



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2010-011

TO: School District Superintendents
Curriculum Coordinators
Principals
Special Education Directors
Directors of Institutions
Title I Directors
Title III Directors

FROM: Charlene Turner, Director of Alternate Assessment
Standards and Assessment Unit

DATE: January 15, 2010

SUBJECT: WDE-673 Wyoming State Assessment System Exemption Request

IMPORTANT – TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION

All students are required to participate in the 2010 Wyoming State Assessment System. The system includes the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students (PAWS), Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students – Alternate (PAWS-ALT) and the Wyoming English language learners assessment, ACCESS for ELLs®. However, school administrators, on behalf of the student, may apply for exemption from participation in the Wyoming State Assessment System.

Exemptions must be submitted to the Wyoming Department of Education by March 1, 2010. An exemption is only valid after obtaining written approval by the Wyoming Department of Education. Written approval will be provided by the WDE for those requests that meet exemption criteria in one of three categories and that include the required, current documentation. The three participation exemption categories are:

- *Medically Fragile Students*
- *Expelled Students*
- *ELL Students.*

All *ELL Students* who meet exemption criteria **must** have an Exemption Request submitted and approved on their behalf in order to be exempt from participating in the PAWS Language Arts tests. These students must participate in the 2010 PAWS Mathematics and Science content tests and ACCESS for ELLs®.

Full descriptions of these exemption categories and requirements for submitting documentation are provided on the WDE-673, which is located under the Forms Inventory link at www.k12.wy.us. Please note that the requirements have been updated. Please provide this information to building principals, curriculum coordinators, Special Education Directors, Directors of Institutions, Title 1 Directors, and Title III Directors.

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