

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Smarter Balanced Weekly Update

Issue 119

Week ending Friday, June 14, 2013

Top News This Week

- Governing States invited to participate in State-Managed Item Development for the Field Test

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

Executive Director Joe Willhoft is on vacation. His comments will resume next week when he returns.

Announcements

Governing States invited to participate in State-Managed Item Development for the Field Test—

CTB/McGraw-Hill, Contractor for 16/17, reached out to Governing States on June 10 with an invitation to participate in item development for the Field Test. The contractor will work with states to design an item development plan of items in the content areas, claims, and targets selected by states. Training for states, information about state responsibilities, and arrangements for compensation for item development will be provided to meet state needs. CTB/McGraw-Hill asked states to complete and return the provided letter of intent by June 25 to indicate their interest.

Pilot Test Operating System Usage Data received—Smarter Balanced is beginning to receive information from the Pilot Test that concluded on May 24. The first report provides a breakdown of operating systems based on the Internet browsers used to connect to the Pilot Test. Across all tests that were begun, 81.29% of devices used Windows, 14.74% used OSX (Intel), 1.89% used iOS, 1.05% used Chrome OS, 0.78% used OSX (PPC), and 0.25% used Linux. Smarter Balanced will release additional information from the Pilot Test as it becomes available.

In The News

Education Week, 6/11/13

Article: "Schools Test-Drive Common Core"

<http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2013/06/12/03commoncore.h06.html>

Education Week, 6/11/13

Article: "States Seek Flexibility During Common-Test Transition"

http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2013/06/12/35standards_ep.h32.html?tkn=XPMFuJB0zG8GE%2B6d6qTPU3r7178zpCqfEA3G&cmp=clp-edweek

USA Today, 6/11/13

Article: "Myths fuel attacks on 'Common Core' standards: Our view"

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/06/11/common-core-standards-editorials-debates/2413555/>

Maine Department of Education, 6/6/13

Article: "Business leaders support Common Core standards"

<http://mainedoenews.net/2013/06/06/business-leaders-support-common-core-standards/>

New Hampshire Public Radio, 6/6/13

Article: "New 'Smarter Balanced' Test Will Ask More Of Students"

<http://www.nhpr.org/post/new-smarter-balanced-test-will-ask-more-students>

Teton Valley News, 5/31/13

Article: "Practice Tests for New Idaho Academic Standards Available"

http://www.tetonvalleynews.net/news/practice-tests-for-new-idaho-academic-standards-available/article_76890006-ca05-11e2-ba60-0019bb2963f4.html

Idaho State Department of Education, 5/30/13

Article: "Next Generation Assessment Examples Now Available Statewide"

<http://educationidaho.blogspot.com/2013/05/next-generation-assessment-examples-now.html>

KPCC-FM, 5/29/13

Article: "Sneak peek at new California standardized tests"

<http://www.scpr.org/blogs/education/2013/05/29/13833/sneak-peek-at-new-california-standardized-tests/>

Resources

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>.

Answering Open Questions

Each week we will address a question or two on the minds of Consortium members. Send your questions to sbac@wested.org

How are teachers involved in creating the Smarter Balanced assessment system?

Smarter Balanced is committed to engaging teachers in the design of an assessment system that provides resources and information to improve teaching and learning. Teachers helped write and review assessment items and performance tasks for the Pilot Test of the assessment system in early 2013. Teachers will also contribute to the development of items for the Field Test in early 2014.

In addition, Smarter Balanced is recruiting teams of teachers from each state to evaluate formative assessment tools and resources and contribute to professional learning resources available through the assessment system. Finally, teachers will score parts of the assessments, including extended response and performance tasks.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

WestEd—Project Management Partner

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