



Sweetwater County School District #1

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

September 2017 Newsletter

In this issue: SAC Updates, 2017-18 District Department Chairs & Teachers Leaders, Sharepoint Updates, Summer Academy Overview, Eclipse Pictures & Activities, 2017 PAWS & ACT Scores, WY-TOPP Info, Upcoming Events

Subject Area Committee Updates

The Career & Technical Education (CTE) Subject Area Committee (SAC) is beginning the Curriculum Leadership Institute (CLI) process to align their curriculum maps to state standards. This unique SAC contains all members of the CTE departments from each secondary school: BBHS, FEMS, FEHS, RSHS, and RSJH. Because all members of the CTE department are members of the CTE SAC, their curriculum mapping was started on two of the professional development days before school started. They will continue to use professional development days throughout the school year to complete their maps. By using professional development days, students are still able to have classes with their regular teachers.

Science will start curriculum mapping in September using the newly approved science standards.

Emily Makelky (previously DeBlasi) is guiding the SAC members through the process to ensure the district's curriculum maps contain everything needed to help students master the standards in these subject areas.



District Department Chairs

The role of District Department Chairs has changed somewhat. District Department Chairs will serve on Subject Area Committees (SAC) to support curriculum mapping, assist with the integration of technology into the curriculum, ensure alignment of curriculum maps to Hathaway requirements, assist in developing common assessments, support the revision of new course approvals, and assist and monitor curriculum requests for each curricular area.

The new District Department Chairs are committed in their belief of the need for continuous improvement and their ability to communicate within their department.

2017-2018 District Department Chairs

David Galindo Elementary Math	Jerry Coulson Secondary Math
Darcy Bath Health/PE	Angie Spann Library/Media
TBA Elementary ELA	Andrea Carroll Secondary ELA
Mary Schuck Foreign Language	
Heather Young Elementary Social Studies	Jennifer Wilmetti Secondary Social Studies
Shari Kumer Fine Arts	Brian Redmond Performing Arts
Lorna Bath Elementary Science	Sharon Seaton Secondary Science
Jeannie Coulson Career & Technical Education	
Koral Hueller Elementary Guidance Counseling	Rhonda Kettering Secondary Guidance Counseling

Data Team Onsite Coaching

Weston Kieschnick worked with schools in August to guide data team collaboration. Data team coaching will continue on September 19, 20 and 21, 2017.

ELA Onsite Coaching

Tammy Bebee-Schwartz will continue to provide English Language Arts support and assistance for all elementary and secondary teachers. This will assist teachers as they utilize the newly adopted resources.

Sharepoint Teacher Resources

[Sharepoint Teacher Resources](#) have been updated. New resources were added including the intervention handbook and K-6 Specials Resources. A new eclipse resource page has a link to pictures from schools of their eclipse activities. New calendars have been added to the SCSD#1 Calendar link and district-wide curriculum expectations were added to the Forms and Templates page.

Instructional Teacher Leaders

Improving schools is complex and challenging; it cannot be done without strong leadership. Instructional Teacher Leaders will develop their leadership skills and instructional strategies while focusing on supporting the instructional strategies.

Teachers Leaders will support quality lesson design and purposeful planning, implement technology into lesson planning and support the implementation of the newly adopted resources in English Language Arts/English Learners and Secondary Foreign Language.

Teacher Leaders will be a resource to other teachers in their buildings, grade levels and subject areas by helping facilitate professional development and supporting a collaborative culture of collective responsibility for student learning.

2017-2018 Instructional Teacher Leaders

Jordan Erspamer Stagecoach Elementary	Meagan Doporto Stagecoach Elementary	Crystal Richardson Walnut Elementary
Stephanie Yenger Pilot Butte Elementary	Shae Lynch Pilot Butte Elementary	Michelle Davies Stagecoach Elementary
Michele Recker Northpark Elementary	Erin Worthington Desert View Elementary	Marlene Kramer Overland Elementary
Tenesa Bledsoe Walnut Elementary	Sarah Blake Rock Springs High School	Aaron Huff Rock Springs High School
Brad Cox Black Butte High School	Weston Lamb Northpark & Sage Elementary	Barbara Twomey Desert View Elementary
Candi Ruffini Rock Springs Junior High	Christine Pettibone Eastside Elementary	Stephanie Hardesty Rock Springs Junior High

2017 Summer Academies

Around 250 SCSD#1 staff attended summer academies that were open to the district. Over 45 sessions were offered in ELA, Math, SPED, Foreign Language, Differentiation, STEM, and Technology. These sessions were offered based on feedback received from the needs assessment survey taken by district staff. Many of the sessions were facilitated by district staff.



Grants and Federal Programs

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We hope that each of you had a restful and relaxing summer. Looking forward to a great year!

Grants

Grants bring about an opportunity for organizations to receive valuable funding. All grants for SCSD#1 must go through the Federal Grants Office. The Director of Grants and Federal Programs, Shannon Garrison, is able to help you with review, understanding requirements for compliance, application, set up, development of a spending plan, and meeting the terms of the grant. When you apply for a grant, you represent 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 and Federal Programs 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 Shannon Garrison.

Title I

This year Shannon Garrison will be taking over the responsibilities of the Title I Coordinator. This is natural fit since she already coordinates information for Title III and district grants. Please contact Shannon with any questions.

Title III Translation Requests

Communication with students and families is key to keep everyone informed of the events in our schools. Please make sure you have information that goes home from the school translated into your student's home language.

Translation information and resources for Title III are available at on [Sharepoint](#) and the [SCSD#1 Title III](#) webpage.

Shannon Garrison--Grants, Title I, Title III garrisons@sw1.k12.wy.us or ext. 1247

Youth In Transition

In the Public School Works training site, a new required class covers information on the McKinney-Vento Act. This act ensures enrollment and stability for homeless students, or youth in transition. This training is a requirement of the McKinney-Vento Act and will give you valuable information about the supports available for youth in transition.

For more information contact Rita Isaacson, Title I Secretary and Assistant Youth in Transition Liaison isaacsonr@sw1.k12.wy.us or ext. 1244 or Nicole Bolton, HR Director and Youth in Transition Liaison.

First Day of School Eclipse Activities



Sage Elementary had an all school assembly to talk about the eclipse. Students demonstrated that the moon orbited between the sun and earth during a solar eclipse.



Students stayed safe by wearing approved eclipse glasses.



Younger students used a mask made of a paper plate attached to the glasses to prevent them from slipping out of place.



Pilot Butte Elementary students viewed the eclipse through eclipse glasses. One class made eclipse viewers out of shoe boxes and filters.



Desert School students enjoyed Moon Pies and Sun Chips during activities before heading outside to watch the eclipse.



First Day of School Eclipse Activities



Stagecoach Elementary students participated in a WebEx with Freedom Elementary School from Colorado Springs, CO after the eclipse. Each school performed a short dance then played a quiz show style game where each school got to ask and answer questions about the eclipse.



Walnut Elementary students watched the eclipse and traces shadows on the sidewalk every 20 minutes to map the progress of the eclipse.



Sweetwater County School District #1 ACT Results

Grade Level	School Year/Test/Subject Area	Wyoming Average Score	SCSD#1 Average Score	SCSD#1 Increase/Decrease from prior year	BBHS Average Score	FEHS Average Score	RSHS Average Score
11th Grade	2014-2015 ACT English	18.8	16.9		14.9	18.1	17.0
	2015-2016 ACT English	19.1	16.9		14.3	18.9	17.0
	2016-2017 ACT English	18.8	17.1	0.2	14.2	20.7	17.2
	2014-2015 ACT Math	19.5	18.6		16.4	18.4	18.7
	2015-2016 ACT Math	19.7	18.7		16.7	17.9	18.9
	2016-2017 ACT Math	19.5	19.2	0.5	16.7	18.2	19.4
	2014-2015 ACT Reading	20.0	18.6		16.8	18.8	18.8
	2015-2016 ACT Reading	20.5	19.0		16.3	20.0	19.2
	2016-2017 ACT Reading	20.2	19.6	0.6	16.9	20.8	19.8
	2014-2015 ACT Science	20.2	19.0		17.1	20.4	19.1
	2015-2016 ACT Science	20.4	19.5		16.7	19.9	19.7
	2016-2017 ACT Science	20	19.1	-0.4	17.0	20.8	19.2
	2014-2015 ACT Composite	19.8	18.4		16.5	19.1	18.5
	2015-2016 ACT Composite	20.0	18.6		16.2	19.4	18.8
	2016-2017 ACT Composite	19.7	18.9	0.3	16.4	20.3	19.1

ACT Scores range from a 1 to 36

SCSD#1's average ACT scores increased this year in English, Math, Reading, and Composite.

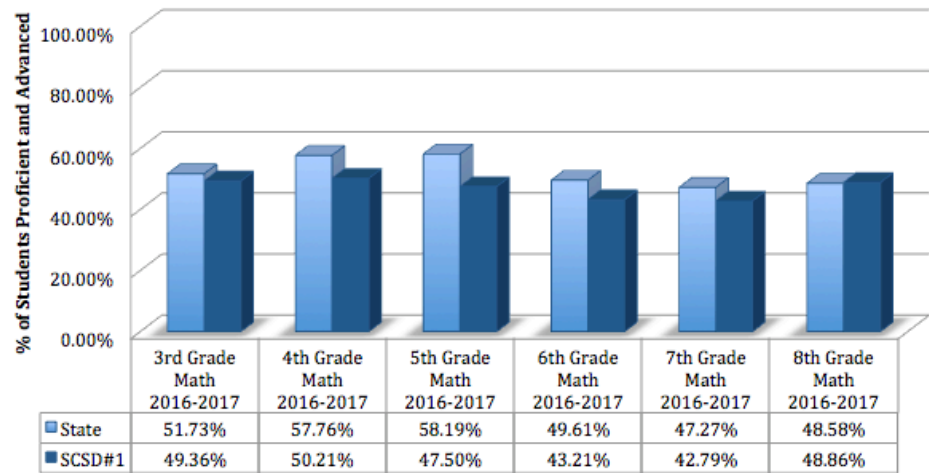
Sweetwater County School District #1 ACT ASPIRE Results

Grade Level	School Year/Test/Subject Area	ACT ASPIRE College/Career Readiness Benchmark (Scale Score)	SCSD#1 Average Scale Score	SCSD#1 Increase/Decrease from prior year	BBHS Average Scale Score	FEHS Average Scale Score	RSHS Average Scale Score
9th Grade	2015-2016 ASPIRE English	426	425.4		427.3	428.6	425.2
	2016-2017 ASPIRE English		425.7	0.3	425.8	430.7	425.5
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Math	428	423.2		423.4	425.3	423.2
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Math		423.7	0.5	421.7	426.1	423.7
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Reading	425	421.7		420.4	421.4	421.8
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Reading		423.5	1.8	422	423.2	423.6
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Science	430	423.9		423.3	427.4	423.7
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Science		425.2	1.3	422.4	425.4	425.4
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Composite	N/A	423.7		423.9	426.2	423.6
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Composite		424.7	1.0	423.1	426.5	424.8
10th Grade	2015-2016 ASPIRE English	428	429.0		425.6	434.7	429.2
	2016-2017 ASPIRE English		427.6	-1.4	430.6	430.8	427.2
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Math	432	425.3		424.0	426.5	425.3
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Math		424.1	-1.2	426.9	426.6	423.7
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Reading	428	423.6		419.9	427.2	423.7
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Reading		423.7	0.1	423.3	425.7	423.6
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Science	432	426.2		423.2	428.2	426.4
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Science		426.0	-0.2	423.1	429.7	426.0
	2015-2016 ASPIRE Composite	N/A	426.3		423.4	429.5	426.4
	2016-2017 ASPIRE Composite		425.5	-1	426.0	428.4	425.3

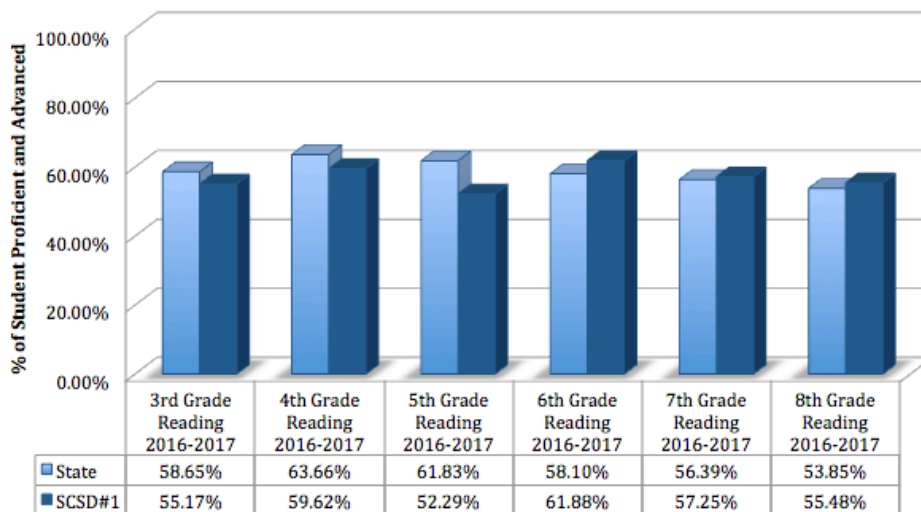
SCSD#1's average Aspire scores increased this year in 9th grade English, 9th grade Math, 9th grade Reading, 9th grade Science, 9th grade Composite, and 10th grade Reading.

SCSD#1 had a higher percentage of students score Proficient and Advanced than the state in PAWS Math at the 8th grade level.

SCSD#1 2016-2017 PAWS Math Results
Percent (%) of Students Proficient and Advanced



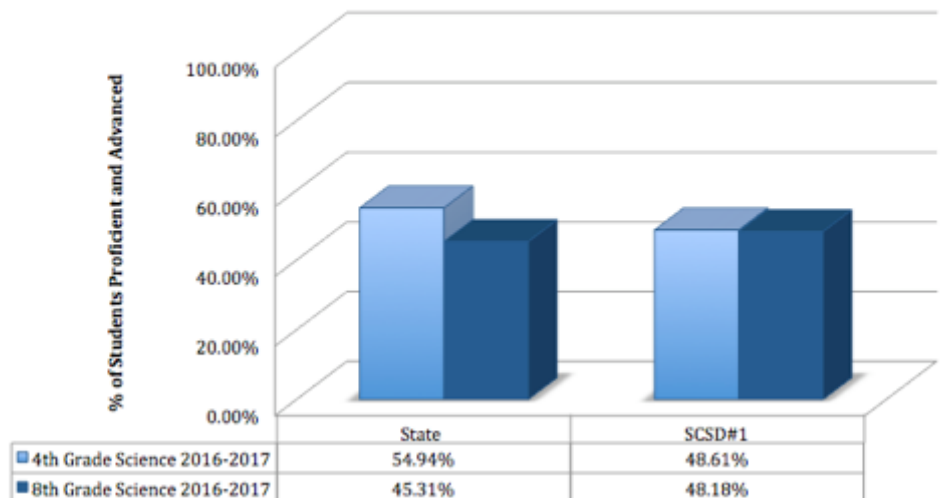
SCSD#1 2016-2017 PAWS Reading Results
Percent (%) of Students Proficient and Advanced



SCSD#1 had a higher percentage of students score Proficient and Advanced than the state in PAWS Reading at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels.

SCSD#1 almost had the same percentage of students score Proficient and Advanced as the state in PAWS Science at the 8th grade level.

SCSD#1 2016-2017 PAWS Science Results
Percent (%) of Students Proficient and Advanced



New State Assessment for Spring 2018

The state assessments, PAWS (grades 3-8) and Aspire (grades 9-10), are being replaced by WY-TOPP (Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress) starting in spring of 2018. ACT will continue to be the state assessment for grade 11 students.

WY-TOPP is an online adaptive summative assessment containing multiple item types (e.g.: enhanced multiple choice, constructed response, technology enhanced, performance task). Reading and math will be assessed each year in grades 3-10 and science will be assessed in grades 4, 8, and 10. Writing will also be assessed in grades 3, 5, 7, and 9. The WY-TOPP summative assessment will be administered April 16-May 11, 2018.

New WY-TOPP interim assessments will replace NWEA MAP testing in SCSD#1. The interim assessments measure student progress, inform instruction, and allow teachers to find and address gaps in student learning. The testing windows for interim assessments are:

- Fall 2017: October 23-November 17 grades 3-10 in Math and Reading and grades 4, 8, 10 in Science
- Winter 2018: January 16-February 9 grades 1-10 in Math and Reading and grades 4, 8, 10 in Science
- Spring 2018: April 16-May 11 grades K-2 in Math and Reading (Requirement of the Early Literacy Plan)

At this time, practice tests are available in reading and math starting in grades 3-12 on the [American Institute for Research webpage](#). Practice tests for grades K-2 will be available in the near future.

Once training information is released by the state the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Office will work with schools to offer training for test administration and data analysis. For more information and Frequently Asked Questions visit the [WDE WY-TOPP](#) webpage.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>September</i>					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5 Science SAC 8-4 Board Rm	6 CCC 8-4 Board Rm	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Data Teams Onsite Coaching	20 Data Teams Onsite Coaching	21 Data Teams Onsite Coaching	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences	29 Morning Parent/Teacher Conferences	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>October</i>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Science SAC 8-4 Board Rm	19 Science SAC 8-4 Board Rm	20 Professional Development No School	21
22	23 Life R U Ready	24 Life R U Ready CCC 4-6 Board Rm	25 Life R U Ready	26	27	28
29	30	31				