

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Smarter Balanced Weekly Update

Issue 68

Week ending Friday, June 8, 2012

Top News This Week

- Reminder: Work group member nominations due Monday, June 11

The Smarter Balanced 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 who are interested in the Consortium's work.

Please note that embedded links in the Update sometimes direct readers to the Consortium's internal website, available only to Consortium members. If you are a state employee in a Consortium state and need access to material on this website, please contact sbac@wested.org.

From the Executive Director

Joe Willhoft is on vacation. The Executive Director message will return next week.

Announcements

Work group nominations—K-12 State leads: Smarter Balanced seeks to fill open positions on the following work groups:

- Accessibility and Accommodations: 2 member positions
- Item Development: 1 member position (seeking expertise in psychometrics)
- Performance Tasks: 1 member position (seeking expertise in mathematics performance tasks)
- Test Administration: 1 member position
- Technology Approach: 1 co-chair position and 1 member position

The work groups support and oversee the development of the Smarter Balanced assessment system. Work groups are a fundamental part of the program's development and implementation approach and leverage the expertise, leadership, and resources within the member states. True to the philosophy driving Smarter Balanced, state education agency (SEA) staff comprise the work groups; participation of all states is essential to the success of our Consortium. Please see the email sent from sbac@wested.org on May 30 for details. Forms are due no later than June 11.

New positions announced—Smarter Balanced is seeking two new staff members, a Chief Technology Officer and a Director of Professional Learning. The Chief Technology Officer (CTO) will ensure that the Smarter Balanced assessment system is supported by a robust technology infrastructure. The CTO will provide expertise in system architecture, application development and deployment, open source software management, interoperability standards, help desk management, technology procurement, and IT strategic planning. The Director of Professional Learning (DPL) will ensure that the Smarter Balanced assessment system is supported by a robust approach to professional learning and formative assessment practices. The DPL will provide expertise in instruction, curriculum development and lesson planning, differentiated instruction, competency-based learning/proficiency-based instruction, and formative assessment practices. The full position descriptions are posted at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/Jobs-Contracts.aspx>.

Upcoming Events

Integrating Career and Technical Education with the Common Core—America's Promise Alliance and the Association for Career and Technical Education are hosting a webinar highlighting lessons from Missouri's efforts to integrate career and technical education with the Common Core State Standards. The webinar will feature Michelle Conrad and Larae Watkins of the Missouri Center for Career and

Technical Education. The free webinar will be held on June 12 from 1:30–2:45 p.m. eastern. Information on how to register is available here <https://www.acteonline.org/ctepolicywatchblog.aspx?id=17829>.

TAC meeting—The next meeting of the Smarter Balanced Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will occur on July 25–26, 2012, in Denver. As in the past, our member states are welcome to participate in person or virtually via live webinar. Those states wishing to participate in person may send one representative and will be required to use its own funds for transportation, lodging, per diem, and other expenses. If your state is planning to participate in person, please email sbac@wested.org as soon as possible so we can confirm that the meeting space will accommodate all participants.

Resources

Recording of webinar on college placement testing available—Cynthia Liston of the North Carolina Community College System and Clive Belfield of the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Teachers College discussed CCRC’s recently released research on placement testing. This research provides very helpful information that can inform states’ deliberations about the use of tests and other measures in the intake and placement of students. A recording of the May 22 webinar presentation can now be viewed at: <https://sites.google.com/a/smarterbalanced.org/home/higher-education/higher-education-webinars>

External website—The Smarter Balanced external website can be found at www.smarterbalanced.org. The site showcases the innovative work of the Consortium and provides frequent updates on activities, milestones, and events. Visitors are able to explore an interactive timeline of activities by school year, download new fact sheets and resources, and sign up for a monthly e-newsletter.

Collaboration Site—Consortium members: The Consortium uses an internal collaboration site hosted by Google Docs to enable information sharing and collaboration among the member states. If you are a state employee in a Consortium state and need access to material on this website, please contact sbac@wested.org.

Relevant news items—State members: Weekly selections of news items relevant to the Consortium are available on the internal Smarter Balanced website at <https://sites.google.com/a/smarterbalanced.org/home/communications/news-archive>.

Prior versions of the Weekly Update—State members: Previous Smarter Balanced Weekly Updates are available on the internal Smarter Balanced website at <https://sites.google.com/a/smarterbalanced.org/home/communications/weekly-update-archive>.

Smarter Balanced meeting minutes—State members: Agendas and minutes from previously held meetings are available on the internal Smarter Balanced website at <https://sites.google.com/a/smarterbalanced.org/home/meetings>.

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Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

WestEd—Project Management Partner

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