# **SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium SBAC Weekly Update**

Issue 7

Week ending Friday, March 18, 2011

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

State Leads: Please feel free to share the 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

Greetings. This week I want to bring to everyone's attention very interesting work from a group called Arabella Advisors. Arabella provides assistance to foundations and is often called upon by donors for guidance in meeting their philanthropic goals. Last fall, with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Arabella initiated a project to commission thirteen white papers addressing common-core assessment issues. (Of course, the papers reflect only the views of the authors, and should not be taken as positions specifically endorsed by Arabella or the Gates Foundation.) The papers are <u>available for download</u> and I encourage you to take a look at this outstanding body of work.

Five of the thirteen papers were written by members of the Consortium's Technical Advisory Committee:

- \* Randy Bennett, "Automated Scoring of Constructed-Response Literacy and Mathematics Items"
- \* David Conley, "Designing Common Assessments to be Measures of College and Career Readiness: Challenges and Opportunities"
- \* Linda Darling-Hammond, "New-Generation Assessment of Common Core Standards: Moving Toward Implementation"
  - \* Joan Herman, "Testing the Tests: Accountability for Serving Intended Purposes"

\* Martha Thurlow, "Meeting the Needs of Special Education Students: Recommendations for the Race to the Top Consortia and States"

The remaining eight papers address a variety of topics pertinent to our work, with several having immediate relevance for Consortium projects and work group activities. I encourage everyone to follow the Arabella link given above, open each paper to quickly scan its Executive Summary, and download all the papers into a folder in your computer for reading or future reference. JW

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## **Announcements**

Updated governance document—The Governing States have approved an updated governance document, including a new organizational chart. You can find the new document at <a href="http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/document-library">http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/document-library</a>.

Eligible content report—The report, "SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Common Core State Standards Analysis: Eligible Content for the Summative Assessment," is now available at <a href="http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/document-library">http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/document-library</a>. SBAC leadership commissioned this report to inform and be used as a starting point for discussions about the consortium's summative assessment test design and the development of the test blueprint and item and test specifications. This report is intended to be used in conjunction with other documents the Consortium has or is developing that provide more conceptual, construct-centered, and evidence-based frameworks for its assessment design and development. Examples that help to illustrate how to navigate and use the information from this report are provided. Use this report to inform your work group's discussion, decisions, and next steps.

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## **Upcoming Events**

Governing States meeting—The next Governing States meeting happens March 22 at 10 AM Pacific.

All States meeting—The Consortium's 31 State Leads are invited to meet April 7, 2011, directly following the ICCS SCASS meeting to be held on April 5–6, 2011. Also, one additional state representative may attend. Please save the following dates:

- ICCS SCASS: Tuesday and Wednesday, April 5–6, 2011 (all day)
- SBAC All States meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2011 (half-day, beginning AM)

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## **Resources**

SBAC one-page summary—A one-page summary of the consortium, suitable for public distribution, is available at <a href="http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/about-sbac">http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/about-sbac</a>.

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# Archive

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

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

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