



Sweetwater County School District #1

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter

February 2017

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Graduation Rate Up for SCSD#1

Newly released graduation rates from Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) indicate that Sweetwater County School District #1 (SCSD#1) has increased 3.75% for the four-year "on-time" graduation rate. The district increased from 73.31% in the 2014-2015 academic school year to 77.06% in the 2015-2016 academic school year.

As far as individual district high schools go, a 20.44% jump was seen in the graduation rate at Black Butte High School (BBHS). Last year BBHS graduated 59.46% of it's students in four years, up from 39.02% the previous academic year. An increase of 1.59% was seen at Rock Springs High School (RSHS) graduating 78.82% of students. Farson-Eden High School (FEHS) had a 9.85% decrease from the 2014-2015 academic school year for a graduation rate of 81.82% for 2015-2016.

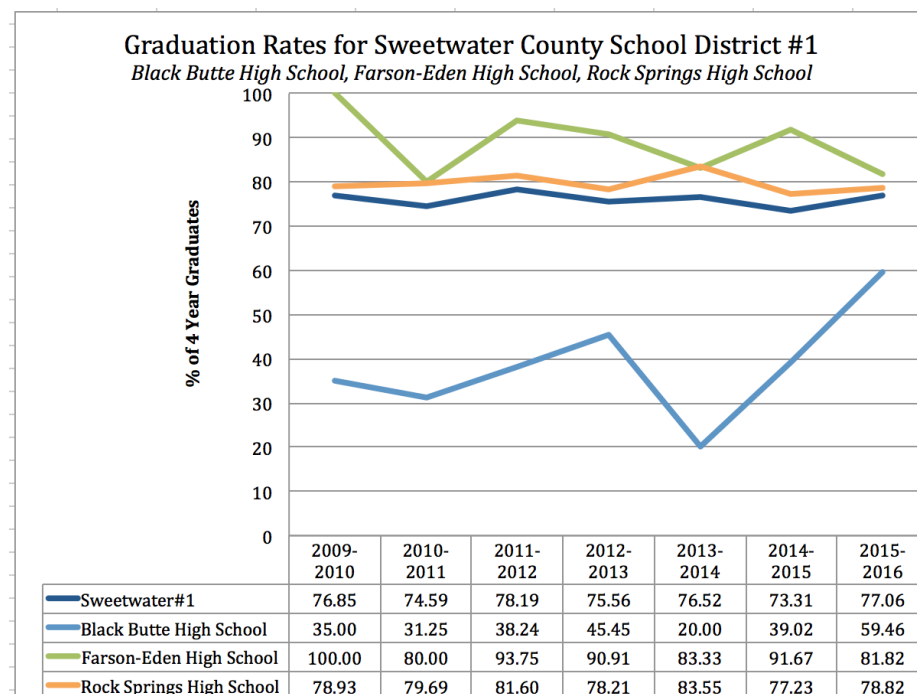
SCSD#1 had a graduation rate of 65.88% in 1996. The graduation rate for the 2015-2016 academic school year was 77.06% and the district is continuing to see an upward trend in the graduation rate.

All grade levels can affect graduation rate by helping students feel welcome at school, know the importance of attendance, and understand the affect education can have on the rest of their lives.

To learn more about how graduation rate is calculated visit the [SCSD#1 Graduation Rates](#) webpage or the [WDE Graduation Rates](#) webpage.

Mission:
To provide a quality education for all students.

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





ELA/EL Resource Adoption Update



The English Language Arts (ELA)/English Learner (EL) Resource Adoption Committee met on January 24-26th, 2017 to review selected resources by specific grade level/course. Committee members worked in grade spans K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12 to complete the process. The committee selected the following resources for further review:

- K-2
 - Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) published by Amplify
 - ReadyGEN published by Pearson
 - Reading Wonders published by McGraw-Hill
- 3-5
 - Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) published by Amplify
 - ReadyGEN published by Pearson
 - Reading Wonders published by McGraw-Hill
 - Expeditionary Learning published by EL Education
- 6-8
 - Expeditionary Learning published by EL Education
 - Wit & Wisdom published by Great Minds
 - Springboard published by College Board
- 9-12
 - Springboard published by College Board



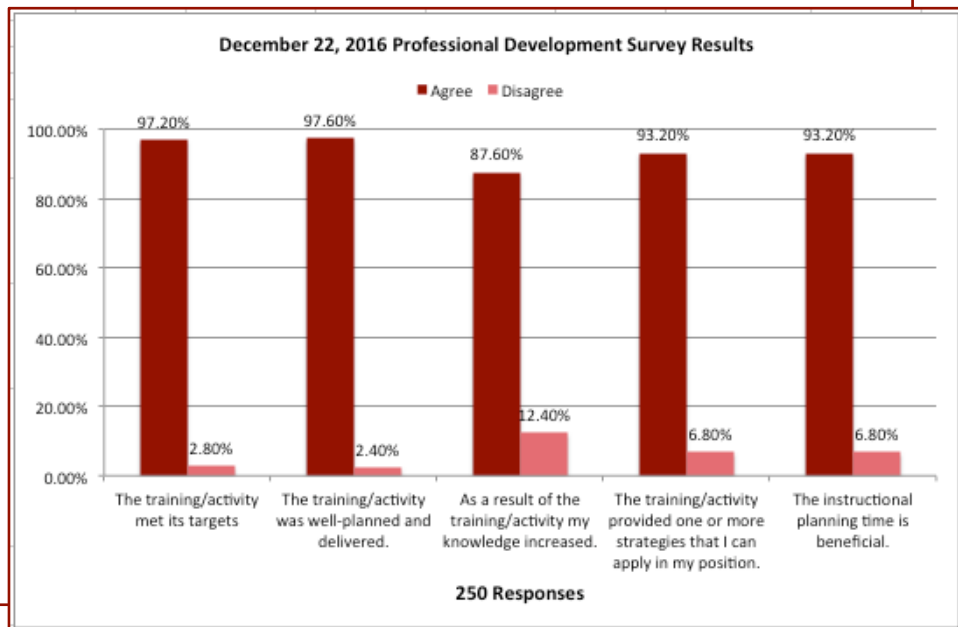
The ELA/EL Resource Adoption Committee will hear presentations from each publisher on February 15, 2017 and make final recommendations on February 28, 2017.

All staff will have an opportunity to provide feedback through a survey link and review of materials at each building site between February 1st-February 24th, 2017. The feedback from the surveys will be shared with the resource adoption committee to guide recommendations of a final selection. Further information on the resource links and surveys will be provided on February 1st, 2017.



December 22nd PD Survey Results

Instructional Facilitators and Teacher Leaders facilitated the December 22nd professional development. This half-day training focused on completing instructional planning within departments and K through 8th grade math teachers learned more about how to use Eureka Math modules. Survey results indicated most people who responded to the survey agreed the training met the targets and was well planned and delivered. Some respondents felt their knowledge increased as a result of the training. Most respondents found one or more strategies that could be used in their position and that the instructional planning time was beneficial.



School Improvement Plans Accepted by Wyoming Department of Education

On January 5, 2017, WDE sent acceptance letters to each school in SCSD#1 stating their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan was reviewed and they "meet the requirements of W.S.21-2-204(f) and is formally accepted by the Wyoming Department of Education."

Each school received feedback from WDE ensuring all indicators were evaluated, effective practices documented, practices and indicators in need of improvement addressed, assurances verified, and plans written addressing WAEA performance indicators. WDE also checked that measures and methods addressed the school's goal, interventions, timelines and benchmarks were correctly stated as well as an evaluation system of interventions. All Comprehensive School Improvement Plans are publicly available on the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plans webpage.

Parent Surveys at Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences are February 2-3, 2017. The district is requesting that parents complete a climate survey about their child's school as well as give feedback on support they would like in relation to English Language Arts.

Please encourage parents to complete these short surveys to help the district make informed decisions and give support where it's needed.



6th Annual WyTECC Conference

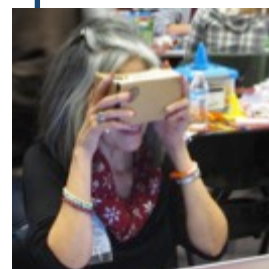
Lincoln Middle School in Green River will host the 6th annual WyTECC Conference on Saturday, May 6th, 2017. Keynote Speaker Brian Crosby will dazzle conference attendees with STEM innovations. The \$50 early bird registration window is January 23rd through March 7th, after March 7th registration is \$65. Registration fees include attendance to the vendors, poster sessions, the keynote session, break out sessions, opportunity to win door prizes, goodie bag, AM coffee bar, PM snacks, and 2017-2018 membership to WyTECC. The Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office will pay the registration fee for the first 50 district employees to sign up for early registration. PTSB credit and UW graduate credit is offered for those interested. Register on the [WyTECC website](#).

This year's theme, *"Teach the Future to Fish,"* focuses on STEM for PreK-12. For more information please contact Dr. Cristy Pelham at pelhamc@sw1.k12.wy.us.

January STEM Training

In January a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) training was held for Extended Day Program teachers. Associate Professor of Information Technology Carla Hester-Croft of WWCC facilitated the training. Teachers were given short projects for K-12 students aligning to various classroom lessons in the STEM areas and also learned more about online resources. Lessons and projects such as these support the enrichment components of the Wyoming Bridges Extended Day Programs.

Wyoming Bridges Grant funding made this training possible by funding classroom substitute wages, the training itself, as well as providing Makey Makey kits for each teacher to use in the classroom. To learn more about the benefits of the Wyoming Bridges Grant visit the [SCSD#1 Wyoming Bridges](#) webpage.





Title I

Title I, part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, is a federally funded supplemental program that provides extra funding to schools with a higher percentage of children from low income families. Title I schools are identified based on the percentage of students who qualify for free/reduced meal plans.

Title I will conduct their annual enrollment and free/reduced lunch count on February 1, 2017. The count includes students in all public schools as well as private and home schools. Private and home school students are included in the count based on their public school attendance area.

The percentage of students in each school eligible for free/reduced lunch is used to determine which schools are eligible for Title I funds during the 2017-2018 school year. Final determination of Title I status is made after the district receives Title I allocation information (usually in July/August). Funds are then distributed using a formula based on the number of low-income students in eligible schools. Visit the [SCSD#1 Title I](#) webpage for more information.

~Information provided by Suzanne Martin, Title I Coordinator

February ACCESS Testing

Thank you to all teachers and principals for supporting the district's English Learner Teachers as they administer the Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners, (ACCESS for ELLs) over the next month to determine English proficiency. The testing window opened January 24th and will end February 28th.

All students identified as limited English proficient participate in the ACCESS test. This includes students who do not receive services due to refusal. English Learner teachers at each school will work with classroom teachers and administrators to develop a testing schedule to support completion of the ACCESS test during the testing window.



~Information provided by Shannon Garrison, Federal Grants/Title III Coordinator

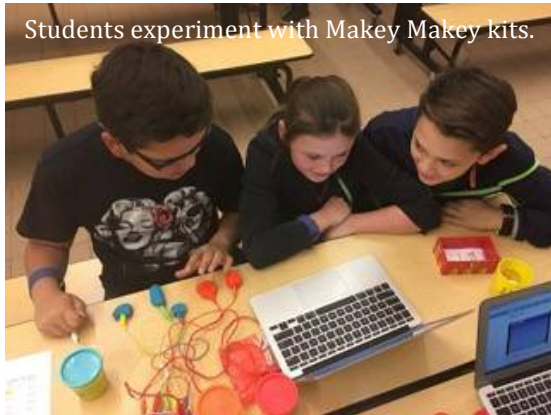
FUNDING next exit

Grants

Grants bring about an opportunity for SCSD#1 to receive funds. All grants for the school district must go through the Federal Grants Office. The Grants Coordinator is able to help with reviewing the grant, understanding requirements for compliance, applying for the grant, setting up the grant, developing a spending plan, and meeting the terms of the grant. When applying for a grant, you are representing Sweetwater County School District #1. The district becomes the fiscal agent for the funds awarded. Please make sure all grant requests are made through the Grants office located in the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office at the Central Administration Building. If you are interested in applying for a grant or have questions please contact the coordinator, Shannon Garrison garrisons@sw1.k12.wy.us or 352-3400 1247. To learn more about current grants being utilized in the district visit the [SCSD#1 Grants](#) webpage.

~Information provided by Shannon Garrison, Federal Grants/Title III Coordinator

Do you want to think like a computer scientist?



Students experiment with Makey Makey kits.



Google Cardboard allows the watcher to see Virtual Reality clips.

During Computer Science Education Week, Pilot Butte and Eastside Elementary partnered with WWCC and Google to host Do You Want to Think like a Computer Scientist Night. During this two-hour event families visited five stations to experience different types of coding activities such as Makey Makey, Google Cardboard, Agent Sheets, Code.org and binary coding bracelets. Students experienced hands-on learning and some lucky participants received Google

Cardboards to take home! The night ended with pizza and prizes. Thanks to WWCC and Google for making this night possible!

*~Information provided by
Shae Lynch, Instructional
Facilitator*



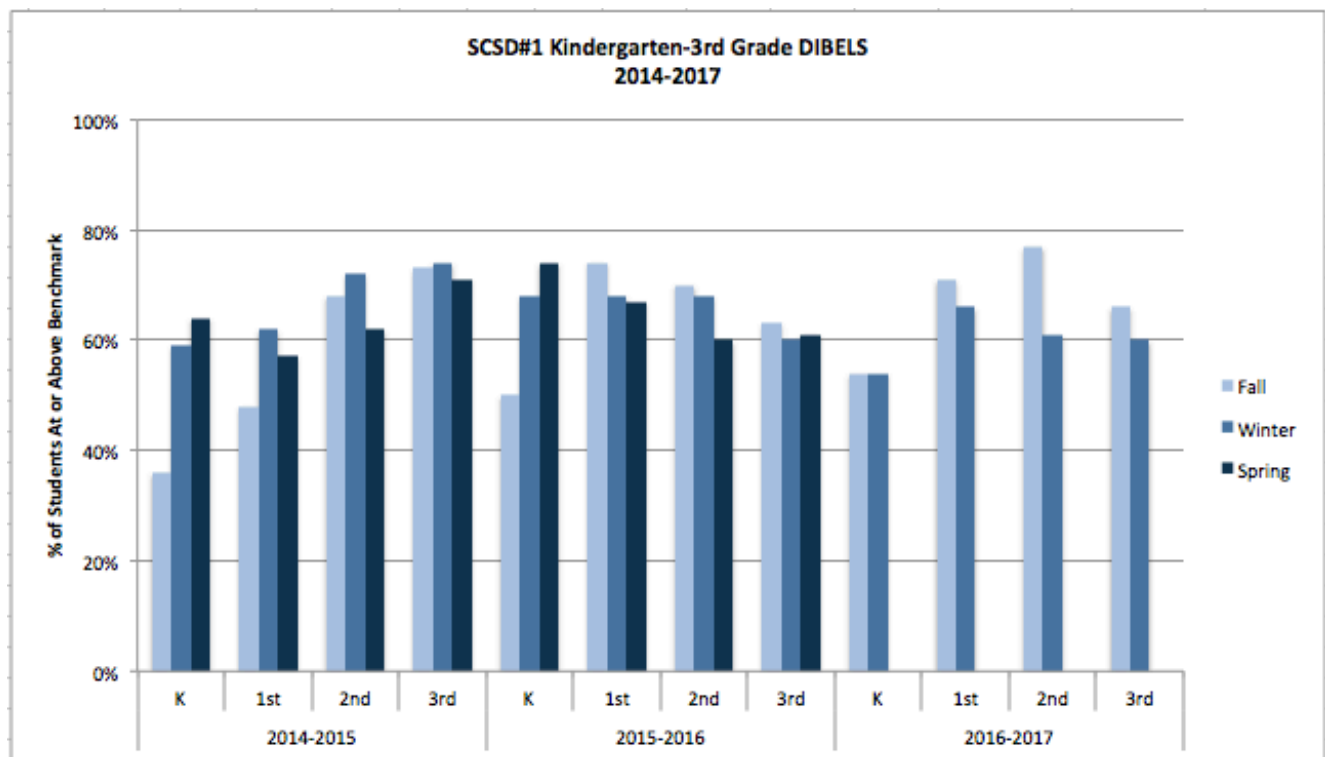
Students work online in various websites.



Binary Coding is being used to make bracelets.

Winter DIBELS Results

Kindergarten maintained the amount of students at or above benchmark, but 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades all dropped in the amount of students at or above benchmark.



Upcoming PAWS Dates to Remember

- February 9, 2017 3:30 in the CAB Board Room--2017 PAWS Administration Building Coordinator training
- March 6-24, 2017--PAWS testing window
- March 17, 2017--PAWS & Wy-ALT exemption requests* due
- April 19, 2017--ACT & Aspire exemption requests* due



2017 PAWS Resources can be found here on the [WDE Administration Materials](#) webpage.

**Exemption requests must be submitted for students who are*

- *Expelled but still receiving services from the district*
- *Served at an out of state placements*
- *EL students who have been in U.S. schools for less than a year (students are required to participate in the ACCESS, PAWS math and PAWS science if applicable)*

NAEP Testing

Education is crucial for ensuring children will have the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive members of the global economy. However, to know if the nation is succeeding in it is vital to have impartial information about what students know and can do, whether their performance has improved or declined, and which factors may influence this performance. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is uniquely designed to provide this information.

Established in 1969, NAEP (also known as the nation's report card) was created to provide a common way of measuring the progress of students' education across the county. Results from state testing are not directly comparable due to the differing standardized assessments used by each state. NAEP asks the same questions in every state, making comparisons possible. NAEP also uses questionnaires to gather data on educational practices of students and schools to give context to the assessment data. By using this system long-term NAEP trend data allows today's students to be compared with those from the early 1970's in math and reading.

The NAEP testing window opened January 30th and runs through March 10th. This assessment is scheduled and administered by NAEP representatives and is completely voluntary for students. NAEP is only reported at the state level. In fact, NAEP is forbidden by law to maintain or report individual school or student information.

For more information about NAEP visit the [Wyoming Department of Education NAEP webpage](#) or the [NAEP website](#).

Current and upcoming testing events are highlighted.

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February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Health Fair-RS 6am-9am Board Rm	2 Health Fair-RS 6am-9am Board Rm Parent/Teacher Conferences Evening	3 Health Fair-RS 6am-9am Board Rm Make-up day from snow day-morning Parent/Teacher Conferences Afternoon	4
5	6	7	8	9 District Department Chair Meeting 4-6 PDC	10	11
12	13 Board Meeting 7pm Board Rm	14	15 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm, PDC, Title I	16 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm, PDC, Title I	17 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm, PDC, Title I	18
19	20 President's Day No School	21 Social Studies SAC 8-4 Board Rm	22 Math & Health/PE Assessments SAC 8-4 Board Rm	23 Math & Health/PE Assessments SAC 8-4 Board Rm	24	25
26	27	28 EL/ELA Resource Adoption Committee 8-4 Board Rm ACCESS for ELLs Window Closes WY-ALT Window Opens				

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 AMP Chair Meeting 4-6 Board Rm	2 Community Curriculum Council 8-11:30 Board Rm	3	4
5	6 PAWS Window Opens	7	8	9	10 PD/Grade Prep NAEP Window Closes	11
12	13 Board Meeting 7pm Board Rm	14 Fine Arts SAC 8-4 Board Rm	15 Fine Arts SAC 8-4 Board Rm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 WY-ALT Window Closes PAWS Window Closes	25
26	27 Universal Screening Begins	28 Performing Arts SAC 8-4 Board Rm	29 Performing Arts SAC 8-4 Board Rm	30	31	