



WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Creating Opportunities
for Students to Keep
Wyoming Strong*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2015-073

TO: School District Superintendents
District Assessment Coordinators
School Principals

FROM: Deb Lindsey, Assessment Administrator
Accountability Division

DATE: June 29, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015-16 Assessment Calendar

STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT CALENDAR FOR 2015-16

The statewide assessment calendar for next year is listed below. After many discussions with testing vendors, the WDE Technical Advisory Committee, and with district staff, the decision has been made to keep the PAWS window during the month of March.

Moving the test window to April would have significantly complicated the spring 684 data collection for accountability, and delayed reporting of assessment and accountability results by at least a month.

As the Assessment Task Force deliberates on the various options for a future statewide assessment system, we will examine options for moving the assessment window to later in the school year.

Wyoming Statewide Assessment Calendar, 2015-16							
Grade	PAWS Mar 7 - 25	Wy-ALT Feb 29 - Mar 25	ACCESS for ELLS Jan 19 - Mar 4	Aspire Apr 11 - May 3	ACT Plus Writing Apr 19 (May 3)	WorkKeys Apr 20 (May 4)* (optional)	COMPASS Oct 5 - 23 Apr 11 - May 3 (optional)
K			x				
1			x				
2			x				
3	x	x	x				
4	x	x	x				
5	x	x	x				
6	x	x	x				
7	x	x	x				
8	x	x	x				
9		x	x	x			
10		x	x	x			
11		x	x		x	x	
12			x			x	x

* The online window for WorkKeys is April 20 through May 4.

The ACT Explore and ACT Plan assessments were retired in the spring of 2015. Statutory constraints on item types were lifted for grades 9 and 10 to permit administration of the ACT Aspire in those grades. Aspire is an online assessment that contains multiple choice and short answer questions. In May, the Assessment Updates provided information regarding the technical requirements for the new, online test. District staff should contrast their available resources with the requirements, found here: <http://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments/technical-requirements/>. Information regarding the nature of Aspire can be found here: <http://www.discoveractaspire.org/assessments/summative/>.

In the fall of 2015, WDE will schedule training sessions for high school technology and assessment coordinators regarding these requirements to assure a smooth administration. Please watch the Assessment Updates for details.

If you have questions about either Aspire or about the assessment calendar, please contact Deb Lindsey at deb.lindsey@wyo.gov or (307)777-8753.