

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 13

Week ending Friday, April 29, 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 want to be sure you know about a couple of recent events pertaining to our development efforts. First, on Friday, April 22, the Consortium hosted a webinar to walk through the components and considerations necessary to develop a comprehensive assessment framework for the SBAC system. This webinar provided the opportunity for work group members to (1) review the core components in the SBAC design; (2) consider the lead and support roles each work group should take for the development of each component; and (3) explore options for how we might approach the each component. The webinar was well attended and discussions were lively. The outcome of the discussions is a working document that preliminarily identifies which work groups will be involved in specific comprehensive assessment framework development activities.

Second, on Friday, April 29, the work group co-chairs held their inaugural meeting. Now that work groups are headlong into identifying their scope of work (goals and objectives), these monthly co-chairs meeting (to be held on the last Friday of each month) will be a valuable opportunity to discuss areas of collaboration and collectively work-through important work group issues that affect many work groups. Discussion topics during the inaugural meeting included further definition of the work group role in developing the comprehensive assessment framework and lessons learned as leaders of their work groups. JW

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Announcements

National Conference on Student Assessment—This conference, conducted by CCSSO, takes place in Orlando, FL, on June 19–22. The conference will feature a plenary session with senior representatives from both SBAC and PARCC. More information can be found at <http://www.ccsso.org/NCSA/Program.html>.

SETDA regional meetings—The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) will host four regional meetings for state-represented teams. The purpose of the meetings is to give team members a chance to learn together and to learn from their peers in other states. SETDA envisions each state team comprising the state educational technology director, assessment director, Title I director, and one additional representative. The meetings are scheduled for June 1–3 in Baltimore, August 10–12 in Chicago, October 5–7 in Phoenix or Salt Lake City, and January 23–26 in Orlando. SMARTER Balanced and PARCC will give presentations at these meetings. SETDA will fund travel and meeting participation for approved team members.

Website updates—In response to New Jersey's request to leave the Consortium, maps and membership lists on the external and members' websites have been updated.

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Upcoming Events

CAT webinar this Monday, May 2—Don't forget the upcoming webinar on computer adaptive testing (CAT) from 1–3 p.m. Pacific on May 2. See previous email for webinar access details. Dr. David Weiss, Professor of Psychology at the University of Minnesota, will be our guest speaker. Dr. Weiss is a leading expert in CAT. He has published widely on the topic of computers and testing, and maintains the website "[C.A.T. Central](#)."

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Resources

Recording of webinar on comprehensive assessment frameworks—A recording of the April 22 webinar on comprehensive assessment frameworks is now available at <https://wested.webex.com/wested/lst.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=61374452&rKey=f118107d3d8633ba>.

ICCS survey results—Results from the membership survey regarding the recent ICCS SCASS meeting are now available at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/events>.

Clarification of procurement language—To assist interested assessment service providers, SBAC has issued a clarification of language in the Consortium's proposal concerning interim and formative assessments, tools, and strategies. You can find the clarification at <http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/communications>.

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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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