WDE

Assessment Roadmap

Statewide Assessments



Progress in ELA, Math, & Science is measured for all students in grades 3-10 to get a "health check" of the instructional system.

- Window: April - May.
- Provides data for State & Federal School Accountability calculations.



Students with the Most Significant Cognitive Disabilities are allowed to take a test designed to measure the WY Extended Standards.

- Window: March - April.
- Provides data for State & Federal School Accountability calculations.



Progress in developing the English Language for students identified as Active English Learners is measured annually.

- Window: February - March
- Provides data for State & Federal School Accountability calculations. Federally mandated to ensure support of English Learner students.



All grade 11 students are tested for college readiness.

- 3 windows in March - April
- Meets W.S. 21-2-202 requirements. Provides data for State & Federal School Accountability calculations and Hathaway scholarship awards.



Students in grades 11 or 12 are offered the opportunity to measure their career readiness skills and earn a national certification.

- Fall Window: October - November
- Spring Window: April - May
- Meets W.S. 21-2-202 requirements. Provides data for State & Federal School Accountability calculations for Alternative high schools.

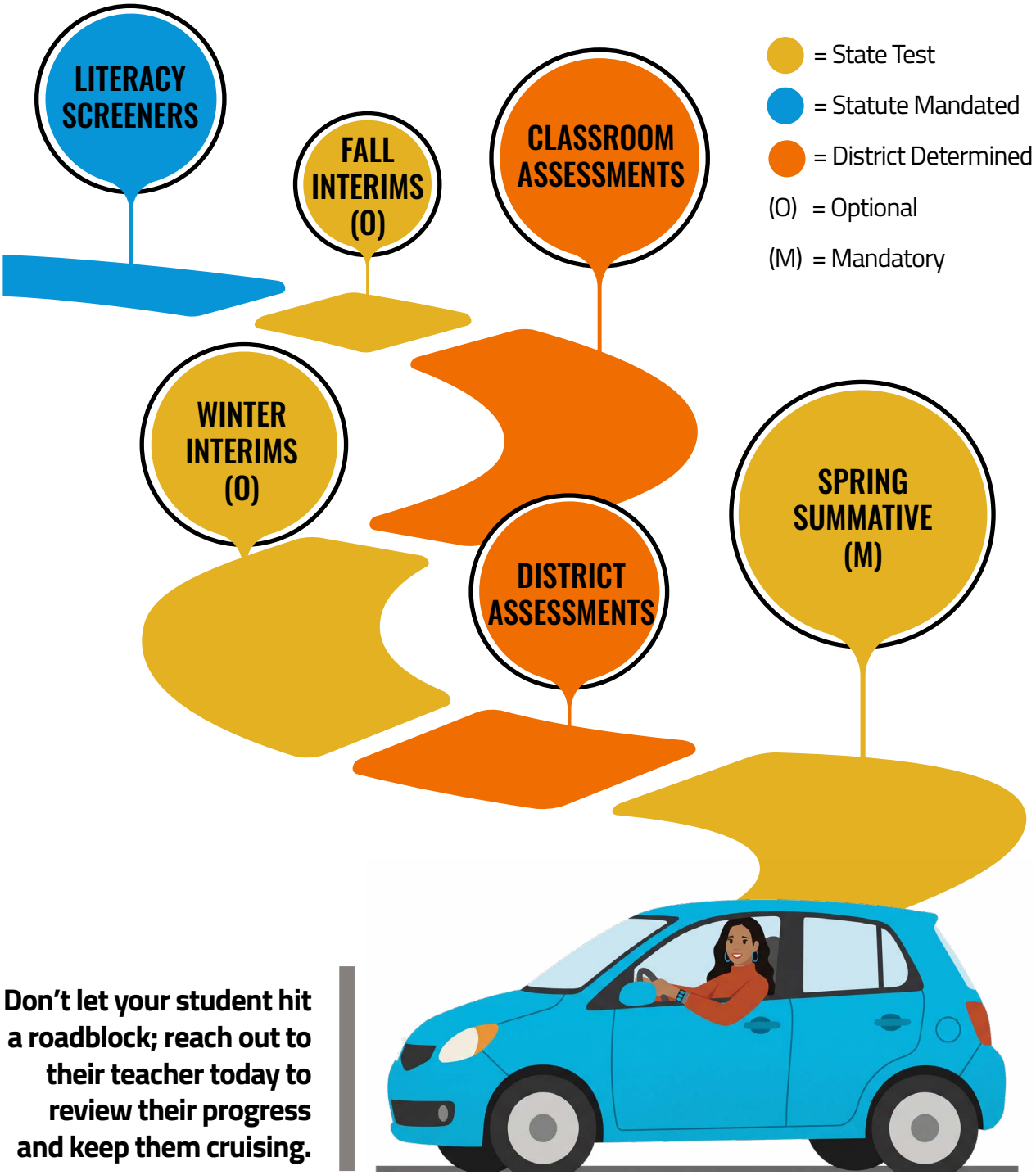


National assessment that WDE helps organize. Nationally selected students in grades 4 & 8 take either a Math or ELA assessment. No scores reported at student, school, or district level. State results only.

- Window: Early spring in even years.
- Federally required assessment to provide nationwide data.

Steering Success Together

Learning is a journey, and assessment is our roadmap! District, school, and classroom checks, combined with student scores, track every milestone on the route so your student never loses their drive.



Don't let your student hit a roadblock; reach out to their teacher today to review their progress and keep them cruising.

How a Test Question Gets Made!

When it comes to statewide tests like WY-TOPP and WY-ALT, we do things the Wyoming way. The state sets the learning goals, but real local teachers, the ones who know our kids and our unique way of life best, are in the driver's seat every step of the way. Working alongside top testing experts, Wyoming educators write, review, and approve every single question. It's all designed to make sure our tests are fair, accurate, and truly reflect what's happening in our classrooms.

Here is a look at the route every question travels to make it to the test:

1. Testing experts draft new questions built specifically around Wyoming's state learning standards.
2. WDE specialists review every single item to make sure it fits how we actually teach in Wyoming.
3. The testing vendor takes our state feedback and tunes up the questions.
4. A committee of WY teachers scrutinizes each question for standard alignment, fairness, and zero bias.
5. WDE reviews the teachers' notes and sends final revision demands back to the vendor.
6. The vendor updates the questions to match our teachers' exact specifications.
7. New questions are snuck onto the state test as unscored "field test" items.
8. WY educators review responses to make sure the questions and grading rubrics are scoring accurately.
9. The vendor scores the test-run questions and analyzes how students performed overall.
10. WY teachers red-flag any confusing or misleading questions.
11. WDE collects the committee's final thoughts and notifies the vendor.
12. Questions that fail any step along the way are tossed out!

The Pit-Stop

How can I help my student prepare for testing day?

- Remind your child to try their best.
- Help your child practice a few simple habits: reading or listening to directions carefully, slowing down, and double-checking their work before wrapping up.
- Explain the purpose of the tests. The assessments give students an opportunity to show what they have learned in school.
- Be certain your student gets plenty of sleep and has a healthy breakfast and lunch.
- Make a plan for your students' electronic devices, as they are prohibited during testing.
- If your child has a medically necessary device, the school will need to make accommodations for this.
- Arriving at school on time helps your child start test day calm, focused, and ready to do their best.
- Remember to ask your student about the testing and offer encouraging words.
- Reach out to your students' school with any questions or concerns.

What do the scores mean?

- Your students' scores on the assessments shine a light on the overall health of the school and district.
- Achievement levels describe a student's success with the content using a scale set by Wyoming educators. The scales on which students receive scores differ by grade and subject.

Is the test fair for all Wyoming leaners?

- If a student uses a tool, support or accommodation in the classroom, districts and schools work with WDE to make sure students can have similar access on state assessments.
- Accommodations, such as extended time or testing in a separate setting, are provided to students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), English Learner Plans (IELPs), or Section 504 plans.
- Alternate Assessments (WY-ALT): For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, we provide specialized tests to ensure we maintain high expectations for every learner.

Why Do These Tests Matter?

- A "Check-In" on Progress: Summative tests (given near the end of the school year) measure how well the student has progressed on the standards for their grade level.
- While these tests do not affect a student's final grades or whether they will be held back in a grade, they help schools and districts make curriculum decisions.
- Results help the state evaluate school performance and identify which schools need more support or resources.

DESTINATION: SUCCESS

Scan to access practice tests.