

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 10

Week ending Friday, April 8, 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. Last week I referenced the NCAA Basketball Tournament, and the upcoming Final Four. Before I get to this week's topic, I should point out an interesting coincidence. There were four teams competing in the Final Four last week: the Univ. of Connecticut (representing SBAC as a governing state), Butler (from Indiana, a PARCC governing state), the Univ. of Kentucky (a state in both consortia), and Virginia Commonwealth Univ. (a state not in either consortium). As one would expect, the SMARTER Balanced state won . . . Congratulations to the UConn Huskies!

This week I'll provide a brief recap of the Consortium All States Meeting we hosted yesterday morning in New Orleans. We had more than 50 folks at the meeting, and 27 of our 30 states were represented. Co-Chairs Tony Alpert and Judy Park kicked off the meeting with introductions around the room, asking each state to say a few words about what the Consortium can do to better meet their state's needs. This was an engaging conversation, generating insights into several issues at the state level. Since almost all states were represented, I won't recap the discussion, but suggest those wanting more information contact the person(s) who attended from your state for a more detailed debrief of this part of the meeting. Great ideas were expressed all around, with common themes emerging across states.

The agenda then moved into more of a formal mode, with a presentation that PMP Project Director Stanley Rabinowitz and I provided on the Consortium's current status for its timeline and budget, its governance and project management, our communications strategies, and our connections with external groups and vendors.

We also provided hard copies of several different materials that can now be found on our internal website. These include: a [Communications Resources](#) sheet that displays thumbnails and web addresses for a number of items useful to state-level communications; a [Summary of Core Components](#) one-page handout that can be used as a general orientation to the Consortium; an April [Quarterly Report](#) that shows our progress along several dimensions; and a copy of the September [Assessment Frameworks Guidance](#) document that Consortium Work Groups should be using to help guide their work. Use the links provided in the Resources section, below, to access these useful materials.

We are accomplishing difficult work on complex and important topics. Thank you for your ongoing contributions, and for an enjoyable and productive meeting. JW

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Announcements

No new announcements this week.

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Upcoming Events

Work Group Co-Chairs meeting and webinar—The Project Management Partner (PMP) invites Work Group Co-Chairs and EC Liaisons representing all 10 work groups, as well as the PMP Liaisons and staff members supporting those work groups, to join a Work Group Co-Chairs meeting and webinar scheduled for Friday, April 29, 2011, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific. 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.

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Resources

Summary presentation—The summary PowerPoint presentation has been updated to reflect Oklahoma's exit from the Consortium. You can find the updated version at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/presentations>.

All States meeting items—Here are links to items distributed or discussed at the recent meeting:

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

Summary of Core Components: <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/about-sbac>

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

Assessment Frameworks Guidance: <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/document-library>

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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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