



# WDE Assessment Updates

January 3, 2014

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## Smarter Balanced Field Test Information - Spring 2014

Although it appears that the Legislature may delay implementation of a new statewide assessment system until the spring of 2016, members of the Select Committee were apprised of the significant number of volunteers for this spring's Field Test at their meeting on December 10th. Over 21,000 students here in Wyoming expected to participate! The large number of students expected to participate indicates strong support for change in statewide assessment. Principals and Superintendents of participating schools and districts received an email from Deb Lindsey on December 24<sup>th</sup>, asking for confirmation of contact information. If you signed up for the Field Test but did not receive an email from Deb, please contact her at 307-777-8753 (or [deb.lindsey@wyo.gov](mailto:deb.lindsey@wyo.gov)).

Also, participating schools must notify their technology coordinators that the Field Test will require a secure browser. The secure browser must be downloaded on each computer used for the Field Test. This browser can be installed individually or deployed to all computers through a network. The secure browser is available for download from the portal at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/>

SBAC has created some customizable resources for communicating with parents about the upcoming Field Test. The Parent Letter template can be found at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/resources/> Participating schools should bookmark this URL as the primary repository for resource materials related to the Field Test administration. As with any assessment, we strongly urge you to keep parents in the loop about the upcoming assessment activities -- PAWS/SAWS/ACT suite as well as the Field Test.

Finally, in late January, Field Test administration manuals and associated training modules will be released by SBAC. We'll make sure participating schools get those resources so that you are well-prepared.

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

Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Wyoming Department of Education will be hosting a Building Coordinator Training to review the responsibilities of the Building Test Coordinator for the 2014 PAWS/SAWS/PAWS -ALT/SAWS-ALT administrations.

This training is intended for Building Coordinators and District staff who will be training their district and school staff to give this assessment. This is not administration training.

Tuesday, **January 28th** Casper, WY – Casper College CS Bldg in the Sharon Nichols Auditorium [click here for a map](#)  
8:00 am – 10:00 am --Morning PAWS/SAWS General Session  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm --PAWS-ALT/SAWS-ALT Coordinator Session  
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm --Afternoon PAWS/SAWS General Session  
*(Repeat of the A.M. Session)*

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

This training will be recorded and posted to ETS – TOMS portal as well as the WDE Assessment site to view if staff are unable to attend the live training.

- 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

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## New: School Performance Report (SPR) - Growth Training Scheduled for January

We've scheduled another SPR – Growth workshop in Rock Springs on January 16<sup>th</sup>. This session, like the two we've previously held in Thermopolis and Casper, will provide an overview of the pilot SPRs and a description of the metrics reported at each of the grade spans. After that, participants will learn about the new Wyoming growth model, practice interpreting the growth data, and explore ways to use the information in school improvement. We'll also address how the high school metrics will change for the Fall, 2014 reports.

Please pre-register for the session via the link below so that we have sufficient materials for all attendees.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1dMj2osJUQob-ZRhqJShACfV05mzJOF0l4eVxDWuanAY/viewform>

**WHAT:** SPR and Growth Training  
**WHERE:** Sweetwater 1 Board Room, Rock Springs  
**WHEN:** January 16, 9 – 11:30 AM

## WDE Assessment Website Updates

Please take some time and checkout the new updates on the State Assessment site. These updates include changes to the following pages:

- ◆ *Important Testing Dates:* Keys dates for the assessments are listed here by assessment.
- ◆ *Administration Materials:* This section includes recommended testing time for PAWS, PAWS/SAWS allowable resources, and the current ACT suite manuals
- ◆ *Test Operations Management System (TOMS):* This year's TOMS training webinar and PowerPoint are located [here](#). This webinar may require a Citrix Download upon prompting.
- ◆ *Test Support:* This site takes you directly to the Wyoming Statewide Assessments page provided by ETS. For anyone having trouble opening the TOMS training webinar on the previous bullet a Vimeo version is available under the Training link on this page.
- ◆ *ACT Suite:* The State of Wyoming ACT Testing Site link at the bottom of the page has been updated to include the following:
  - *The ACT/ACT WorkKeys - Training:* This now includes the pre-recorded webcast for **Test Administration Training** aside the accommodation trainings.

## New Reports from ACT

The Wyoming Department of Education is excited to have been able to share a new set of reports with our districts. There are two types of reports that have been sent to Assessment Coordinators, Curriculum Coordinators, and Superintendents:

- ◆ District and School Level Reports By Content
- ◆ School Level Linking of ACT Assessments

In these reports ACT calculated Wyoming's average percent of correct items in each of the content categories and compared Wyoming's students to a reference group. ACT also provided linking reports about students who took both EXPLORE in grade 8 and PLAN in grade 10, EXPLORE in grade 9 and PLAN in grade 10, and Plan in grade 10 and ACT in grade 11 (Matched Students).

For questions please call or email Jessica Steinbrenner at 777-8568 or [jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov](mailto:jessica.steinbrenner@wyo.gov).

## Important Upcoming Dates:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Jan. 14          | -- ACT Q&A Session 3 p.m. - details to come   |
| Jan. 24          | -- Application for <b>ACT Approved Accommodations Due</b>                                 |
| 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 |