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Subject: SBAC Update Issue 2 2011-02-11

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium
SBAC Weekly Update
Issue 2
Week ending Friday, February 11, 2011

This is a weekly email update for the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. It is distributed to the Consortium's State leads, Work Group chairs, and to Consortium and WestEd staff.

State leads: Please feel free to share contents of this update with your colleagues, such as members of your SBAC team, with state leadership, such as your chief, public information official, director of assessment, and directors of curriculum and instruction, and with staff in the offices of your governor, your state board of education, and your legislature.

Work group co-chairs: Please be sure to share this update with the members of your work group.

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From the Executive Director

A significant meeting took place Tuesday, February 2, at the NCTM headquarters in Reston, VA. The meeting was convened and generously hosted by Mike Shaughnessy, NCTM president. The early February meeting was to further a conversation that had occurred in December among individuals representing the communities of mathematics professionals and folks from the CCSS and assessment consortia. At the December meeting, and continued in February, the proposal was to establish a collaboration or cooperation among the various groups both to foster accurate and up-to-date information sharing, and to communicate to our various education stakeholders, hopefully resulting in a coherent effort to move

implementation and assessment of the CCSS forward in an organized and inclusive fashion.

Present at the February meeting were Mike Shaughnessy, Pat Owens and Dave Barnes from NCTM, Brad Findell from ASSM (Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics), Diane Briars from NCSM (National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics), Marilyn Strutchens from AMTE (Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators), Carrie Phillips from CCSSO, Dave Wakelyn from NGA, Dave Sovde from PARCC, and myself. We agreed that:

- establishing a collaborative effort would be a worthwhile effort;
- we need to clearly communicate that this group of individuals and organizations does not view itself as any kind of governing or oversight committee;
- we will articulate ways each of us can contribute effort to the benefit of the other organizations, and ways we can each derive value from the collaboration across organizations;
- we should try to meet on a scheduled basis, both virtually and face-to-face; and
- we should seek independent funding to support the efforts of the group.

Each of us at the meeting now needs to go back to the organizations we represent to get authorization to move forward with this effort. I am confident the Consortium's leadership will endorse our continued engagement. I think it's wonderful that the mathematics groups have come together, and that they are working with CCSSO, NGA, and the assessment consortia to develop and coordinate the information about CCSS and the assessments.

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Announcements

Twenty-seven SBAC Member States (15 Governing and 12 Advisory) were represented at the ICCS meeting held in January in Washington, DC. A survey was conducted by the PMP to determine the effectiveness of the meeting for Consortium members. Seventy survey participants felt that the ICCS meeting was useful or somewhat useful in moving their state forward in implementing the Common Core States Standards. A large majority of survey respondents found that collaborating with their state delegations, and receiving information through the presentations and publications were the most helpful parts of the meeting. Nearly 80% of survey respondents plan to attend the next ICCS meeting. Several improvements to the meeting were suggested by SBAC State respondents. These will be shared with CCSSO/ICCS meeting planning staff. Full survey responses are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/events>.

SBAC Governing State Leads were asked to comment on a list of possible topics the US Department of Education is considering for their Technical Assistance meetings.

SEA flexibility during the transition to the CCSS (Topic K) was the topic ranked first by SBAC Governing State Leads. Two other topics shared the second-place ranking: Topic A – Infrastructure needed to support new assessment systems and Topic B – Development and delivery of technology platform. The full list of topics and their rankings by SBAC Governing State Leads are available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/events>.

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Upcoming Events

The Consortium’s Technical Advisory Committee meets on February 22–23 in Denver. SBAC State members may attend by webinar or send one representative to attend in person (at the state’s expense). The deadline for reservations to attend in person has passed. Webinar information will be distributed in the coming days and posted at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/technical-advisory-committee>.

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE TAC MEETING, THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED GOVERNING STATES MEETING FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 IS CANCELLED, HOWEVER A JUDY PARK WILL CHAIR A BRIEF 10-MINUTE MEETING WITH GOVERNING STATES TO ADDRESS A SINGLE TOPIC. INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

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Resources

The following documents are now available on the website:

<http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/events>

- SBAC ICCS Survey Results
- USED Technical Assistance Meetings Possible Topics by SBAC Rank

Minutes are available for previously held meetings:

<http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/agendas-and-minutes>

The Consortium’s Monthly Status report to USED is now available on the website:

<http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/communications>

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