The New Hampshire
Smarter Balanced Assessment
General Information and Updates
4 March 2014

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Bureau of Accountability & Assessment

New Hampshire Department of Education

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Smarter Balanced
Assessment Consortium

The Context & Perspective

Why Assess?
(purposes and uses)

For many reasons, but the most important are:

1. **Improve teaching and learning**
2. **Evaluate and improve programs**
3. **Support accountability uses**

In serving all three of these purposes, assessments should reflect **intended learning targets**, but can also serve as an important signal to what should be learned

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Learning and Assessment

Meaningful assessment scores depend on tight linkages among learning targets and assessment design

The CCSS expect students to learn rigorous content and use disciplinary skills to apply this content knowledge

In other words, we want students to **develop deep understanding of important knowledge and skills**

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Assessing for Deep Understanding

Students cannot develop deep understanding unless they are provided opportunities on both **learning** and **assessment** tasks.

In other words, **if low-level assessment** items are the focus, **then** it is **unlikely** that teachers will feel the need to **teach students to think deeply**.

A major component of **Next Generation Learning** is the ability to solve novel problems—**this requires deep understanding!**

Assessment conveys **what's important to learn** (a signal) as well as providing an opportunity to check on students' understanding and evaluate achievement

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Overview: 3 Points

1. *Smarter Balanced Assessment and New Hampshire*
   SBAC: ***THE*** state assessment for Math and English Language Arts
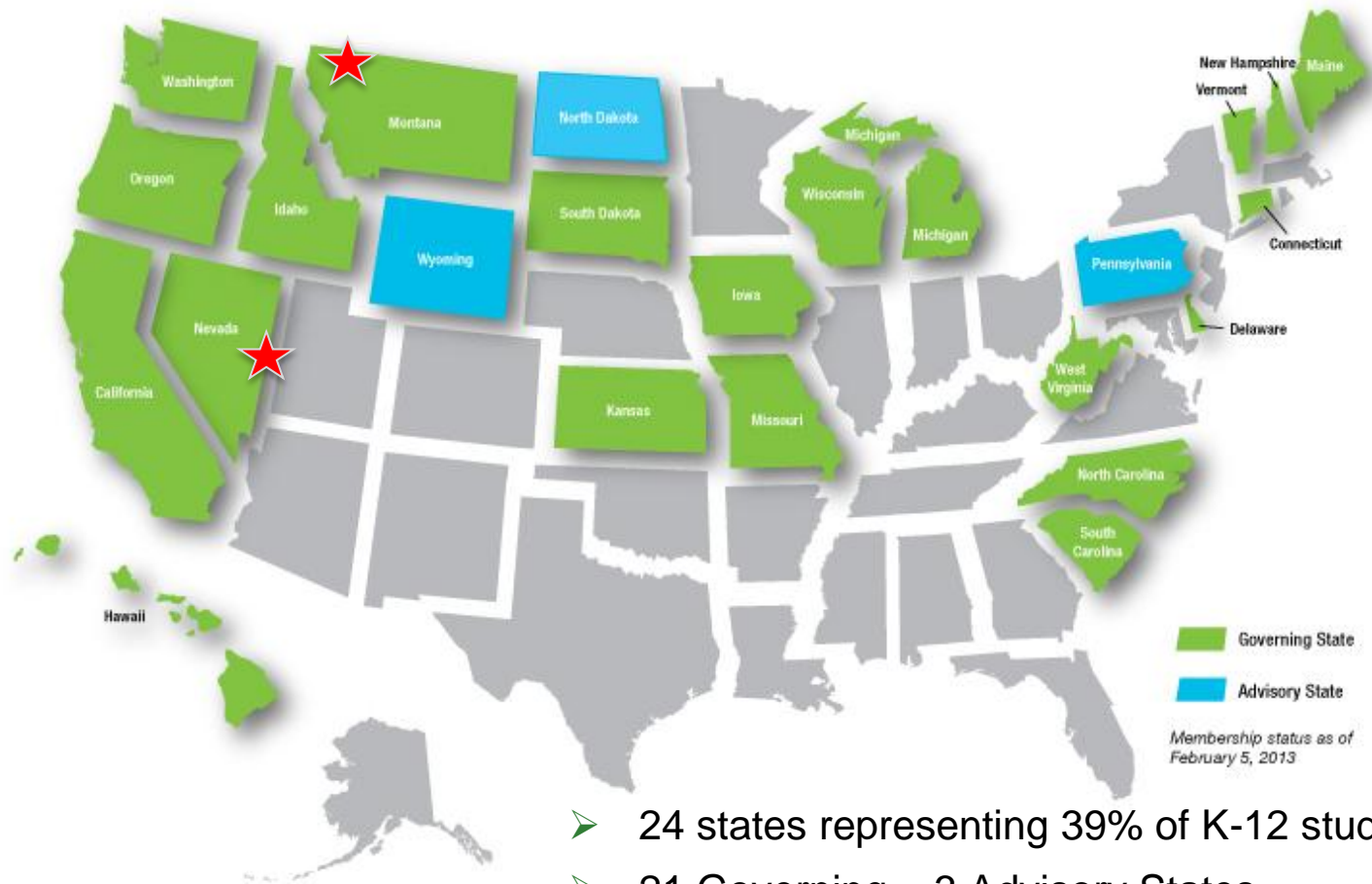   NECAP Science: ***STILL*** the state assessment for science.

2. *Data Privacy*
   NH Law 193-E (I) "The department of education shall provide no personally identifiable information collected pursuant to this chapter, including but not limited to name, date of birth, or social security number to any person or entity, other than an early childhood program, district, or postsecondary institution authorized to access this data, absent a court order. Under no circumstances shall personally identifiable information or the unique pupil identifier be provided to any person or entity outside of New Hampshire. Any person who knowingly violates this provision is guilty of a class B felony and may be subject to involuntary termination of employment."

3. *On-line, Adaptive Assessment*
   We want to take advantage of the engaging aspects that adaptive, on-line tests can have for students.

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A National Consortium of States

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Membership status as of February 5, 2013

Legend:
- Governing State
- Advisory State

- ➢ 24 states representing 39% of K-12 students
- ➢ 21 Governing, 3 Advisory States
- ➢ Washington State is fiscal agent
- ➢ WestEd provides project management services

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#6

Next Generation Assessments

- ➢ ***Rigorous assessments*** of progress toward "college and career readiness"

- ➢ ***Common cut scores*** across all Consortium states

- ➢ Information about grade-level ***achievement*** and ***growth***

- ➢ ***Valid, reliable, and fair*** for all students (students with "significant cognitive disabilities" will be assessed using another valid, reliable and fair assessment)

- ➢ ***Administered online***, using multiple measures (paper/pencil option for 3 years)

- ➢ ***Fully operational in 2014-15 school year***

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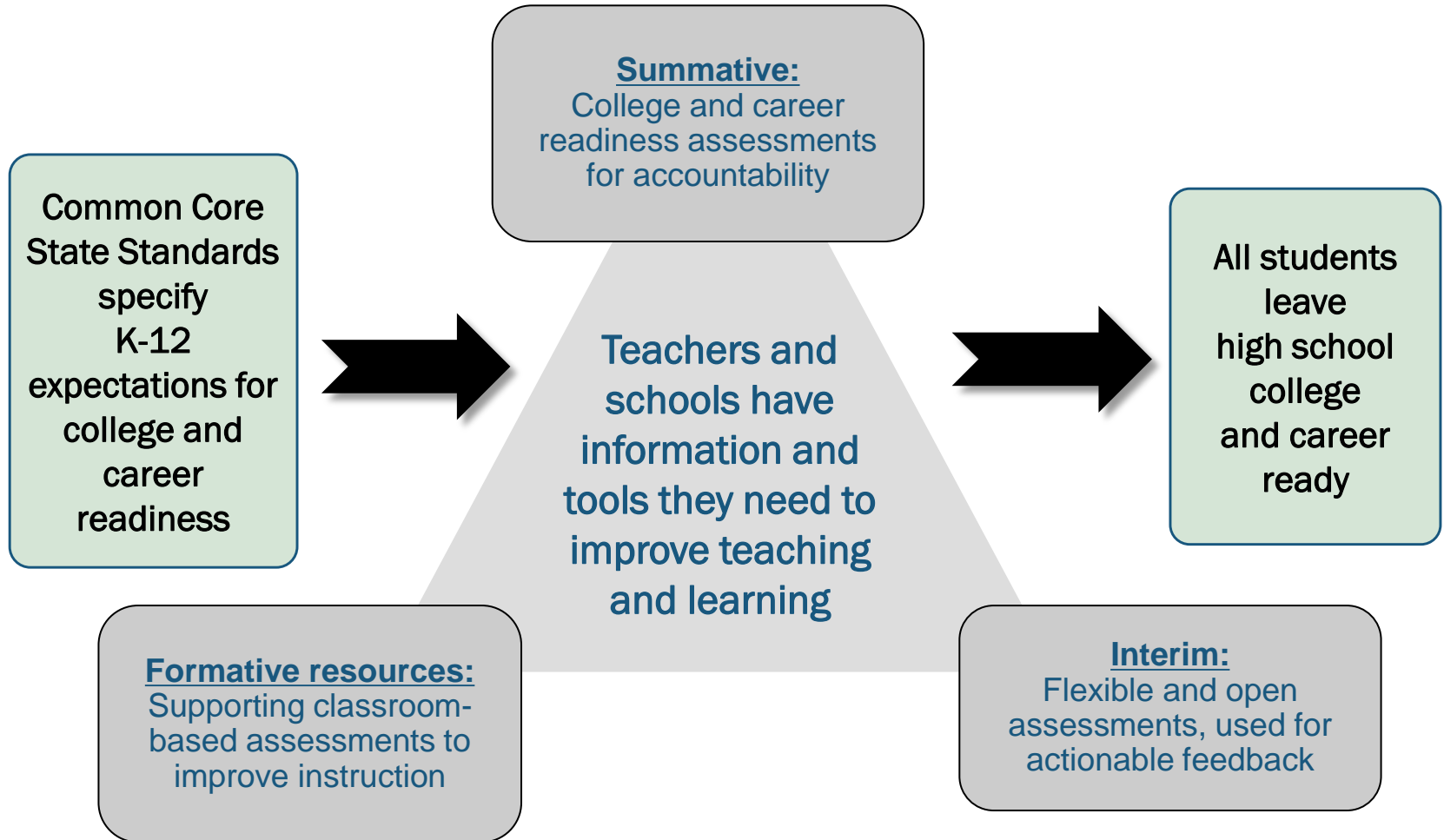
What States GET with Smarter Balanced

➤ An assessment system *"built by states for states,"* with ongoing input and control over future development and allowing for true P-16 collaboration around a tangible agenda.

➤ A high quality assessment system *that yields comparable data* on performance and growth while also enabling flexibility in state implementation.

➤ A reasonable, estimated cost per student, due to *economies of scale* across a 21-state consortium

➤ A summative assessment that is *based on Common Core State Standards for Math and English* and serves as an indicator of content proficiency and college and career readiness.
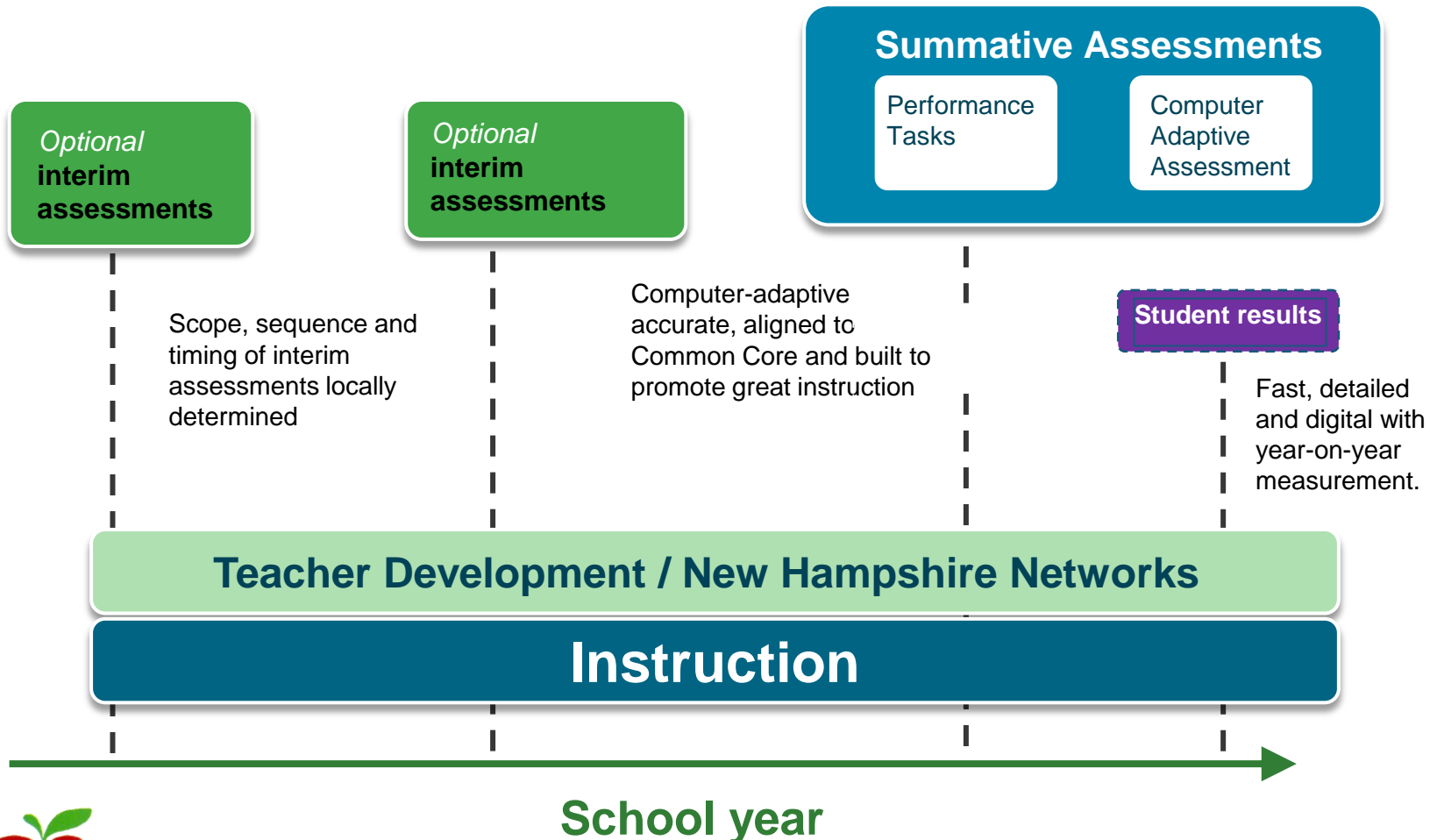
What States GET with Smarter Balanced

➢ Performance tasks and high quality **items delivered by an adaptive engine**, yielding more precise, valid, and timely measures of achievement and growth for all students to support improved decision making and a fair accountability system.

➢ Actionable **formative tools and interim assessment** that are part of a coherent system to help support improved teaching and learning.

➢ A **positive and productive assessment experience** for all students, including those from under-represented groups, through the use of universal design, embedded digital accessibility tools and external accommodations supported by research and practice.

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A Balanced Assessment System

Summative:
College and career readiness assessments for accountability

Common Core State Standards specify K-12 expectations for college and career readiness

Teachers and schools have information and tools they need to improve teaching and learning

All students leave high school college and career ready

Formative resources:
Supporting classroom-based assessments to improve instruction

Interim:
Flexible and open assessments, used for actionable feedback

Here is how the Smarter Balanced system fits into the school year

Summative Assessments

| Performance Tasks | Computer Adaptive Assessment |

Optional **interim assessments**

Optional **interim assessments**

Student results

Scope, sequence and timing of interim assessments locally determined

Computer-adaptive accurate, aligned to Common Core and built to promote great instruction

Fast, detailed and digital with year-on-year measurement.

Teacher Development / New Hampshire Networks

Instruction

School year

Fact or Fiction?

Fiction **"These tests represent a new federal intrusion into education."**

Fact For decades Congress has required assessments of student learning for accountability under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The 2001 reauthorization of ESEA, known as the "No Child Left Behind Act" enacted during the Bush Administration, expanded those federal testing requirements to include state testing of every student in language arts and mathematics in grades three through eight and once in high school. In 2010, the federal government funded the State of Washington to act on behalf of a consortium of states to develop new, next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language art/literacy and mathematics. While federal funding currently supports the research and development work of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, all policy decisions about the structure and content of the assessments are made by the member states based on input from stakeholders across the county. At the conclusion of the federal grant in September 2014, Smarter Balanced will become an operational assessment system supported by its member states.

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Fact or Fiction?

Fiction **"Nothing is known about these new tests."**

Fact: Smarter Balanced aims for complete transparency. All of the key documents describing the assessment (content specifications, item specifications, item writing training materials, test blueprints, accommodations framework, achievement level descriptors, technology specifications, etc.) are available to the public on the Smarter Balanced web site (www.SmarterBalanced.org). Practice tests also are available to the general public on the Smarter Balanced web site for each tested grade (3 through 8 and 11) and both subject areas (English language arts/literacy and mathematics).

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Fact or Fiction?

Fiction   **"The cost of these test are unknown."**

Fact: Smarter Balanced has released cost estimates for its assessments that include expenses for ongoing research and development of the assessment system as well as test administration and scoring. The end-of-year summative assessment alone is estimated to cost $22.50 per student. The full suite of summative, interim and formative assessments is estimated to cost $27.30 per student. These costs are less than the amount that two-thirds of the Consortium's member states currently pay. These costs are estimates because a sizable portion of the cost is for test administration and scoring services that will not be provided by Smarter Balanced; states will either provide these services directly or procure them from vendors in the private sector.

Fact or Fiction?

Fiction **"These new assessments are untested."**

Fact Smarter Balanced has incrementally tested the content of the assessment and the technology that will support the assessment. Smarter Balanced has already completed:

Cognitive Labs: Individual students provided feedback to test developers about their experience with the innovative test questions, accommodations for students with special needs, and the testing software.

Small-scale Trials: Promising types of questions and software features were further tried out with hundreds of students.

Pilot Test: Students at about 5,000 schools across the Consortium responded to a preliminary pool of test questions and performance tasks.

In spring 2014, the Consortium will conduct its field test to present the entire pool of Smarter Balanced items to students across member states. The field test is expected to involve students in about 15 to 20 percent of Consortium schools, and will gather the information necessary for final evaluation of item quality.

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Fact or Fiction?

Fiction **"These tests will result in the collection of intrusive and inappropriate data on children."**

Fact States will make all policy decisions with regard to the collection, storage and use of student assessment data. Smarter Balanced will adhere to all federal and state privacy laws, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The Consortium will not share identifiable student-level data with the federal government. The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation amending the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Education Reform Sciences Act of 2002, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) all prohibit the creation of a federal database with students' personally identifiable information.

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Fact or Fiction?

Fiction **"These tests will require advanced technology that schools don't have and can't afford."**

Fact   The Smarter Balanced assessment is being designed to work with the computing resources in schools today. The assessments can be offered on very old operating systems and require only the minimum processors and memory required to run the operating system itself (for example, the summative assessment can be delivered using computers with 233 MHz processors and 128 MB RAM that run Windows XP). Likewise, the file size for individual assessment items will be very small to minimize the network bandwidth necessary to deliver the assessment online. A 600 student middle school could test its students using only one 30-computer lab. To assist states that have not yet made the transition to online testing, the Consortium also will offer a paper-and-pencil option for the first three years of operational testing.

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Fact or Fiction?

Fiction **"These assessments will result in standardization of teaching and learning."**

Fact   A founding principle of Smarter Balanced is that teachers and students need high quality data, tools and resources to support improvements in student learning. Smarter Balanced isn't just an end-of-year accountability test. It is an assessment system that features flexible, non-secure interim assessments to be offered at teachers' and schools' discretion throughout the school year and a digital library of formative assessment tools, practices, and professional development resources built by teachers, for teachers to improve the quality of information collected through the daily classroom activities of assignments, quizzes, and observation of student work. The end of year tests will help schools evaluate how well their students performed by comparing their aggregate data with aggregate data from other schools across the nation. The end of year assessments also will empower students and parents by providing them with a clear indication of how well their children are progressing toward mastering the academic knowledge and skills necessary for college and career readiness.

"Are You Ready?" Questions?

Smarter Balanced Information and FAQs

➢ *SBAC Network*

www.education.nh.gov/networks/

➢ *Smarter Balanced pages on NHEON.org*

www.nheon.org/oet/readiness/

➢ *Smarter Balanced Website*

NHDOE will help identify significant changes or information but you need to check SBAC sites for current information.

www.smarterblanced.org

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"Are You Ready?" Questions?

Your school readiness? Issues?

➢ *Technology* Information and communication technologies (ICT) program standards are equal to or beyond SBAC technology requirements (i.e. Technology Plans).

➢ *Planning* room(s), schedule, installing browser(s), etc.

➢ *Practice/Experience test* teachers & students

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New Items & More Information

- *Tech Readiness Tool Update*   http://nheon.org/oet/readiness/index.htm

- *Smarter Balanced*   http://nheon.org/oet/readiness/smarterbalanced.htm

- *Usability & Accommodations Guide*:
  http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SmarterBalanced_Guidelines_091113.pdf

- *Free Bandwidth Testing*
  School Speed Test Informational Webinars
  http://partners.schoolspeedtest.org/newhampshire.html
  Contact the Office of Educational Technology for information on getting your data from the tests. http://www.nheon.org/oet/

- *SBAC Network* SBAC information location & sent directly

- *PSAT/SAT?*   Possibilities

- *NHDOE-SBAC Communication*
  School/District Assessment/Testing/SBAC coordinators

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New Items & More Information

➢ *Field Test*
Test Window: March 18 – June 6
Notification was sent by SBAC/ETS
smarterbalancedhelpdesk@ets.org *or* *1.855.833.1969*

➢ *Operational Test* – 12 week window, Spring 2015

➢ *NH Networks (being developed)*
Smarter Balanced Assessment
Math & ELA lesson+ exchange
Formative assessment
Survey of resources the Curriculum/Instruction/Assessment folk use now

➢ *Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines*
Training Test – all accessibility and accommodations resources that will be available on Field Test (including ASL videos)
Special Education Issues -- including accommodation and accessibility questions: **SBAC Help Desk: 1-855-833-1969**

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SBAC & Field Test Update

- 10/18/13: Web registration
- Late October/November: Confirmation of FT participation

- 11/18/13: Technical Specifications Manual

- 11/18/13: Secure Browser for iPad and Android Tablets Document

- 11/18/13: Secure Browser available for download

- 11/26/13: Release: SBAC Usability, Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines FAQ

- 12/3/13: Student File Layout

- 12/3/13: Windows XP/IE 8 - browser

- 11/26/13: Assessment Item Packaging Format Brief

- 1/14/14: TIDE User Guide and TIDE Training Module Available

- 1/14/ - 2/28/14: TIDE Registration Window

- 1/28/14: Training Modules Available

- 1/29/14: Test Administrator Manual Available

- 1/29/14: Test Coordinator Manual Available

- 3/18 – 6/6/14: Field Test Administration Window

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SBAC & Field Test Update

- 12/13/13: SPED Directors have received Accommodations Implementation Guide for review (to be used for Field Test)

- 1/2014: 16 Career Readiness Frameworks & 2 User Guides

- 1/2014: Technology Strategy Frameworks (no changes – more detail) review & feedback to field

- 1/20/14: Training Test Release Date: Provide students & school staff with familiarity of SBAC software and features

  ELA & Math test Gr 3-5, 6-8 and HS spans

  Tests: 6-9 items/grade span. No performance tasks. 3 new items not on Practice Test:
  - Matching Tables (ELA & Math)
  - Fill-in Tables (Math)
  - Evidence-based selected response (ELA)

- Training Test – all accessibility and accommodations resources that will be available on Field Test (including ASL videos)

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SBAC & Field Test Update

- 2/10/14: Online Field Test Administration Manual

- 2/10/14: Accessibility and Accommodations Training Module

- 2/10/14: SBAC Test Administration Overview Module

- 2/10/14: Test Administrator (TA) Interface for Online Testing Module

- 2/10/14: Performance Task Overview Module

- 2/10/14: "What is CAT (Computer Adaptive Test)?" Module

- 2/10/14: "Let's Talk Universal Tools" Module

- 2/10/14: Student Interface for Online Testing Module

- 2/10/14: Technology Requirements for Online

- 2/10/14: "What is a Field Test?" Module

- http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/resources/

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The Test
What We've Learned

School/Districts Activities

- Use the Technology Readiness Tool
- Use the Speedy Bandwidth Tool
- Identify: School Readiness Status
- <u>Unique student identifier – IMPORTANT – Privacy Issue!</u>

School SBAC – Test Specific Activity Ideas:

- Have teachers/faculty take the practice test (see exercise later)
    - * Review scoring guide
    - * Possible PD opportunity?
- Have students take practice test
    - * Increase student exposure to test format
    - * Possibly create a "Test Center"
    - * Have students work in groups
    - * Learn how the test works w/o worrying about the content.
    - * Consistent language.

The Point: *<u>NOT</u> to have the test be the element of assessment!*

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The Test
What We've Learned

Accessing SBAC Practice/Training Tests:

- **Go to:** http://sbac.portal.airast.org/

- **Download & install** Secure Browser

- **Go back to:** http://sbac.portal.airast.org/
  Select: "Practice and Training Tests" then select "Student Interface Practice and Training Tests"

- **Go to:** http://sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/resources/
  Look at "Resources & Documentation"
     Practice Test User Guide
     SBAC Practice Test Scoring Guides
     Performance Task Writing Rubrics
     Classroom Activities Administration Guidelines and Classroom Activities

Start the dialogue with constituencies early! Begin to help form the message.

Practice/Train using the practice test!

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Evaluating the Smarter Balanced Assessment

SBAC Practice/Training Tests

SBAC Practice/Training Test Location:

http://sbac.portal.airast.org/

Limitations:
- Both are not full range of content so should not be used as an instructional guide.
- Has no reports or scores and is fixed-form not computer adaptive.

Evaluating the Smarter Balanced Assessment

Exercise:

1. Choose a grade and subject to examine as a group.

2. Work through the questions and consider the following:

   - What are the pros/cons of this format?

   - What adjustments will be required at the classroom level?

   - What problems or issues have you observed?

   - What are some possible solutions to ameliorate problems or issues?

   - What implications are there using SBAC at the school and district levels?

   - What recommendations can you make to facilitate school, district or NHDOE's transition to using SBAC?

The Process:
Next Steps/Considerations

Information & Practice/Training Test Resources:
http//sbac.portal.airast.org/
http//sbac.portal.airast.org/field-test/resources

Field Test
(Designed to be similar to the Operational Test)

School/District Responsibilities:
- Learn/Use TIDE (Test Information Distribution Engine)
  - Assigning users
- Understand File Layout
- De-identifying student data (create an SBACID)
- Create student test confirmation codes
- Parts are like NECAP, others totally different
  - Schools/Districts upload student data
  - Schools/Districts create unique SBACID
  - Schools/Districts responsible for connecting results w/student

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The Process: Considerations

Learned from Field Test Registration:

1. How do we do this?
2. No names, DOB, SASID – plus, optional fields
3. SBACID & Confirmation number – a must!
4. Tech: browsers, devices, rooms, network, scheduling, etc.
5. Accommodations – SBAC guide/video/Helpdesk. Who turns them on/off?
6. Assign roles (TIDE User Guide)
7. Coordinate everything: Big Picture/Smaller Picture – like NECAP

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The Process: The Steps

1. Decide (school/district) how you are going to organize yourself
   a. Big Picture
   b. Operational
2. Manage the Message
   a. Provide information (letters to parents?)
   b. Evaluate/manage change(s) needed then communicate
3. Who is to have access to what/when/how?
4. Use the resources available
   a. SBAC help desk
   b. SBAC documents
   c. Training/Practice tests
   d. IEP review Usability and Accommodations materials
   e. Most current info on SBAC sites

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Visit: SmarterBalanced.org for current information

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*Please contact **Scott Mantie** if you have any questions!*

Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

Smarter Balanced HelpDesk
1.855.833.1969
smarterbalancedhelpdesk@ets.org

The information in this presentation is current as of 4 March 2014. Any changes will be noted as a slide addendum.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium