



# Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Newsletter



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

- Increase student and family awareness of educational and career opportunities in Sweetwater County and beyond.
- Instill and reinforce employability skills and a drive for learning.
- Recognize and celebrate student, family, community and employee contributions.



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

- Promote positive behaviors and relationships among students, staff, families and the community.
- Ensure schools are safe and secure.
- Proactively support physical, mental and emotional health.

CIA Newsletter

Sweetwater County School District #1

March 2020

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SCSD #1 Mission: To provide a quality education for all students.

SCSD #1 Vision: As an innovative district, united with our community, we empower and inspire all students to academic excellence in pursuit of their interests and passions.

## Perkins V Local Needs Assessment

Members of community businesses, Western Wyoming Community College staff, district directors, Sweetwater#1 CTE teachers and students met on Thursday, February 20th to provide input to the local needs assessment for the newly authorized Perkins V grant. The purpose of the needs assessment is to drive the writing of the Perkins V grant and guide future spending decisions. Also, the process helps forge partnerships with local businesses, the community and the college.



The Perkins V grant represents an opportunity to expand opportunities for every student to explore, choose, and follow career and technical education programs of study and career pathways to earn credentials of value. The United States Congress is committed to improving career and technical education by providing nearly \$1.3 billion annually for career and technical education (CTE) programs for nation's youth and adults.

Students from Farson-Eden, Black Butte

and Rock Springs High School joined the group in the afternoon and discussed their experiences in CTE classes. The students who participated are all interested in pursuing careers in the career technical education area.

This first meeting focused on evaluation of student performance and program quality. Future meetings, in March and April, will evaluate CTE programs of study, recruitment, retention and training of CTE educators as well as improving equity and access to all students.

## Counseling Resource Adoption

The Counseling Resource Adoption Committee met on February 20 and 24, 2020 to review resources for adoption. This process involves a review of resources that are evidence-based, comprehensive, efficient and feasible. The Counseling Resource Adoption Committee has made recommendations for the district to adopt the following programs:

K-4 Quaver SEL

5-6 Second Step

7-12 Growing Leaders

6-12 Signs of Suicide



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## How to Build Proficiency Scales Professional Development

On March 30, Jan Hoegh will be training Social Studies teachers on proficiency scales. Proficiency scales is a rubric used by teachers and students to determine students level of progress towards meeting the benchmark or standard. The four level proficiency scales indicate that the level 4 is going above and beyond the benchmark or standard, level three is proficiency at a skill/standard. Level 2 is an understanding of vocabulary and simple process while level one demonstrates partial understanding of vocabulary/simpler process with help. Social Studies teachers will begin writing proficiency scales and common assessments on March 31st and complete writing them in June. The draft assessments will be piloted and validated during the 2020-2021 school year. The assessments will be shared with all staff who teacher Social Studies at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. For additional information on the role of proficiency scales and how they work with the CLI model can be found by [clicking here](#).

*Save the Date!*



*Young Authors Awards  
Ceremony  
Tuesday,  
March 10, 2020  
6:30 pm.  
Rock Springs Junior High  
Auditorium*

## Young Author Competition



Young Authors were recognized on February 27, 2020 at the District celebration. Students that have placed First in the District competition are invited to the County Young Author Celebration on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at Rock Springs Junior High. Students who place first at the County level will go on to compete at the State level.

The winning stories can be read on the [District Young Author webpage](#).

## goIT Update



Check out the publicity for the Rock Springs Junior High Computer Science Implementation goIT.

[Sweetwater County Students help solve Wyoming Problems](#)

[Junior High Students create apps to benefit community](#)

[Junior High Students Design Apps for goIT Event](#)

## WY-TOPP News

- **Science:** The science practice WY-TOPP test is available at <https://woassessment.org/training-tests.shtml>. Click on take the training test then the big green Sign In button. Choose a grade level (4th, 8th or 10th) and click on Start the Science Sample Test. Legacy released items for grades 4th and 8th are available by scrolling to the bottom of [this page](#).
- **Exemptions:** All students are expected to participate in the Wyoming Assessment System. Please inform parents, guardians, and students of the testing WY-TOPP Testing Window (April 14 to May 5) . The Sweetwater #1 assessment calendar is on the website and can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Exemptions from participation in the WY-TOPP can be applied for and must meet the following criteria:
  - The student is expelled for the entire testing window.

- The student is an English Learner who has been enrolled in a U.S. school for less than one year. In this case, the student may be exempted from the ELA portion of the WY-TOPP only; however, the ACCESS test must be taken.
- The student is placed in an out-of-state facility for the entire testing window.

Please send possible candidates for exemptions and proof (a screenshot from our SIS PowerSchool) to [varrasd@sw1.k12.wy.us](mailto:varrasd@sw1.k12.wy.us) before April 24.

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## ACT

The ACT test will be given to all 11th grade students in the district April 7th-8th and 9th. The district will be giving the newsletter in the on-line format. IT has been working to load testing materials and lock-down browsers on student computers. Principals are working to reconcile student rosters, entering accommodations and creating test sessions. Contact your building principal if you have questions about the ACT testing schedule. Resources and test prep for teachers and students can be found at [academy.act.org](http://academy.act.org).

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## Winter Universal Screening Data

Universal Screening is a series of assessments that include Acadience 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, First Grade and a slight increase at Second and Third Grade. The data can be seen [here](#). Spring Universal Screening will occur between April 20-May 5.

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## Survey Input Provides Valuable Information


As part of our budgeting for professional development and planning for Accreditation, the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department gives annual surveys in February and March to certified staff, parents and administrators. The surveys include: the Certified Needs Assessment for both administrators and staff, Parent Needs Assessment and an Efficacy survey for both administrators and staff. The questions on the Certified Needs Assessment align to the Consolidated Grant and provide valuable information for planning and professional



development. This also meets the requirement to survey certified staff in alignment with the use of federal funds.

Once the surveys have been given, the results are shared with directors, building administrators, District Department Chairs, and the Community Curriculum Council to assist in professional development and school improvement planning. For more information about the surveys, contact a building administrator or CIA district staff.

Draft		2019-2020 SCSD#1 Assessment Calendar										Draft	
Assessment	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June		
<b>Universal Screening (Required by District)</b> K-3	Begin: August 26					Begin: Jan. 6			Begin: April 22	End: May 1			
<b>District Common Assessments (Required by District)</b>	Begin: August 19									End: May 24			
<b>ACCESS 2.0 (Required by WDE)</b> The ACCESS is a English Language proficiency test administered annually. Grades: K-12						Begin: Jan. 24	End: Feb. 25						
<b>WIDA (Required by WDE)</b> The ACCESS is a English Language proficiency test administered annually to students who do not have an ACCESS score. Grades: K-12	Begin: August 19									End: May 24			
<b>ACT (Required by WDE)</b> The ACT is a standards-based exam that assesses students in Grade 11 for academic readiness for college. The College and Career Readiness System measures a student's skills in English Language Arts, Math, Reading, Writing, and Science.									Begin: April 7 End: April 9				
<b>WYTOPP Modular (Optional)</b> On demand formative assessments aligned to Wyoming State Standards (ELA, Math and Writing) for grades 1-11		Begin: Sept. 10									End: June 12		
<b>WYTOPP Interim Fall (Optional)</b> ELA: Grades 1-10 Math: Grades 1-10 Writing: Grades 3, 5, 6 & 9		Begin: Sept. 10	End: October 4										
<b>WYTOPP Interim Winter (Optional)</b> ELA: Grades 3-10 Math: Grades 3-10 Writing: Grades 3, 5, 6 & 9						Begin: Jan. 14	End: Feb. 7						
<b>WYTOPP Interim Spring (Required by WDE)</b> Reading: K-2 Math: K-2									Begin: April 14	End: May 8			
<b>WYTOPP Summative (Required by WDE)</b> ELA: Grades 3 - 10 Math: Grades 3 - 10 Science: Grades 4, 8 and 10 Writing: Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9									Begin: April 14	End: May 8			
<b>WYALT (Required by WDE)</b> Wyoming Alternate Assessment for students with significant cognitive disabilities. ELA: Grades 3 - 10 Math: Grades 3 - 10 Science: Grades 4, 8 10							Begin: March 3	End: April 22					
<b>WorkKeys (Optional)</b> Grades: 11-12									TBD	TBD			

CIA Calendar						
 <b>Color Coding Key:</b> Red=Staff Information Green=Testing Information Purple=Breaks/Holidays Blue=CIA Orange=District						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Title I Training	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Snow Make UP ½ Day PD End of Quarter	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 4th-5th grade Science Training	<b>10</b> 6th-12th grade Science Training	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Evening PT Conferences	<b>13</b> Morning PT Conferences	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Spring Break	<b>17</b> Spring Break	<b>18</b> Spring Break	<b>19</b> Spring Break	<b>20</b> Spring Break	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ACT Testing STAR/Links Training (Sped)	<b>25</b> ACT Testing STAR/Links Training (Sped)	<b>26</b> ACT Testing STAR/Links Training (Sped)	<b>27</b> STAR/Links Training (Sped)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> SS SAC (Jan Hoeh)	<b>31</b> SS SAC					