

Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Newsletter

August 2014

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PAWS Data Release

In 2012, Wyoming adopted new and more rigorous content standards in English language arts and math. These standards are commonly known as the Common Core State Standards. Since the adoption, PAWS has been transitioning to address the new more rigorous content standards.

One of the first steps is to engage in a standard setting process. Last month, WDE convened teachers from around the state to review PAWS questions and compare them to the ELA and Math CCSS. The teachers will recommend the new PAWS cut-scores i.e. performance levels (advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic) to the staff at WDE and the State Superintendent has the authority to finalize the cut scores. PAWS science cut scores will remain the same since the science standards have not changed.

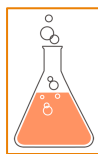
PAWS scores will not be available until September. The Individual Student Reports (ISR) will be available the first week of September and the school/district reports will be available mid to late September. School accountability reports (AYP and SPR) will be available in October after the Professional Judgment panel re-evaluates the impact of the new cut scores. For more information click the testing icon.



Science Standards

The Wyoming State Board of Education directs WDE to halt science standards review until directed to do so by the board. Currently all local districts must continue to align their standards and curriculum to the 2008 Wyoming Science Content and Performance Standards.

For more information click the Erlenmeyer flask.



New Director of Special Services

Please welcome Mrs. Ludean Henderson as the new Director of Special Services. We are excited to have her join the Sweetwater County School District #1 team!

WDE Seeks Public Comment on Chapter 10 Rule Promulgation

WDE is seeking public comment on changes and additions to the Wyoming State Content Standards. The documents and standards are located at

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/standards/chapter-10-rules>. Comments can be submitted online or comments can be made at the public meeting in Rock Springs on Wednesday, September 10, from 6 – 8 pm in the CAB Board Room. For more information click the WDE icon.



Summer Academies Celebration

This summer each of the 14 schools in Sweetwater County School District #1 held two or more summer academies. Over 350 employees participated in these academies on subjects covering student engagement, data analysis, AdvancED preparation, project based learning and much more. More than \$300,000 in district and grant funding was spent to support summer academies. Let's hear it for the dedicated employees of SCSD#1!

As an innovative district, united with our community,

we empower and inspire all students to academic excellence in pursuit of their interests and passions.



AdvancED School Improvement

The external AdvancED visit is scheduled for October 27 – October 30, 2014. During this week a team of educational professionals from around the United States and Wyoming will be visiting all schools in Sweetwater County School District #1. During this time the team will be evaluating SCSD#1 progress on our school improvement plans, meeting with district level leadership, reviewing artifacts, interviewing stakeholders, visiting schools and classrooms. While visiting each school and random classrooms, the AdvancED team will be spending at least 20 minutes collecting quantifiable data about student learning with the AdvancED Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool (ELEOT). ELEOT is a learner-centric, informative tool that informs improvement efforts by collected data about student learning. For more information about ELEOT, go to <http://www.advanc-ed.org/services/eleot>

On the last day of the visit, the AdvancED team will recognize the district's strengths and set opportunities for improvement to the SCSD#1 leadership team and school board.

A crucial step in the continuous improvement cycle was developing and adopting a vision statement. Last year all stakeholders in SCSD#1 were involved in developing a vision statement for SCSD#1. More than 280 stakeholders attended and provided feedback at the vetting sessions. All schools were represented at the vetting sessions. The final vision and mission statements are:

- **Vision Statement:** As an innovative district, united with our community, we empower and inspire all students to academic excellence in pursuit of their interests and passions.
- **Mission Statement:** To provide a quality education for all students. We will accomplish this by:
 - Making students our first priority.
 - Utilizing community partnerships.
 - Promoting professional excellence.
 - Being a board committed to excellence in education.
 - Providing a safe, orderly and efficient environment.

The vision and mission statements will drive future decisions and steer the continuous improvement efforts in SCSD#1.

To complete final preparations for the visit, dedicated AdvancED professional development time will be available for all schools on August 27 and September 19. During these allotted AdvancED times and depending on where your school is at in the process, tasks might include working on goal setting, revising executive summaries, or completing self-assessments and assurances. For more information on the AdvancED School Improvement process, go to <http://www.advanc-ed.org/>

Common Core State Standard- Myth vs. Fact

Myth: No teachers were involved in writing the *Standards*.

Fact: The common core state standards drafting process relied on teachers and standards experts from across the country. In addition, there were many state experts that came together to create the most thoughtful and transparent process of standard setting. This was only made possible by many states working together.

<http://www.corestandards.org/resources/myths-vs-facts>



Professional Development Goals:

- Increase student achievement in reading and math
- Sustaining Common Core ELA and introducing Common Core Math

**2014-15 District Department Chairs**

Language Arts Co-Chairs-Karen Zahn-Anderson (Elementary), Janelle Parton (Secondary)

Math Co-Chairs-Hope Downs (Elementary), Bernie Keslar (Secondary)

Social Studies Co-Chairs-Michael Thomas (Elementary), Jennifer Wilmetti (Secondary)

Science Co-Chairs-Lorna Bath (Elementary), Andy Hall (Secondary)

Health/P.E. Chair-Darcy Bath

Career and Technical Education Chair-Jana Erickson

Foreign Language Chair-Mary Schuck

Fine Arts Co-Chairs-Jessica Jidas (Art), TBD (Music)

Library Chair-Sandra Garber

Guidance Co-Chairs-Koral Shook (Elementary), Daryl Michael (Secondary)

District Assessment Dates

DIBELS Testing—September 4th through September 30th

MAP Testing—September 8th through September 30th

Professor Zirkel's Section 504 Student Issues Training

August 13, 2014 8:00 am – 4:00 pm CAB (Board Room)

Participants include: Superintendent Neal, Principals, School Nurses, AMP Chairs, Social Workers, Counselors, Case Managers, and SpEd Department Chairs

Department of Special Services Professional Development

Role	8/27/14	8/28/14	9/19/14	10/17/14	12/12/14	2/6/15	4/13/15
Special Programs	FAPE/LRE (12-4)	IDEA Discipline	Writing Training	LRE Continuum	Behavior/Autism	Writing Training	ESY, Accommodations & Modifications
Social Work	FAPE/LRE (12-4)	IDEA Discipline	Cyber Safety	Behavior/Autism	Behavior/Autism	Ethics	ESY, Accommodations & Modifications
Secondary Resource	FAPE/LRE (12-4)	IDEA Discipline	Assistive Technology	Para Educator Training	Behavior/Autism	Para Ed Training	ESY, Accommodations & Modifications
Case Managers	FAPE/LRE (12-4)	IDEA Discipline	Transitions & CM Handbook	CM Handbook	Behavior/Autism	CM Handbook	ESY, Accommodations & Modifications
SLP	FAPE/LRE (12-4)	IDEA Discipline	Transitions	Department Planning	Behavior/Autism	RTI/MTSS	ESY, Accommodations & Modifications
Psych's	FAPE/LRE (12-4)	IDEA Discipline	Functional Behavior	Assessment Model	Assessment Model	Assessment Model	Assessment Model
OT/PT/APE	FAPE/LRE (12-4)	IDEA Discipline	Assistive Tech	Department Planning	Behavior/Autism	Department Planning	ESY, Accommodations & Modifications

2014-15 Special Services Department Chairs

Resource Secondary Chair-Tonya Torpey

Resource Elementary Chair-Adriane Bohlender

Special Programs Chair-Kayci Arnoldi

Case Manager Chair-Tracey Decora-Burton

Psychologist Chair-Michael Cummings

Speech Language Pathologist Chair-Lisa Nelson

OT/PT/APE Chair-Anjie Garner

Assistive Technology Chair-Michele Smith

Social Working Chair-Spring Jones

August 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11 Superintendent's Meeting 8:30-12 (Administrators & Directors) & Directors)	12 Secretaries Meeting 8-12 Technology & Policy Meeting 1-5 (New Administrators	13 504 Basic Training 8-4	14	15 School Law & District Policies 9-1 (Administrators & Directors)
18 Report Card Summer Academy New Teacher Week Leadership Training 8-4	19 Report Card Summer Academy New Teacher Week Leadership Training 8-12	20 Report Card Summer Academy District Department Chairs New Teacher Week Evaluation System Training 8-12 (Administrators & Directors)	21 Data Para Summer Academy New Teacher Week	22 Data Para Summer Academy CCSS Math (SDE) Administrators & Coaches New Teacher Week
25 Opening Celebration 8-11:30 Building Time	26 Building Time	27 Advanced (8-11:30)	28 CCSS Math (SDE) 8-4 District Department Training 8-4	29 Universal Screening Training 8-4 Building Time

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

September 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3 Direct Reading Instruction Training Foundations Level K Training	4 Direct Reading Instruction Training Foundations Level 1 Training	5 Direct Reading Instruction Training Foundations Level 2 Training
8 Just Words Training	9 Just Words Training Read Naturally Training	10 Foundations Level 3 Training	11	12
15	16	17	18 CCSS Math (SDE) Expert Team	19 CCSS Math (SDE) 8-11:30 Advanced 12:30-4
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

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