

## SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium

### SBAC Weekly Update

Issue 19

Week ending Friday, June 10, 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 update you regarding state memberships in the Consortium. Yesterday, the State of California issued a news release announcing it has joined SMARTER Balanced as a Governing State. We are very excited about California's announcement, and look forward to having the Golden State as one of our partners in decision-making and governance.

Although California's decision is certainly newsworthy, there is an associated underlying current that I'd like to highlight. The current distribution of states across the assessment consortia is shown in the table below.

<b>State Membership in RTTA Consortia as of June 7</b>			
	Governing States	Advisory States	Percentage of K-12 students nationwide
Distinctly SMARTER Balanced	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>35%</b>
In both consortia		<b>8</b>	<b>14%</b>
Distinctly PARCC	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>36%</b>

In neither consortium (5)			15%
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Several features are interesting here. First, both consortia are now working with states representing about half the nation’s students (35%+14% for SBAC; 36%+14% for PARCC). Second, 13 states have not engaged as a Governing State in one consortium or the other. Each of these states has adopted the Common Core State Standards, and if they stay committed, at some point they will need an assessment system aligned to those standards. A state’s decision to develop a new assessment outside of one of the two consortia would not only carry fiscal consequences, but would also need to happen sooner rather than later to allow time for the state to develop and field test its own items and tasks.

My read of the current status of states is that we should expect to experience this situation as a very dynamic one for the next few months, as more states come to closure on what they want to do about aligning their assessments with the Common Core. So, stay tuned as our colleagues across the country deliberate on these important matters in the weeks and months ahead. JW

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**Announcements**

No new announcements this week.

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**Upcoming Events**

Special Governing States meeting—The next Governing States meeting takes place on Tuesday, June 14, at 10 a.m. Pacific. Agenda and log-in information has been sent in a separate email. Work Group Co-Chairs and EC Liaisons will be attending, as well, for a scheduled walk-through of our draft Master Work Plan.

National Conference on Student Assessment (NCSA)—Look for several SMARTER Balanced presenters during the NCSA conference June 19–22 in Orlando, FL. A searchable list of presentations is available at <http://ccsso.confex.com/ccsso/2011/webprogram/start.html>.

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**Resources**

Website updates—to reflect California joining the Consortium, the following resources have been updated: list of state contacts (<http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/about-sbac>), summary presentation (<http://smarter.k12partners.org/content/presentations>), and map of member states (<http://smarter.k12partners.org/>).

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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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