

FAQ WY-TOPP FOR PARENTS

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What is accountability in education?

Accountability means reviewing how well teachers, principals, and superintendents help students grow academically.

What is the new assessment and how is it different from PAWS?

The Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress, or WY-TOPP, will assess students on Wyoming Content and Performance Standards, like PAWS did. However, WY-TOPP will be administered online with a computer adaptive assessment, will be administered later in the school year, and will offer more than just the end-of-year summative assessment. Schools will also have the option to use WY-TOPP for their interim and modular assessments.

Will WY-TOPP be a Wyoming-specific test?

Yes, WY-TOPP is a customized summative and interim assessment system, built for Wyoming using questions that measure the Wyoming Content and Performance Standards.

What is the summative assessment?

The state summative assessment is an end-of-year test that measures how much students have learned during the school year. Students in grades 3-10 will take the WY-TOPP summative assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. Writing will be assessed in grades 3, 5, 7, and 9; Science will be assessed in grades 4, 8, and 10.

What are the interim assessments?

Interim assessments are similar to the summative assessment in that they are built with similar questions, but interims are shorter, optional, and taken at different times throughout the year to show student progress. The interim assessment will offer instant, detailed results, and educators will be able to see each student's response to questions. WY-TOPP interim assessments will be available in grades K-10.

What are the modular assessments?

Modular assessments are short classroom tests used by teachers to evaluate student progress at the end of a unit. Modulares are optional, divided by topics, and available on-demand. Modulares will be accessible in grades 1-10 starting in October.

Please share this document with friends, neighbors, and interested parties.

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How does a computer-adaptive assessment work?

A computer-adaptive assessment adjusts according to each student's ability level. Questions selected depend on their performance on previous questions. Higher performance is followed by more difficult questions, and lower performance is followed by less difficult questions. This produces more accurate results of student performance.

How will WY-TOPP results be used?

- Results from the summative assessment are used by the state to help evaluate school performance. Individual student results are provided to parents, but have no direct effect on student grades.
- Results from the interim assessments are primarily used by school districts to evaluate growth from the beginning to the end of the school year. Individual student results are provided to teachers, but have no direct effect on student grades.
- Results from the modular assessments are primarily used by teachers to evaluate student performance on specific topics. Individual student results are provided to teachers, who have the option to use them as a portion of a student's grade.

What will the test look like?

After September 5th, you can visit wyoassessment.org to experience a training test. The ELA and Math tests contain 20-24 questions each for grades 3-10. The ELA tests for grades 3, 6, and 9 also include sample listening questions.

To learn more about the new assessments, visit edu.wyoming.gov/assessment/wy-topp.