



# Wyoming Department of Education

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## MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-124

**TO:** School District Superintendents

**FROM:** Jessica Steinbrenner, Assessment Operations/ ACT Program Manager

**DATE:** August 28, 2012

**SUBJECT:** EXPLORE, PLAN, and COMPASS Assessments

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### ACT Survey

The 2012 Wyoming State Enrolled Act 65 requires districts to administer the EXPLORE, PLAN, and COMPASS assessments, in addition to the ACT Plus Writing, beginning in the Spring 2013. The legislation requires EXPLORE, PLAN, and COMPASS be administered to students in grades nine, ten and twelve, respectively.

In the past, districts have administered EXPLORE and PLAN in the fall. Testing using the EXPLORE and PLAN will be conducted in the spring 2013 and beyond. Recall that EA 65 requires the administration of the COMPASS at grade twelve in the spring.

The reason for the spring administration dates for the EXPLORE and PLAN is so that there is sufficient opportunity to capture as much grade nine and grade ten performance as possible for use in the accountability model calculations.

The specific testing window for the EXPLORE, PLAN, and COMPASS assessments has not been established. We are seeking input from you regarding possible testing windows for these assessments.



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The following table outlines the 2012-2013 testing windows as they have been established so far:

## TESTING WINDOWS

TEST	DATE	GRADE
PAWS	March 11 - April 5	3-8
PAWS-ALT	February 25 - April 5	3-8, 11
SASW	April 22 - May 3	3-8
SASW-ALT	April 15 - May 10	3-8, 11
ACT Plus Writing	April 23 (make up May 7)	11

\*11<sup>th</sup> grade WorkKeys is an optional assessment in the areas of applied math, reading for information, and locating information. This assessment will be administered April 24, 2013.

The content areas assessed on each of the ACT assessments are identified below:

TEST	GRADE	CONTENT	DATE
EXPLORE	9th	English, reading, math, science	Spring 2013 TBD
PLAN	10th	English, reading, math, science	Spring 2013 TBD
ACT Plus Writing	11th	English, reading, writing, math, science	April 23, 2013
COMPASS (online assessment)	12th	Reading, math, writing skills, writing essay	Spring 2013 TBD

We request your participation in a survey to determine the best two week testing windows for the EXPLORE, PLAN and COMPASS. Please complete the Zoomerang survey to express your preferred window by clicking on the following link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22GGNMN82JK>. Please complete this survey no later than 9/7/2012. Your assistance is appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Jessica Steinbrenner at (307) 777-6918.