These outline the minimum as well as the recommended requirements for implementation of the SBAC assessments.

The updated versions of the Technology Strategy Framework and Testing Device Requirements document and Executive Summary can be found via the links below:

- ◆ Technology Strategy Framework and Testing Device Requirements
http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Tech_Framework_Device_Requirements_11-1-13.pdf
- ◆ Technology Strategy Framework and Testing Device Requirements Executive Summary:
http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Executive_Summary_Tech_Framework.pdf

A list of the updates in these versions appears on Appendix A (page 25) of the full document.

Districts are urged to review the documents and contrast the *recommended* (rather than *minimum*) requirements with current capacity locally. These materials, and the approaches contained within them, will help all districts strategically prepare for a full and successful implementation of a next generation assessment system like SBAC.

For questions on the technology requirements, please contact Steve Marsh, Assessment Supervisor (307-777-3498) or me (307-777-8753).

Important Upcoming Dates:

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|-------------------|---|
| Jan. 20 - Feb. 24 | -- ACCESS Test Window |
| Jan. 24 | -- Application for ACT Approved Accommodations Due |
| Jan. 27 - Feb. 7 | -- Window for Test Supervisors to order ACT WorkKeys |
| Jan. 28 | -- Building Coordinator Training for PAWS/SAWS/PAWS-ALT/SAWS-ALT |
| Feb. 3 - 7 | -- Window for Test Supervisors to provide ACT with final numbers for students ACT testing |