

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 12

Week ending Friday, April 22, 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. This week I'm reporting on a couple of meetings from Washington, DC—one sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the other sponsored by CCSSO.

On Friday, April 15, USED hosted a public meeting with the support of the Hewlett Foundation. Tony Alpert attended the meeting and provides the following notes: "The meeting focused on providing technical assistance to the two assessment consortia regarding how to best utilize technology to administer the next generation of assessments, and how best to address current logistical barriers that might prevent a successful implementation in 2014–15. The Consortium was well represented by John Jessie (UT) and Steve Garten (ME), co-chairs of our technology work group; Jeffrey Eng (WestEd), PMP liaison to the work group; Tony Alpert (OR), the executive committee liaison to the work group; and Jim Harrington (Hillsboro School District, OR), who provided a district Chief Information Officer's perspective. Present on the panel were representatives from PARCC, the 1% consortia, and experts from the Virginia Department of Education as well as experts in the industry, including Randy Bennett, who is a member of our TAC. The audience represented a broad spectrum of interests from the community at large. The meeting provided each consortium the opportunity to ask the Virginia Department of Education questions regarding lessons they've learned about online testing and also to learn from industry experts regarding key strategies we should consider as we move toward

implementation. In addition, the public was provided an opportunity to provide comments and to listen to the conversation. As such, the meeting provided a unique format to make across-consortia conversations more open and transparent and to help communicate that, although the issues we face are complex, the prospect of success is advanced through collaborative efforts of this kind."

On Friday, April 22, CCSSO convened a meeting, open to the testing vendor community, to discuss procurement and policy issues with representatives from both PARCC and SBAC. Mike Middleton and I attended on behalf of the Consortium. About 30 people were in attendance, representing about 20 testing and technology companies. Chris Minnich hosted and served as facilitator. Some, though not all, of the discussion points were interest in the technology readiness survey we are developing in collaboration with PARCC; questions to PARCC about some of the mechanics for their through-course assessments; questions to us about our use of adaptive testing; interest in both consortia's schedule of RFPs; the extent to which we might consider issuing other exploratory requests like RFIs and "Intents to Negotiate"; and whether or not the two consortia would consider using independent entities (such as CCSSO or the Association of Test Publishers) as a way to have continued discussions. Though only three hours long, the meeting addressed a broad array of topics. We extend thanks to CCSSO for hosting. —JW

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Announcements

Grant competition announcement—This year's Enhanced Assessment Grant (EAG) competition, with priority given to ELP assessments, has been announced. Information on the competition, including links to the Notice Inviting Applications and Notice of Final Priorities, is available at <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/eag/applicant.html>.

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Upcoming Events

Governing States meeting—The next Governing States meeting occurs on Tuesday, April 26, from 10am to 11am Pacific. Watch your email for agenda and materials.

Assessment symposium—The Board on Testing and Assessment (BOTA) is conducting a live symposium on developing assessments of 21st-century skills on May 4. The symposium takes place at BOTA offices in Washington, DC, from 1pm to 4pm. This gathering focuses on developing assessments of skills such as critical thinking, non-routine problem solving, communication, collaboration, self-regulation, and other skills identified as critical for functioning in college and in the modern workplace. The symposium is free and open to the public; however, seating is limited and advance registration is required. Additional information about the project can be found at [http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bota/Assessment of 21st Century Skills Homepage.html](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/bota/Assessment_of_21st_Century_Skills_Homepage.html). You can register online at <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/EventRegistration/public/Register.aspx?event=0B18C3AD>.

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Resources

The recording of the Consortium's April 22 webinar, "Development of a Comprehensive Assessment Framework," is now available on the WebEx service site. Please visit <https://wested.webex.com/wested/lr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=61374452&rKey=f118107d3d8633ba>.

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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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