

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 16

Week ending Friday, May 20, 2011

The SBAC Weekly Update is an email sent each Friday to keep Consortium members and collaborators informed of new developments and upcoming events. The Update is widely distributed to Consortium State Leads, Work Group members, Consortium and WestEd staff, and Consortium advisors, partners, and service providers.

State members should feel free to share information in the Update with those interested in the Consortium's work.

Embedded links in the Update sometimes direct you to the website, <http://smarter.k12partners.org/>, designed for use by Consortium members. If you are a state employee in a Consortium state and need access to material on this website, please click the "Create new account" link on the website to register. If you are not a state employee in a Consortium state and need material from this site, please ask your state lead to forward it to you.

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From The Executive Director

Greetings. I want to take a few minutes this week to introduce you to activities taking place at WestEd and with Consortium leadership on detailing our project planning document. Most of us involved in assessment design (in addition to others involved in complex, multilayered projects) are very familiar with planning documents and displays, and with various software applications to assist with that work, most notably Microsoft Project.

Using the charters developed by each of the Consortium's ten work groups, the WestEd team and I have folded the production tasks for each work group into our draft project plan. We should have the first pass of that work done before the Memorial Day break, and we will be giving it close scrutiny in early June. I think we're looking at a project plan with well over a thousand rows. (Keep in mind that, as we issue RFPs for service providers to complete sections of the plan, each section of, say, fifty to a hundred rows will probably expand into its own plan of over a thousand rows . . . lots of I's to dot and T's to cross.)

Once we get a pretty clean draft, we'll be sending it back to our work groups for review to see if we've missed anything or misplaced any sequences. Then, we will host a conversation with the service provider community to share the overall project plan, to seek reaction and

input and to respond to questions. We know there are lots of questions about our plans, and we can certainly understand folks' wondering what is going on. We also appreciate that there's a lot of expertise among the service providers, particularly with regard to how to plan for and implement an assessment project as large as this. We look forward to the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with our partners in the private sector.

Those who are interested should look for a notification from the Consortium. Those who were notified about the earlier event for testing and technology companies that was sponsored by CCSSO will certainly be notified, as will assessment companies that have previously contacted the Consortium with interest in working on the project. JW

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Announcements

Work Group replacement nominations due—A reminder that nomination forms for replacement members to join Consortium work groups are due on Monday, May 23. See previous email for details and forms.

Communications Director position posted—The position of Communications Director for the Consortium is now open and posted at <http://k12.wa.us/employment/default.aspx>. This is a full-time, salaried position with funding secured through September 2014. The Communications Director will provide strategic leadership to the Consortium's Executive Director and Executive Committee on all matters of external and internal communications, and will work closely with the soon-to-be-announced communications services provider and with WestEd, the Project Management Partner. Qualified applicants are encouraged to submit their applications online.

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Upcoming Events

U.S. Department of Education support meeting—The second public meeting sponsored by USED and designed to support SMARTER Balanced and PARCC is scheduled for June 10, 2011. The meeting will focus on artificial intelligence scoring.

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Resources

No new resources added this week.

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Archive

Previous SBAC Weekly Updates are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/sbac-weekly-update-archive>.

Minutes from previously held meetings are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/agendas-and-minutes>.

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