

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 17

Week ending Friday, May 27, 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. Today we can announce the posting of a couple of Consortium employment opportunities and two newly-released RFPs.

The State of Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website has two job postings: one for a director of communications and one for a lead psychometrician. Both positions come from the US Department of Education grant, and are being managed through the personnel office at OSPI. Because of Washington's hosting of the Consortium's procurements and its website, the communications director position is designed to be located in Olympia, Washington. This position will manage the internal communications for the Consortium, and will be the point of contact with our communications service provider. Our contract with the communications service provider is making its way through the state contracting office, and we are on schedule to have a contract fully executed by June 3, 2011.

The psychometrician position could be for a person located in Washington, but that is not required. OSPI is able to arrange an inter-governmental arrangement with a public agency in another state, if necessary. The lead psychometrician will have a leadership role in the Consortium's technical test design and measurement endeavors. Both position postings can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/employment/default.aspx>.

OSPI has also posted two procurement opportunities—one for the project jointly-sponsored by PARCC and SBAC to identify technology capacity across our member states. This procurement is for the development and implementation of a tool to assess technology readiness. It also includes an analysis of the technology “gaps” at school, district, and state levels.

The second RFP is for the Consortium’s overall technology architecture. The purpose of this procurement is to identify a vendor that can provide a technology design solution(s) strategy regarding how the Consortium will design its various databases and the relationships and built-in redundancies among them. Both of the RFPs can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/RFP/default.aspx>. JW

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Announcements

Math Common Core Coalition membership—The Governing States have approved SMARTER Balanced becoming a member of the Math Common Core Coalition. The purpose of the Mathematics Common Core Coalition (MC3) is to promote consistent information about the Common Core State Standards and the assessment consortia, and to do so by means of shared communications.

Work Group replacement nominations results—Thank you to the 11 states that submitted a total of 27 nominations to fill 11 positions within the Consortium’s Work Groups. Selection of new Work Group members will be announced in early June, 2011.

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Upcoming Events

US Department of Education technical assistance meeting—USED will convene the second in a series of public meetings to provide technical assistance and support to SBAC and PARCC. An invitational panel of experts along with representatives from both consortia will discuss the use of automated scoring in the new assessment systems being developed by grantees. The meeting will be held in Chicago, IL, on June 10 at the Hilton Suites Chicago/Oak Brook from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CDT. To register, please go to <http://usdoedregistration.ed.gov/profile/web/index.cfm?PKWebId=0x6289dad>.

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, MD; August 10–12 in Chicago, IL; October 5–7 in Phoenix, AZ, or Salt Lake City, UT; and January 23–26 in Orlando, FL. SMARTER Balanced and PARCC will give presentations at these meetings. SETDA will fund travel and meeting participation for approved team members.

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Resources

Work Group Co-Chairs meeting—The recording of the May monthly meeting of the Work Group Co-Chairs is now available at

<https://wested.webex.com/wested/lr.php?AT=pb&SP=MC&rID=62207637&rKey=2934004988b23ec0>.

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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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