



# Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter

In this issue... Genesis Alkali Mine Tour, PLC Celebrations, Updated John Hattie Resources, Teacher Leaders, Young Authors, Science Teachers Explore, Title 1 Professional Development, Recommended for Accreditation, Universal Screening, WY-ALT and March Calendar



Sweetwater County School District #1 will create and foster academic success through partnerships with its schools, community and families.

Sweetwater County School District #1 will nurture a positive learning climate and culture

## Genesis Alkali Mine Tour

Sweetwater County School District #1 administrators, school counselors and social workers, were invited by Genesis Alkali to tour the surface and underground mine production sites. This gave our staff the opportunity to better understand employment options and how to better prepare our students for careers after graduation. Employees are encouraged to be innovative, which has led to worldwide improvement in the mining industry. The industry not only provides numerous employment opportunities, but also contributes a large foundational base to benefit education. Additionally, our staff learned a great deal about how they mine for trona, its uses and its value in the worldwide markets.



## PLC Celebrations

At Rock Springs High School, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade English classes used data to divide up students amongst the 4 teachers and during this time, teachers were able to provide targeted interventions.

## Updated John Hattie Resources

In 2017, Visible Learning Plus published an updated list of factors that impact on student learning. These factors include things that teachers, leaders, students and parents can control or influence and things that can't control. New factors that had a high impact on student success included **collective teacher efficacy**, **conceptual change programs**, **teacher credibility**, **response to intervention**, **cognitive task analysis** and particular types of **classroom discussion**. Many of the influences emphasize the importance of building trusting relationships between the student and teacher as well as between students. This new list adds in additional factors and are represented by the source of influence, the aspect, the factor and the effect size.

To see the sortable list and for additional information, please click on the following link: [Hattie's 2017 Updated List of Factors Influencing Student Achievement](#).

## **Teacher Leaders**

This year teacher leaders have been tasked to design quality lesson plans using the Instructional Planning Resource (IPR) template and share them with all district staff. The completed IPR's are available in SharePoint under teacher resources. These leaders also have the opportunity to publish their IPRs into Open Range Wyoming, a state-wide openly-licensed educational resources site sponsored by WDE. This site is dedicated to sharing state-wide openly-licensed educational resources. All resources can be downloaded and customized by any educator. Open Range Wyoming will be officially launched in 2019 and currently has many resources already available.

To access this site, please click here: [Open Range Wyoming](#)

The teacher leaders will also be hosting a Summer Academy to showcase their IPRs and help with customization and implementation of their lesson plans. Look for upcoming summer academy information to sign-up for this opportunity.

## **Young Authors**

County celebration @ Rock Springs Junior High School Auditorium ♦March 6, 2019 ♦6:30 pm ♦One 1st place award & two Honorable Mentions ♦Winners and pictures will be posted on the SCSD#1 Young Author webpage  
You can access the first-place student stories on the SCSD#1 Young Author webpage

## **Science Teachers Explore Different Ways to Assess Students**

In the February science professional development, teachers grade 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> explored different formative assessments available to use with their students. Teachers explored formative assessment samples and determined how these resources can be used with students in their classrooms. Resources practiced on include:

- **Page Keeley Probe** ([Thermometer](#))
- **Concord tasks** [Construct Red Dye Diffusion Model](#), [Popsicles Evaluate Model](#)

Teachers also explored summative assessment ideas and resources. The 6 –12 science teachers reviewed sample assessment stems and items to determine which standards and which dimension on the 3-D model they addressed. Ideas for question stems that address the three dimensions of science are available by clicking [NGSS Task Formats](#) and [Cross Cutting Concepts](#).



## Sweetwater County School District #1 Recommended for Accreditation

The new state accreditation system requires districts to upload evidence every year to verify the district is in compliance with state statute, rules and regulations. This is the first-year evidence is required. All Wyoming districts linked examples of evidence and sent the link to Wyoming Department of Education (WDE). The Wyoming Department of Education reviewed the district artifacts and evidence and recommended the district as **accredited** in the following areas:

- Assurances/attestation completed by district superintendent
- 80% or higher YES rating on evidence/artifacts submitted
- None to minor staff certification issues
- None to minor issues reported by WDE program managers through WDE internal verification
- Approved school improvement plans with few issues or no plans required
- Approved district assessment system

The report will be submitted to the State Board of Education (SBE) with an accreditation recommendation at the June or July 2019 SBE meeting. The district five-year external review for Sweetwater#1 will be during the 2020-2021 school year.

To see the requirements or for additional accreditation information please click [here](#).

To view Sweetwater#1 evidence, please click [here](#).

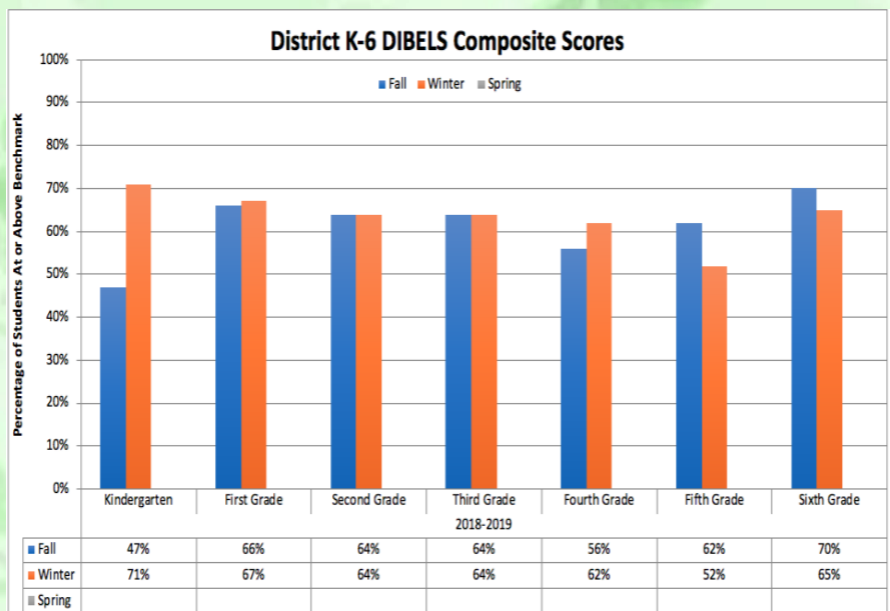
## Universal Screening

Universal Screening is a series of assessments that include DIBELS Next Reading materials. The assessments are given three times a year; Fall (September), Winter (January) and Spring (April-May). The assessments are given by trained professionals that include retired teachers (Testing Assistants ).

Universal screening refers to testing all students within a school or grade three times per year for the purpose of screening the students to identify those who may be at risk. Universal screening is always conducted using grade-level benchmark assessment materials. The measures administered for universal screening vary by grade and time of year, and include those measures that are most relevant for making instructional decisions at that time. In addition, Universal Screening is mandatory in alignment with the District's Early Literacy Plan that is submitted to the State. More information on the District's Early Literacy Plan can be found [here](#).

The data from Universal Screening is used to calculate Annual Yearly Progress, student placement into interventions, school monitoring, progress monitoring, and flex groups.

Winter Universal Screening showed an increase at Kindergarten, Fourth Grade and a slight increase at First Grade. Second Grade maintained their growth. Spring Universal Screening will occur between April 23-May 10.



NOTE: ONLY TESTED 6th GRADE RED AND YELLOW STUDENTS IN THE SPRING 2018. SEE NUMBERS:  
DISTRICT: 450-160, DESERT 2-1, EASTSIDE 217-86, FARSON 15-7,  
PILOT BUTTE 224-66



## **Title I Professional Development:**



Our Title I Teachers met on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. During our Professional Development meeting, we had the following objectives:

1. Provide resources to engage students in learning.
2. Review processes for the second semester for Title I:  
Program Reviews, Parent Advisory Committee Meetings, Summer Planning
3. Strengthen collaboration, communication, and support for the Title I staff: A focus on PLC's.

Here's an activity that can be adapted and used in any classroom:

As an icebreaker activity, the Title I teachers played the Dice Game. What you need: One dice and sentence stems.

Here are the directions:

Find a partner. Choose who will go first. Roll the dice and use the sentence starters to share out. Take turns rolling the dice and sharing aloud.

Here were the sentence stems that we used:

- 1-This weekend I...
- 2-My favorite thing to do in the Winter is...
- 3-If I won the lottery, I would...
- 4-If I could change one thing in this world, it would be...
- 5-My goal for my students for the second semester is...
- 6-When it gets nicer outside, I am most excited to...

\*Think about how you could use this activity in any classroom.

During the morning, our Title I team focused on learning about the Math Intervention Handbook. Thank you, Tammy Macy for joining to present the Math Intervention Handbook! The team explored this great resource and planned using the Math Intervention Handbook.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) were our focus in the afternoon. Across the District, we are focused on PLC's, this includes our Title I team.

### **Supporting all students:**

Thank you to all of our Teachers, Principals, and Schools, for supporting our students during ACCESS Testing! ACCESS Testing finished on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Results from the ACCESS Testing will be available in May.

### **Supporting ALL students during WYTOPP Testing:**

With our statewide testing around the corner it is good to review the individual needs of your students and the accommodations that are allowed during the assessment. Take the time to read the allowable accommodations in the Test Coordinator Manual. Students who have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) may have specific accommodations for testing.

### **Exemption Requests:**

English Learners and have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than one year may be exempt from the Reading portion of the WYTOPP Assessment. In order to qualify for exemption; the student must participate in the ACCESS for ELL's assessment. School Principals complete the exemption requests and provide official enrollment documentation to support the student's EL status.

### **Teacher Resources for English Learners:**

The WIDA website (<https://www.wida.us/>) 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.

## Changes in the WY-ALT

The Wyoming Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (WY-ALT) is moving for the first time to an on-line platform and will be administered for the first time this spring. There is no need for a second scorer! The WY-ALT is aligned to the Wyoming Content and Performance Extended Standards (WYCPEs) and designed to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in an appropriately rigorous assessment. The students in grades 3-10 will be tested March 11 through April 24 using the WYSecureBrowser. All students will be tested in English Language Arts (50 questions) and Math (50 questions) and students in grades 4, 8 and 10 will be tested in Science (50 questions). This assessment is given on the same locked down browser used for WY-TOPP testing. One of the major benefits is the student will have a human voice recording, not a computer text-to-speech generated voice. The test can be paused and restarted multiple times to accommodate the needs of our students. Since this is the first time for this assessment, Wyoming teachers will meet in July to set standards. WY-ALT results will be available the end of August.

# March 2019



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2 Kagan Win Win Board Room 8:00am – 4:00pm
4 Science Training 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Board Room 8:00am – 4:00pm	5 Science Training 6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Board Room 8:00am – 4:00pm	6 Science 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade SAC PDC Room 8:00am – 4:00pm  Write Tools Training Board Room 4:00pm – 7:00pm	7 Science 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade SAC PDC Room 8:00am – 4:00pm	8 PD Day  Anthony Muhammad	9
11 Board Meeting 6:00pm	12 Health & PE Board Room 8:00am – 11:30am  District Dept Chairs Board Room 4:00pm - 6:00pm	13 CCC Meeting Board Room 8:00am – 11:30am	14 Fine & Performing Arts SAC Board Room 8:00am-4:00pm	15 Fine & Performing Arts SAC Board Room 8:00am – 4:00pm	16
18	19 Math SAC Board Room 8:00am – 4:00pm	20	21	22	23
25 Spring Break	26 Spring Break	27 Spring Break	28 Spring Break	29 Spring Break	30 Spring Break