

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Smarter Balanced Weekly Update

Issue 97

Week ending Friday, January 11, 2013

Top News This Week

- Reminder: ALD feedback due by January 15
- Pilot Test page launched on the Smarter Balanced website
- Technology Strategy Framework & System Requirements Specifications Updated

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. Access to this website is currently limited to Consortium state department of education officials and their delegates. For news and other important information related to Consortium activities, we encourage individuals to visit our public website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org> and sign up for the monthly newsletter by clicking on the Stay Connected link located at the top of the homepage.

From the Executive Director

Greetings. When I think of the successes of Smarter Balanced we have spoken about during the past year, and as I anticipate the work that lies ahead in 2013, I recognize that all of this would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of many partners and supporters from states and other organizations who, in many cases, have worked night and day under great pressure to develop the Smarter Balanced performance tasks and items for ELA and mathematics. These folks, in collaboration with our contractors, have played a central role in the creation and review of the content of our Pilot Tests that will begin February 20. I would also like to personally acknowledge that dedication and collaborative leadership provided by our content staff: Barb Kapinus, Ph.D., Director of English Language Arts; Shelbi Cole, Ph.D., Director of Mathematics; Magda Y. Chia, Ph.D., Director of Support for Under-Represented Students; and Marty McCall, Ph.D., Lead Psychometrician.

I hope we haven't left anyone off of the list below, but if we have, please accept my apologies for the oversight, and know that I will follow up with recognition for those we may have missed. To those who are listed below, I want to say to each of you that we appreciate the time and effort you have provided to Smarter Balanced, and that we salute the dedication you have shown to our work. JW

Performance Task and Item Writing

Jennifer Paul (Michigan)	LeeAnn Larsen (Maine)
Margaret Ho (Washington)	
Noelia Ramirez (California)	Kris Shaw (Kansas)
Audrey Lesondak (Wisconsin)	
Rachel Aazzerah (Oregon)	Denise Weiner (Delaware)
Holly Carter (Oregon)	
Brad Witzel (South Carolina)	Viji Somasundaram (Wisconsin)
Melissa Gholson (West Virginia)	
Gail McGregor (Montana)	Gail Pagano (Connecticut)
Scott Cook (Idaho)	Cristi Alberino (Connecticut)
Sheila Graybeal (South Carolina)	Nikki Elliott-Schuman (Washington)
Linda Darling-Hammond (Stanford)	

Ruth Chung Wei (Stanford)	Jessica Valdez (California)
Justin Wells (Stanford)	Linda Hooper (California)
Sue Pimental (SAP)	Andy Middlestead (Michigan)
Jennifer Dean (SAP)	Christine Avila (Idaho)
Bonnie Albertson (Delaware)	Tracy Gruber (Nevada)
Deidre Ducharme (Connecticut)	Jean Howard (Montana)
Joe DiGarbo (Connecticut)	Anton Jackson (Washington)
LeeAnn Larsen (Maine)	Jayne Liang (California)
	Lou Maynus (West Virginia)
	Michele Mailhot (Maine)
	Julie Wagner (Washington)
	Jennifer Judkins (Washington)

Announcements

Reminder: ALD feedback due by January 15—Please remember that feedback must be submitted by January 15. Comments received after the January 15 deadline may be taken into consideration for subsequent drafts. The ALD documents and feedback survey are available on the Smarter Balanced public website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-level-descriptors-and-college-readiness/>.

ALD webinar recording available—On December 17, Smarter Balanced presented an informational webinar about the draft initial achievement level descriptors (ALDs) which included information on submitting feedback. A recording of the webinar is posted here: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/resources-events/webinars/>.

Pilot Test page launched on the Smarter Balanced website—Smarter Balanced has launched a Pilot Test page on the Smarter Balanced website, a useful resource for anyone interested in information about the Pilot Test. It contains background information about how Pilot Test items were developed, the Pilot Test sample design, school participation information, and links to test administration resources and FAQs. The Pilot Test page is located here: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test/>.

Technology Strategy Framework & System Requirements Specifications Updated—The technology planning framework has been updated to clarify the minimum hardware and software requirements that will allow schools and districts to evaluate which of their existing devices will support the administration of next-generation assessments. The updated technology planning framework will be posted on Monday, January 14, 2013. The recommended minimum hard drive space for new purchases has been amended from “recommending an 80 GB hard drive” to “recommending an 80 GB hard drive or at least 1 GB of hard drive space available.” Additionally, the minimum requirements for users with Windows-based tablet devices running Windows 8 now excludes Windows Runtime (RT). The full Smarter Balanced Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications report can be accessed at

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/>.

The RFP for Field Test Item & Task Writing and Pilot & Field Test Scoring (RFP-16/17) has been released to vendors—The Consortium has released the RFP to procure a contractor to develop and score all items and tasks for the Field Test; complete all studies and documentation for peer review of the item development and scoring for the Field Test event; score of Pilot Test items and tasks; and complete the data review of Pilot and Field Test items and revise items as necessary for inclusion in the item pool. Proposal responses are due February 8. The RFP is available at <http://www.k12.wa.us/SMARTER/Jobs-Contracts.aspx>.

Upcoming Events

Updated December and January meeting schedule—The updated December and January meeting schedule is posted on the Collaboration Site homepage under Recent & Upcoming Events: <https://sites.google.com/a/smarterbalanced.org/home>.

Resources

Quarterly Program Report available—The quarterly project report for the period ending September 31, 2012, can be found at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/about/>. The report details the Consortium's progress in key areas and priorities for the next three months.

Contacting Smarter Balanced—The Smarter Balanced external website (www.smarterbalanced.org) showcases the innovative work of the Consortium and provides frequent updates on activities, milestones, and events. Visitors can submit questions or reach Smarter Balanced staff at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/contact-us/>. Consortium members may contact sbac@wested.org for information on upcoming meetings and events.

Collaboration Site—Consortium members: The Consortium uses an internal collaboration site hosted by Google Apps 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.

Follow Smarter Balanced on Twitter—Follow @SmarterBalanced for resources and links to the latest news about the Consortium.

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

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