



# Sweetwater County School District #1

## Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

### October 2017 Newsletter

*In this issue:* Aug PD Results, Keyboarding in SCSD#1, Edmodo, Young Author Competition, Science SAC Update, Oct 20 PD, Supporting All Learners, Grants/Federal Programs, USDOE Counseling Grant Update, New WY-TOPP Info, Upcoming Events



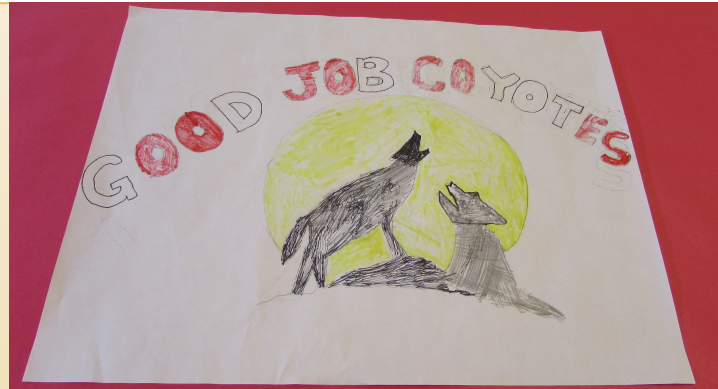
#### Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) Reports

Congratulations to all of the SCSD#1 schools that received a rating of Exceeding or Meeting Expectations on their WAEA reports!

Desert Middle School was the only school to receive a rating of Exceeding Expectations for 2017. Students and staff celebrated with cake and pizza.

Schools that received a rating of Meeting Expectations for 2017: Desert Elementary, Desert View Elementary, Farson-Eden High School, Farson-Eden Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary, Overland Elementary, Pilot Butte Elementary, and Walnut Elementary.

Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) Reports are now available on the district's [Accountability Reports](#) webpage.



Academic Vision: To implement the Instructional Model which includes purposeful planning, quality instruction, resources, and assessment.



## August Professional Development



Staff survey results from the professional development trainings showed high satisfaction rates. To see the complete results visit the SCSD#1 [Survey Results](#) webpage.





### Keyboarding in SCSD#1

This is the third consecutive year the Library Media Specialists for grades 1-6 are using part of their library time to instruct students in keyboarding skills. Typing Agent, the district's keyboarding program, uses a spiraling curriculum which allows students to build their keyboarding skills in accuracy and speed each year. At the end of 6th grade, students are expected to type 30 words per minute with a high rate of accuracy.

Beginning this spring the new Wyoming state test (WY-TOPP) will use an online platform. Students will use technology and keyboarding skills to answer constructed response questions as well as perform technology enhanced tasks. An online writing assessment will also be administered in grades 3, 5, 7 and 9.

To support keyboarding fluency, Typing Agent is available year round for all students in grades 1-6.

### Edmodo

The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) set up statewide PLCs on Edmodo. This site allows educators to ask questions and share information and resources. Below are the links for Edmodo PLCs:

- [English/Language Arts](#)
- [Mathematics](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Science](#)
- [Social Studies](#)
- [Career & Voc Ed](#)
- [Foreign Language](#)
- [Physical Education](#)
- [Fine & Performing Arts](#)
- [Afterschool Programs](#)
- [Early Childhood](#)
- [English Learners](#)
- [STEM Ed](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [WY Administrators](#)
- [Library](#)

### Young Author Competition

The annual Young Author Competition will begin soon! Emails will be sent to staff at the beginning of October. The district Young Author webpage will be updated with entry forms and information soon.

Contact Tammy Macy with any questions  
[macyt@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:macyt@sw1.k12.wy.us) or 352-3400 ext. 1259

### Science SAC Update

Members of the Science Subject Area Committee (SAC) met last month to begin the curriculum mapping process. During the first meeting, science teachers learned about the Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) process, deconstructed the new Wyoming science standards, and created a questionnaire. The science questionnaire is used to gather information from science teachers about science topics they are currently teaching. Feedback from the questionnaires will help guide the Science SAC when writing the curriculum maps. The questionnaires are due to a Science SAC member by October 13th.

### October 20th Professional Development

October's professional development will continue training in English Language Arts (ReadyGEN & SpringBoard) and Foreign Language (Avancemos & Bien Dit). Career & Technical Education will continue curriculum mapping for their classes. Secondary Math teachers will be working with a consultant within their PLC groups. All other district department meetings will be facilitated by District Department Chairs and Teacher Leaders.



## Supporting All Learners

Thank you for all that you do to support all learners in our District. **ALL** teachers are language teachers. This last year on the PAWS assessment our English Learners demonstrated strong growth. The following areas are important to highlight:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading (+15.86%)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading (+15.00%)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math (+13.37%)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math (7.07%)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math (+11.30%)

## ACCESS 2.0

Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs) is the assessment used to determine English proficiency. English Learners in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade demonstrate their growth and progress toward English proficiency on the ACCESS test. All students who are identified as limited English proficient participate in the ACCESS test. This includes students who do not receive services due to refusal. During the 2016-2017 school year, 65 students tested English Proficient on the ACCESS assessment. Students who tested English Proficient are now in their first year of Monitor.

## Individual Learning Plans

Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) are a student directed planning and monitoring tool that customizes learning for our English Learners (EL). Teachers, please make sure that you have access to, and know where to find your English Learner's ILP. All teachers work to support the language goals for each of our English Learners. If you have any questions regarding ILP's, please contact the EL teacher in your building.

## Teacher Resources for English Learners

The [WIDA website](#) provides a number of great resources for teachers supporting English Learners. On the website, you can find the "can do descriptors" under Standards and Instruction, which provide teachers with examples of performance for each language acquisition level.

## **Highlighting Grants & Federal Programs**

The Title I Federal Program provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with a high amount of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

A school-wide program is a comprehensive reform strategy designed to upgrade the entire educational program in a Title I school; its primary goal is to ensure that all students are meeting or exceeding levels of achievement. SCSD#1 schools with a school-wide program for the 2017-2018 school year are: Northpark Elementary, Westridge Elementary, Desert View Elementary, Stagecoach Elementary, and Overland Elementary.

Schools with a targeted assistance program focus on services for children who are failing, or most at risk of failing, to meet state academic standards. SCSD#1 schools with targeted assistance programs for the 2017-2018 school year are: Desert Elementary, Walnut Elementary, and Farson-Eden Elementary.





### Dr Terrance Scott, PhD Visits USDOE Counseling Grant Project Schools

The US Department of Education School Counseling Grant brought a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) consultant to the district in September. Dr Terrance Scott, PhD was able to spend a week with the Counseling Grant project schools: Pilot Butte Elementary, Eastside Elementary, and Desert School. While in the district Terry, his preferred moniker, spent time observing staff processes and procedures in schools and on buses. He also consulted with

Achievement Monitoring

Progress (AMP) teams, PBIS teams, and generally spent time engaging with students and staff at the schools. Terry provided overwhelmingly positive feedback after spending time in the project schools. Counseling staff were also able to learn more about PBIS and develop next steps to continue engaging students in a positive manner and, most importantly, building relationships.

~Information Provided by Jessica Castillo



Dr Scott said of Desert School, "After spending a day in the schools and viewing all aspects of the students' day I was overall impressed with the close sense of community that exists within the school. All adults, including custodians and staff interact with the students in a caring and respectful manner – communicating high expectations and a willingness to help. To see this type of positive climate is a major predictor of positive outcomes for students in both academic and social areas."

After visiting Eastside and Pilot Butte, Dr Scott noted, "I spent 4 days engaging with staff and students in both Eastside and Pilot Butte [Elementary] schools. The big takeaway is that the quality of classroom management and instruction is far above what I have witnessed as the national norm. Teachers were enthusiastic and students were engaged in every classroom I visited. In addition, transitions, lunch, bus, and playground routines went off without a hitch – indicating to me that these routines and their expectations have become routine due to consistently effective instruction in these common areas. I would be happy to have my own child attend either one of these schools."





### WY-TOPP Training Test

The WY-TOPP [training test](#) will be available throughout the year for students, educators, and parents. The purpose of the training test is to become familiar with the look and functionality of the new online assessment. Accommodations are selectable prior to starting the training test. Students are encouraged to practice using the universal tools. Students with IEPs are encouraged to practice using his or her specific accommodation(s) in addition to the universal tools that are available to all students:

- TUTORIAL - short video demonstrating how to respond to a question type
- MARK FOR REVIEW - used to create an icon reminder to review a question
- NOTEPAD - used to enter notes while thinking through questions
- HIGHLIGHT SELECTION - used to highlight sections from prompts or passages
- STRIKETHROUGH - used on multiple-select questions to cross out answer options
- ZOOM IN/OUT - used to enlarge text and images on a test page
- CALCULATOR (when applicable)

### WY-TOPP Resources

Starting this spring students in grades 3-10 will take the Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP) summative assessment in reading, mathematics, science, and writing instead of PAWS. Check out the links below to view FAQs and Blueprints:

- WY-TOPP Blueprints for [English Language Arts](#), [Math](#) and [Science](#)
  - Identifies standards and benchmarks assessed on the new WY-TOPP this spring
  - Includes the number of items per strand/standard and percent of items per strand/standard
- WY-TOPP [FAQ for Teachers](#)
  - Questions and answers about interim, summative, and modular assessments as well as information about universal tools, accommodating tools, and standards based adaptive assessments
- WY-TOPP [FAQ for Parents](#)
  - With parent/teacher conferences coming up soon, types of assessments and how results are used is important information to share with parents
- WY-TOPP [FAQ Assessment](#)
  - Explains the purpose of testing, types of tests administered, and when tests are administered



October						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 School Improvement Planning Session 4-6 Board Room	3	4 ReadyGEN Teacher Leader Training 8-4 Board Room	5 Dist. Dept. Chair/Teacher Leader Meeting 4-6 Board Room	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Science SAC 8-4 Board Room	19 Science SAC 8-4 Board Room	20 Professional Development	21
22	23 Life R U Ready  WY-TOPP Interim Window Opens	24 Life R U Ready  CCC 4-6 Board Room	25 Life R U Ready	26 STEM <a href="https://code.org">code.org</a> Training 4-6 Board Room	27	28 STEM <a href="https://code.org">code.org</a> Training 8-4 Board Room
29	30	31				

November						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 WY-TOPP Interim Window Closes	18
19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Break	23 Thanksgiving Break	24 Thanksgiving Break	25
26	27	28 Science SAC 8-4 Board Room	29 Science SAC 8-4 Board Room	30		