WDE Assessment Updates

August 21, 2015

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NEW: Assessment Task Force Update

The Wyoming Assessment Task Force was convened for two days in Laramie on July 28-29, and by web-ex on August 14th and 21st. The group discussed potential recommendations for statewide summative assessments as well as interim and formative components. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th in Casper. Meeting minutes as well as the list of task force members can be found here:
http://edu.wyoming.gov/in-the-classroom/student-assessments/#ATF

The Wyoming Assessment Task Force's work will be presented to the State Board on September 23 and to the Joint Education Committee on October 30, 2015.

NEW: School Accountability Public Release

A media event is scheduled for Sept. 8, 2015 at 1 p.m. for the official public release of the state and federal accountability results for schools, both WAEA and AYP. For all of those interested in participating, the event will be held at 2300 Capitol Ave. in room 281, second floor of the Hathaway building. Anyone interested in joining remotely can do so through the following:
https://www.uberconference.com/wdeuberconference, 888-670-9530, or 307-438-9905.

Remember that school accountability information is embargoed until the public release by the State Superintendent on September 8, so please do not share information before that time with local media. If you have any questions, please contact Kari Eakins at 307-777-2053.

NEW: Accountability Snapshots and Exemption Dates for the 2015-16 School Year

Mark your calendars! This year's 684 snapshot date for accountability and exemption due date for participation in the PAWS assessment is **March 18**. The snapshot and exemption date for ACT and ACT Aspire is **April 19**.

REPEAT: Assessment and Accountability Release Schedule Summer/Fall 2015

Accountability reports (both AYP and SPRs) will be released for the two week confidential review period on August 21; these reports are expected to become public on September 8th.

August 3	ACT, Explore, & Plan results were released confidentially to school districts for two weeks
August 17	ACT, Explore, & Plan results were made available to the public
August 21	Accountability reports released confidentially for two week district review
September 8	Accountability reports are available to public

REPEAT: Accountability System Updates

On June 3rd, the WDE presented to the Select Committee several changes to the school accountability system. These changes, approved by the Select Committee, were proposed in order to improve the system overall. Specifically, the changes include the following:

Changes for Schools with Grades 3 through 8

♦ Achievement and Growth Indicators are unchanged
♦ Equity indicator changes:
  ◊ Definition of the consolidated subgroup no longer based upon below proficient scores in the prior year
  ◊ Cut-points were identified that will identify approximately 23% of the lowest performing students in reading and/or math for inclusion in the consolidated subgroup
  ◊ The school equity score will be the median student growth percentile (MGP) of the consolidated subgroup

Changes for High Schools

♦ Alternative schools will not receive indicator target levels or a school performance level. They will receive confidentially reported scores on the indicators for information only
♦ Academic Performance will include achievement, growth and equity
  ◊ Growth will be reported in reading and math based upon subject area test scores from Explore to Plan to ACT
  ◊ ACT will provide Wyoming with student scores for a new Wyoming scale on the Explore and Plan reading and math tests. A score of 150 on the Wyoming Scales will be predictive of later ACT proficient performance (also 150 on the Wyoming scale).
  ◊ The school equity score will be the MGP of the consolidated subgroup
♦ There is just one change to overall readiness
  ◊ The Hathaway Scholarship Level additional readiness sub-indicator will include the success curriculum level from the student's transcript

A detailed description of the complete school accountability model may be found in the *Implementation Manual* located on the Wyoming Department of Education Website at the following url:
http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/accountability/2015/implementation-handbook.pdf

NEW: Wy-ALT iPad/Tablet Field Test Opportunity

WDE invites all schools and teachers participate in an online field test of science items for students with significant cognitive disabilities. The test would need to be delivered online on an iPad (or other tablet device) using a secure browser made available by AIR, our alternate assessment vendor. The test also requires the use of some physical and paper manipulatives. The online delivery system will require each test administrator to acknowledge their adherence to test security, prior to being given access to the test. Once in the individual student test window, the system will request a response to the following demographic questions: gender, ethnicity/race, and disability type.

Students will be identified solely by a unique computer-generated number. These identifiers are for use in the field test only and do not represent any official student identification number. They also provide no access or ability to link to individual student information.

While helping to gather field test data for future testing needs of this population, we also hope the experience will provide the opportunity for teachers to experience firsthand the continued evolution of assessment and accessibility for this population of students.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Emily MacGillivray at emacgillivray@air.org no later than Friday, September 4th 2015.

NEW: REGISTER NOW: Training Dates for Aspire, Grades 9 & 10

Since Explore and Plan are now officially retired, they have been replaced by ACT Aspire, an online assessment in ELA, math, science, and writing. In order to ensure Wyoming high schools are ready to implement this new test, WDE has scheduled training in 5 locations throughout the state in October. The dates and locations are listed below. <u>A successful online administration will require a thorough understanding of technology and implementation requirements</u>. **The training sessions will be a half day, and it is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that every district assessment coordinator, district technology coordinator, and school assessment coordinator attend.**

Register now at http://goo.gl/forms/bnkBxdK1Mi

October 2, afternoon, Sheridan
October 5, afternoon, Jackson
October 6, afternoon, Rock Springs
October 7, afternoon, Laramie
October 8, morning AND afternoon sessions, Casper

NEW: SAVE THE DATE: PAWS Building Coordinator Training

Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Wyoming Department of Education will be hosting Building Coordinator Training sessions at four locations to review the responsibilities of the Building Test Coordinator for the 2016 PAWS administration. Attendance at this training is strongly encouraged. The dates and locations are listed below; please continue to watch the newsletter for registration and specific site information.

January 25, Evanston
January 26, Laramie
January 27, Casper
January 29, Sheridan

REPEAT: REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2015: Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Resource Development Training

The Wyoming Department of Education continues to provide professional development opportunities for teachers on assessment literacy and formative assessment resource development. The training will be presented by Jan Hoegh, Associate Vice President of Marzano Research. Registration for the fall two-day regional sessions is now open. The conference runs from 8am - 4pm, both days, venue sites to be determined.

October 1-2, Green River
October 12-13, Powell
October 14-15, Buffalo
October 19-20, Casper
October 21-22, Cheyenne

To register for the free workshop, please click here: http://goo.gl/forms/0eCeqb2B7w
For any questions, please contact Shelly Andrews at: shelly.andrews@wyo.gov or 307-777-3781.

NEW: Ninth Grade Credits and Hathaway Scholarship Eligibility Reports Available

In preparation for the Wyoming School Accountability implementation required by the Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) W.S.21-2-204, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has prepared student-level ninth grade credits and Hathaway Scholarship eligibility reports. The Grade Nine Credits Earned and Hathaway Scholarship Eligibility Level reports, located at the [Wyoming Education Fusion site](#), present the 2013-14 student level data that was used to calculate school performance scores on those two WAEA measures.

For more information on these reports is available in the attachment or contact Sean McInerney at Sean.McInerney@wyo.gov or 307-777-8752.

REPEAT: Domain Reports for PAWS are NOW Available!

Many of you have asked for a report that helps you better understand relative strengths and needs on PAWS domains. We are pleased to announce that the new Domain Report is now available. With this report, you can see performance by domain (e.g. geometry) on PAWS by logging into Fusion, opening the Assessment Confidential folder, and running the Domain Report. This report displays by grade, subject, and domain, your school's mean scale scores compared to the district and state averages. Since the difficulty of the items in each domain may change every year, we recommend you focus your attention on the **gap** between your school and the state – domains where the gap is greatest (and your mean scale score is lower than the state) represents an area of potential focus for school improvement planning teams. This is especially true if you see the same trends over time. The gaps appear on the reports as well to ease use and interpretation. Let us know if you have any questions!

REPEAT: Individual Student Growth Reports on PAWS Available on the Wyoming Transcript Center

Note: Per statute, these individual student growth reports are to be uploaded to the districts' student information system as a part of each student's permanent record.

WDE is pleased to release our first-ever growth reports for individual students in grades 3 - 8 (we plan to provide high school growth reports in the next month or so). These new "fan" reports show a student's growth on PAWS over time and show the projected growth into the 2015-16 school year. These new reports are available in .pdf format and are available in the Wyoming Transcript Center. We have also created an interpretive guide for the student growth reports that can be printed and used with parents to help explain the new reports. More information can be found in the Memo to Superintendents: **Memo 2015-083:** [Student Growth Reports](#)

NEW: PAWS Interpretive Guide for Teachers Now Available

The updated PAWS Interpretive Guide for Teachers is currently available on the WDE website at: http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/assessment/paws/

The Interpretive Guide provides a basic overview of Wyoming state assessment program in grades 3 – 8. It also contains information about the Individual Student Report, information on Performance Level Descriptors, skill-reporting categories in the content areas (Reading, Math, and Science).

NEW: WDE Website Maintenance

Due to server maintenance to be performed on Saturday, August 22nd, some resources may be offline. Resources are predicted to be functioning by Sunday, August 23rd. Thank you for your patience during the maintenance period.

REPEAT: Assessment Webpages Updates

If you recently visited the Assessment pages on the WDE website, you probably noticed that many changes that have occurred. We've added some pages, removed some pages, and moved some information hoping to make the site more easily navigable. We have also begun the process of updating testing materials. The items which are updated have been uploaded to their respective pages. Those not updated have been annotated with their projected posting date.

All materials related to PAWS are currently on the PAWS page, this includes test ordering information (TOMS). There are now pages called 'Cut Scores,' and 'Performance Level Descriptors.' Both contain up-to-date information. You will find these pages listed toward the bottom of the State Assessment Topics sidebar.

Our hope it to make the web pages more easily navigable, and information easier to find. Please don't forget to update your bookmarks. If you have a problem finding any information, or would like to provide feedback, please contact Michelle Carroll at: michelle.carroll@wyo.gov, or 777-3618.

REPEAT: Opportunity to Submit Instructional Resources

Achieve is continuing to accept submissions for the Equip Call to Action. Educators and developers can submit high-quality units aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Achieve launched this effort with Student Achievement Partners to strengthen resources to meet teachers' needs to implement the CCSS. Through Achieve's Educators Evaluating the Quality of Instructional Products (EQuIP) initiative, submitted units will be evaluated for quality and alignment to the specified standards by a panel of peer reviewers representing more than 1,000 years of teaching expertise.

Developers of units submitted through this process and identified as Exemplars by the EQuIP quality review process will receive an award of $1,500 as well as wide dissemination and recognition of their efforts. All Exemplar units will be made freely available for download and use by educators across the country.

Note: The WDE does not endorse instructional materials, resources, or curriculum.

The submission process is open to everyone. However, the developers of successful submissions will possess deep understanding of the instructional shifts found in the CCSS, instructional materials development experience, and content are expertise. Interested
individuals, teams, or organizations must register and submit materials online at: http://lessons.achieve.org. The deadline for submitting units is October 1, 2015. Full details about the submission process are available in the call to action.

REPEAT: Lexile and Quantile Web-Ex Sessions

Have you ever wondered what Lexiles and Quantiles are? Have you wondered how to use them to improve instruction for your students? WDE is partnering with Metametrics, the company that provides Lexile and Quantile data on PAWS, to provide a series of Web-Ex meetings to answer your questions. These sessions are intended for teachers, instructional facilitators, curriculum directors, assessment coordinators, principals – anyone who wants to learn more about using Lexiles and Quantiles. Please share the information widely about these opportunities. Each of the sessions will be held for one hour, beginning at 3:30 on the dates listed below to facilitate teacher attendance. Once we have the Web-Ex specifics, we'll share the log in information via the newsletter.

September 10: An Introduction to the Lexile Framework for Reading
This presentation offers an introduction to the Lexile Framework for Reading and addresses the following points:
- What is the Lexile Framework for Reading?
- Where are Lexile measures Found?
- How does the Lexile Framework relate to text complexity?
- How can the Lexile Framework be used?
- What are the benefits of the Lexile Framework?
- What resources for the Lexile Framework are available?

September 15: An Introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics
This presentation offers an introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics and addresses the following points:
- What is the Quantile Framework for Mathematics?
- Where can Quantile measures be found?
- What can be done with Quantile measures?
- How will the Quantile Framework help students?
- How can Quantile measures be used in the classroom?
- What resources for the Quantile Framework are available?

September 17: Addressing Text Complexity in the Common Core State Standards
The Common Core State Standards outline a new text complexity analysis model that can help educators select texts for core instruction. The model offers a lens through which we can validate that the balance of literary and informational texts we ask students to read are of an appropriate complexity to address these new standards. This presentation provides an overview of the importance of text complexity within the Standards and shares tools and resources to use in analyzing texts through this lens.

October 13: Maximize the Match: Understanding Text Complexity and Reader Ability
In order to be college and career ready, students need to be reading more challenging texts. However, educators know that challenge must be balanced with accessibility and engagement. This presentation will explore the concept of text complexity in relation to student interest and reading ability as explained by the Lexile Framework for Reading, a developmental scale that spans all content areas in grades K-16.

October 15: Differentiating Instruction Using the Lexile and Quantile Frameworks
This presentation offers insight into how the Lexile Framework for Reading and the Quantile Framework for Mathematics can each be used to help differentiate instruction for students. By modifying materials, content, instruction, student projects and products, and assessment, educators can meet the learning needs of individual students. In a differentiated classroom, teachers recognize that all students are different and require varied teaching methods to be successful in school.

NEW: Attention Technology Coordinators, Assessment Coordinators, and Test Administrators — WIDA Update

Please read the important updates from WIDA regarding ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. The August update includes the latest news like links to sample items for the online test and new releases to watch for including training webinars for all testing roles. The LEA Resource includes ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Training information for Districts and Schools. For questions, please contact Robin Holbrook at Robin.Holbrook@wyo.gov.

REPEAT: Site File for ACCESS 2.0

As you know, the ACCESS for ELLs will be an online test beginning in the 2015-16 school year (ACCESS 2.0). WIDA and DRC are providing exhaustive resources for Assessment coordinators, technology coordinators, and test administrators on the website located here: https://www.wida.us/assessment/access20-prep.aspx#

All training should be provided to test administrators and technology coordinators through these online resources which include webinars, PowerPoints, FAQs, etc.

We have received the Site File for ACCESS 2.0, attached. Please share this with the appropriate people in your district. DRC has also included a sample site file. Also included is the Technology Coordinator checklist. If you have any questions, please contact Robin Holbrook at robin.holbrook@wyo.gov or 307-777-5217. WIDA and DRC are also available to answer any questions or concerns.

Important Upcoming Dates

August 21	Accountability reports confidentially released for 2 weeks for district review
August 21	Assessment Task Force
Sept. 8	Accountability reports released to the Public
Sept. 9	Assessment Task Force (Casper)
Sept. 10	Web-Ex: An Introduction to the Lexile Framework for Reading
Sept. 15	Web-Ex: An Introduction to the Quantile Framework for Mathematics
Sept. 17	Web-Ex: Addressing Text Complexity in the Common Core State Standards
Oct. 1-2	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Green River)
Oct. 2	Aspire Training (Sheridan)
Oct. 5	Aspire Training (Jackson)
Oct. 6	Aspire Training (Rock Springs)
Oct. 7	Aspire Training (Laramie)
Oct. 8	Aspire Training (Casper)
Oct. 12-13	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Powell)
Oct. 13	Web-Ex: Maximize the Match: Understanding Text Complexity and Reader Ability
Oct.14-15	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Buffalo)
Oct. 19-20	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Casper)
Oct. 21-22	Assessment Literacy & Formative Assessment Conference (Cheyenne)

-Word of the Week-

Rubric

A set of rules for scoring the responses on a constructed-response item. Sometimes called a "scoring guide"