

## Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

### Smarter Balanced Weekly Update

Issue 99

Week ending Friday, January 25, 2013

#### Top News This Week

- Webinar for state leads on Pilot Test administration
- Collaboration Conference registration open
- Pilot Test page for state leads launched on Collaboration Site

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. I am delighted to announce that registration is open for the first of our two annual Smarter Balanced Collaboration Conferences, on March 19–22, 2013, at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, VA (near Reagan National Airport). Our two annual meetings provide an opportunity to discuss and critique design and implementation plans of the assessment system with our Chiefs, K-12 leads, and Higher Education Leads; to improve coordination between work groups and contractors; and to reflect on our progress and map out our plan for the next six months.

The Consortium will have a full agenda as Smarter Balanced reaches key milestones in the development of our assessment system: feedback on our achievement level descriptors; the sustainability plan; data results from our Technology Readiness Tool; and the kickoff of our Pilot Test, which will engage our 21 Governing States and involve close to one million students. On the contracting front, work is just about to begin on our formative tools and processes contract; exciting work is underway on reporting; we have issued a "fast-track" RFP for services to update our pricing estimates; and we await bids on the RFP for Field Test Item & Task Writing and Pilot & Field Test Scoring.

On Wednesday, March 20, from 1:15 to 3:00 p.m., Smarter Balanced State Chiefs will meet in a public session. As a state-led Consortium, it is critical to engage our Governing States in open, detailed policy discussions and ultimately, put major decisions to a vote. I look forward to anyone interested in our work joining us at the public meeting.

If you recently received an email notice from WestEd announcing the Collaboration Conference, please complete your registration as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday, February 12, 2013, at the following registration site: <http://www.wasbo.org/displayemailforms.cfm?emailformnbr=189005>. JW

#### Announcements

[Webinar for state leads on Pilot Test administration](#)—K-12 state leads: State leads are invited to

participate in a webinar providing a high-level overview of the Pilot and reviewing steps needed to prepare to administer the test. This event is a preview of the information to be provided to Test Coordinators and Test Administrators at training sessions scheduled for early February. The webinar will be held on January 30, 2013, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Pacific time. Please see the January 17 email sent from [sbac@wested.org](mailto:sbac@wested.org), on behalf of AIR, for details. The webinar will be recorded for those who are unable to attend. The recording will be posted at the “Pilot Communications for State Leads” tab of the Collaboration site (see announcement below) approximately one week after the webinar.

Collaboration Conference registration open—Smarter Balanced is pleased to announce that registration is now available for the upcoming Collaboration Conference and Chiefs meeting, March 19-22, 2013, in Arlington, VA (near Reagan National Airport). Invited participants have received an email invitation from [sbac@wested.org](mailto:sbac@wested.org) with instructions on registration for the conference. Events during this collaboration meeting are role-specific, so please be certain of the session days you are signing up to attend. Please refer to the email invitation sent from [sbac@wested.org](mailto:sbac@wested.org) on January 25. Once you have reviewed the invitation, if you have any questions regarding your attendance on a particular day, please check with the Project Management Partner (WestEd) at [sbac@wested.org](mailto:sbac@wested.org).

Pilot Test page for state leads launched on Collaboration Site—The internal Collaboration Site has been expanded to contain a Pilot Test page for state leads. The page provides a repository of announcements, presentations, emails, and other relevant Pilot Test documents that have been previously distributed, so that state leads can rapidly retrieve needed information. The page can be accessed at the “Pilot Communications for State Leads” tab on the Collaboration Site home page. Access is limited to authorized users.

Executive Committee Co-Chair election process launched—State leads: Nominees are currently being sought for the position of Executive Committee Co-Chair, to fill the remainder of the term held by Carissa Miller. The term of this position runs through September 30, 2013.

Anyone can nominate a candidate, and individuals can nominate themselves. All nominees must come from a Governing State and have approval from the nominee’s chief state school officer indicating support for participation. No prior Executive Committee experience is required. Nominations close on Tuesday, January 29. Once the slate of nominees is finalized, the Governing State Leads will vote to select the new EC Co-Chair. Please see the January 15 email sent from [sbac@wested.org](mailto:sbac@wested.org) for details.

## **Upcoming Events**

Chiefs meeting—The next meeting of the member state Chiefs will occur via webinar on Monday, January 28, at 1:00 p.m. Pacific time.

## **Resources**

Contacting Smarter Balanced—The Smarter Balanced external website ([www.smarterbalanced.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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>.

--

**Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**

WestEd—Project Management Partner

[sbac@wested.org](mailto:sbac@wested.org)