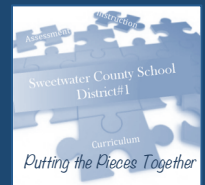




# Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Newsletter



*Mission: To provide a quality education for all students.*

*Vision: As an innovative district, united with our community, we empower and inspire all students to academic excellence in pursuit of their interests and passions.*

December 2014

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## **2014-2015 District Goals**

**GOAL #1:** All students in Sweetwater County School District #1 will be proficient in Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in English Language Arts and Math.

**GOAL #2:** All stakeholders in Sweetwater County School District #1 will improve stakeholder communication by June 2015.

## **K-6 English Language Arts Common Formative Assessments**

As affirmed in our District Accreditation findings, the move toward the development of Common Formative Assessments (CFA) aligned with standards is a research-based strategy that will support highly functioning PLCs and will impact student achievement. In order to support the implementation of the CFA process in English Language Arts (K-6), several revisions have been made to the process with input from Administrators, teachers and Instructional coaches. Results from the CFAs will be used to review instructional strategies that are most effective in supporting student achievement across the district.

## **December Professional Development**

### **December 11<sup>th</sup>—Math Expert Team**

On Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the Math Expert Team will meet with Staff Development for Educators (SDE) consultants to focus on calendar work and progression of PAWS content, along with activities that support the PAWS Math. This group will also begin the process of collecting resources to support teacher instruction. Please contact your school representative on the Math Expert Team with resources that may be shared.

### **December 12<sup>th</sup>—Math Professional Development**

On Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> our district professional development will continue to focus on providing math strategies to support meeting Wyoming Content and Performance Standards in Math. The K-2, 3-4 and 5-6 grade bands training will focus on model drawing and folder time to support planning and implementation of strategies. The 7-12 grade bands will focus on number sense, intervention strategies and techniques. SDE consultants will share information on the PAWS blueprints for grades 3-8 and important PAWS vocabulary that will help guide instruction.

Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA): Equity

An important goal of the WAEA is to minimize achievement gaps. Wyoming established a consolidated subgroup that consists of all students who were below proficient on the prior year state test in math and/or reading. All educators know who is in this group at the beginning of the school year. This information is used to improve student academic achievement. The higher the individual student equity score, the more likely the student will become proficient overtime.

Sweetwater #1 is seeing a high level of success in this school performance category. Of the Sweetwater#1 kindergarten through eighth grade schools with equity scores, six schools (42%) exceeded targets, five schools (50%) met targets and one school (8%) was below the target. Only one Sweetwater #1 high school had a score in the equity target level and they met the target. For more detailed information, please visit this link

([https://fusion.edu.wyoming.gov/sites/secured/MySites/Data\\_Reporting/data\\_reporting\\_Accountability\\_reports.aspx](https://fusion.edu.wyoming.gov/sites/secured/MySites/Data_Reporting/data_reporting_Accountability_reports.aspx)). Some schools are marked as undefined because of the small number of students in the group.

The best way to maintain/increase equity scores is to ensure that all students who are not proficient have the support systems in place to be successful in reading, math, writing, and science standards.

Elementary Parent Math Night Dates

- December 11<sup>th</sup> 5:30 at Desert View—Topic: Addition & Subtraction Strategies
- February 5<sup>th</sup> 5:30 at Westridge Elementary—Topic: Multiplication & Division Strategies
- April 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 at Eastside—Topic: Game Night

**December Math Parent Night**

On Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, the district will host a math parent night at Desert View Elementary. The topics will include alternative strategies and games with breakout sessions for K-2 focusing on addition and subtraction strategies. The 3rd through 6th grade breakout will focus on multiplication and division strategies. Be sure to extend an invitation to parents and students in your building. Translation services for Spanish speaking parents will be provided. Administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals are also welcome to attend these trainings.

Partnership Approach of Instructional Coaching

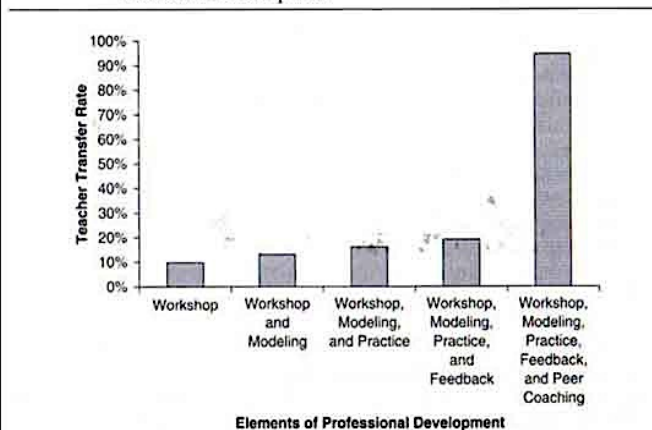
Teachers and coaches alike are receiving professional development in a variety of areas this year. Mathematics instruction, Data Teams, and Write Tools are some of the training teachers and coaches are attending.

Many research studies show that with just attending training, implementation of the instructional practices learned is generally low with about 10% transfer into practice. When the workshops include modeling, practice, and feedback within the training, transfer back to the classroom increases slightly, 10-20%. However, when training includes follow-up peer coaching, implementation greatly increases to about 90%, therefore being much more likely to impact student achievement.

## Impact of Instructional Coaching

Cited in *Coaching: Approaches and Perspectives*, (Corwin Press, 2009)

**Figure 9.2** Rate of Transfer Into Classroom Practice Following Peer Coaching Professional Development



The instructional coaches follow a partnership philosophy of coaching. Teachers and coaches engage in dialogue about instructional practices and share ideas with one another. Instructional coaches are available for co-planning, co-teaching, conducting model lessons, or observing and providing feedback. Coaches learn as much from engaging in these practices as teachers do, as they work in partnerships toward the common goal of increasing student achievement.

Although instructional coaches are site based, you may contact any of the coaches in the district to work with you. We have flexibility within our schedules to work in any of the schools and enjoy being able to support teachers district wide. You may either contact a specific coach directly or contact your site-based coach for direction on who to contact for your request.

Common Core State Standard- FAQ

*What does this work mean for students with disabilities and English language learners?*

The Common Core State Standards give states the opportunity to share experiences and best practices, which can lead to an improved ability to serve young people with disabilities and English language learners. Additionally, the standards include information on application for these groups of students.

<http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/frequently-asked-questions/>

Have you ever wondered?

- What is "good" academic growth?
- How do NWEA MAP RIT scores relate to benchmarks set by ACT?

Click the following link for insight into these topics:

<http://nwea.us/1nha6s3>

ACCESS for ELL's

School districts are being asked to pilot one or more section of the ACCESS test online. The ACCESS test is given to students in the ELL program, as well as, students who refused services from the ELL program. In the current version of the test, the speaking portion is read aloud and students give their answers aloud. In the reading, writing and listening portions of the test the students answer questions in a test booklet. In the online version of the tests there will not be a need for one-on-one testing or as many proctors as all sections of the test will be taken on the

Winter MAP Testing

SCSD#1 is winter MAP testing early this year. ***The window opens December 1<sup>st</sup> and closes at the end of the school day December 19<sup>th</sup>.*** This is because winter testing is an external measure to determine how students are progressing towards mastery of grade level standards. This earlier data will give teachers the ability to check student progress and time to differentiate and customize instruction according to student deficits prior to PAWS testing in March. Testing in January only gave teachers a month to differentiate and remediate skill deficits before PAWS testing started.

If you proctor MAP testing, refresh your memory of the ins and outs of proctoring with the following links: [https://nwea.adobeconnect.com/\\_a203290506/proctorquickstart/](https://nwea.adobeconnect.com/_a203290506/proctorquickstart/)

[https://nwea.adobeconnect.com/\\_a203290506/proctortools/](https://nwea.adobeconnect.com/_a203290506/proctortools/)

For extra training or support, please contact Debbie Varras or Jessica Peppard in the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Desert View 5	Desert View 6	Pilot Butte 7	Overland 8	Make-Ups PB-OV 9
Walnut 12	<u>Northpark</u> 13	Sage 14	Sage 15	Make-Ups Sage 16
Eastside 19	<u>Farson</u> Make-ups Eastside 20	Desert ( <u>Wamsutter</u> ) 21	Lincoln 22	PD Day 23
26	<u>Westridge</u> 27	<u>Westridge</u> 28	29	30

Winter Universal Screening

Winter Universal Screening (DIBELS) will take place January 6<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> 2015. The Universal Screening Refresher Training will take place December 17<sup>th</sup> in the CAB-Board Room. To the left is a tentative calendar for testing scheduled for each school. High School CARI testing will be scheduled soon.



#### Pilot Butte Elementary-Digital Citizenship Family Night

November 10<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> was Digital Citizenship Week. This awareness project is designed to promote digital literacy and online etiquette and awareness. Pilot Butte Elementary partnered with Eastside Elementary, Western Wyoming Community College, Rock Springs Police Department, Prevention Management Organization of Wyoming, and WyTECC to hold a Digital Citizenship Family Night. The evening consisted of various workshops and tutorials to help engage Pilot Butte and Eastside students, teachers, and families in thinking critically, behaving safely, and participating responsibly online. Among the topics were Dangers of Technology, Cyberbullying, App Etiquette, and Online Safety. The evening concluded with refreshments and the Digital Playground.

#### Overland Elementary Slice and Dice Night

On Tuesday, November 11th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Overland Elementary held a Dice 'n Slice Math Game Night!

Overland had several dice math games for students and parents to learn and play. During each game, a student played against a parent and learned a math strategy that could be supported at home simply by playing the game. At the end of each game students were able to take a printed copy of the game board and instructions with them. Students also received a free set of game dice and bean counters to take home!

Overland's community partners, Questar and Bloedorn Lumber, had a great time playing games and serving the free slice of pizza and bottle of water given to each family in attendance. Additional slices of pizza and water were available for \$1.00 with all proceeds going back to the student activities fund to be used for the next family night.

It was a successful night for all involved!

# December 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2 MAP Testing Starts AdvancED Stakeholders 4-6	3 CFA Review 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	4 CFA Review 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5	6	7
8	9 Community Curriculum Council	10	11 CCSS Math (SDE) Expert Team	12 8-4 CCSS Math (SDE)	13	14
15	16	17 Universal Screening Training	18	19 MAP Testing Ends	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

KEY: Purple=Certified Teachers & Paraprofessionals; Pink=Paraprofessionals; Light Blue=Certified Teachers; Green=Administrators & Directors; Orange=Building; Black=All Staff; Brown=SPED, Dark Blue=ELL; Bright Pink=Data Paras; Grey=Other

# January 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5 First Day Back Universal Screening Starts	6	7 Community Curriculum Council	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Hampton Brown Training	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Community Curriculum Council	22	23 8-11:30 Building Initiatives 12:30-4 Grade Prep	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Universal Screening Ends	31	

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