

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 8

Week ending Friday, March 25, 2011

This is a weekly email update for the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium. It is distributed to the Consortium's State Leads, to 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'd like to share a particular reminder for everyone about the upcoming All States meeting that we will be hosting on Thursday, April 7, from 8am to 12pm at the New Orleans Marriott. This meeting will be in conjunction with the Implementing Common Core Systems SCASS meeting that concludes on Wednesday, April 6. We decided to take advantage of so many Consortium members attending the ICCS SCASS and use it as an opportunity for an All States meeting. The agenda for this meeting was reviewed during the March 22 Governing States meeting, and is now available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/governing-states-agendas-and-minutes>.

Even though we have scheduled only half a day for the meeting (providing folks the chance to catch afternoon and evening flights), we intend to make good use of our time. We will spend part of our time with updates for everyone about our progress on several fronts. For the most part, Christyan and I will lead this discussion. The second part of the agenda will be an open discussion among states to take the pulse of our member states on how things are going, how we are meeting states' needs, and what we can do to be of better service. This second topic is part of a larger effort asking our states to evaluate how we are doing.

We intend to use the outcome of the discussion on the 7th to inform a mid-year evaluation survey, which we will be sending to states in the later part of April.

This weekly update email reaches a much larger group than those who will be able to attend the meeting in New Orleans. If you won't be able to attend the meeting, please

arrange to get a debriefing from anyone in your state who will be there. Also, before the meeting, I encourage you to connect with your state representative if there are particular topics or concerns you would like to have included in our discussion. JW

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Announcements

Work Group Co-Chairs meeting and webinar—The Project Management Partner (PMP) invites you to join a Work Group Co-Chairs meeting and webinar scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2011, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM PST. Invitees will include Co-Chairs and EC Liaisons for all 10 work groups, as well as the PMP Liaisons and staff members supporting those work groups. An agenda, meeting materials, and dial-in codes will be sent under separate cover prior to the meeting. In the interim, please save this date and time on your calendars.

This meeting is the first in a series of monthly two-hour co-chair meetings that the PMP will be scheduling on the last Friday of each month. Through this venue work group leaders will have the opportunity to communicate and coordinate efforts across work groups. This will ensure that all work groups have a clear understanding of overall Consortium priorities and timelines, and that efforts, timelines, and budgets are aligned across work groups.

U.S. Department of Education public meetings—USED has requested that SMARTER and PARCC come together in a series of public meetings to discuss topics related to common assessments aligned with the Common Core State Standards. The first meeting is scheduled for April 15 in Washington, DC. The proposed topic is capacity and infrastructure needs of states implementing the common assessments.

2011 communications priorities—During the March 22 Governing States meeting, Joe Willhoft reviewed the Consortium's communications priorities for 2011. A document outlining those priorities is now available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/governing-states-agendas-and-minutes>.

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Upcoming Events

All States meeting—The Consortium's 31 State Leads are invited to meet on April 7, 2011, directly following the ICCS SCASS meeting to be held on April 5–6, 2011. One additional state representative from each state 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

Work Group reporting schedule—The schedule of when Work Groups are presenting reports to the Governing States is now available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/document-library>.

Comprehensive Assessment Framework report—The report “Research Supported Guidance for the Development of a Comprehensive Assessment Framework Based on the Common Core State Standards” is now available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/document-library>. The recommendations in this report are intended to assist in developing frameworks that have sufficient specificity to effectively guide test design and assessment practices across member states.

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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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