Race to the Top Assessment and YOU: Making Sense of SBAC/PARCC Technology

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RTTA: Committed to Technology

- Creating a smarter system of assessments
- The role of technology:
  - Be used to the maximum extent feasible to develop, administer, score, and report
  - Enable new, innovative item types that capture complex student learning
  - Adhere to common interoperability standards
- By moving online, guarantees that technology will be pervasive in schools and classrooms— and can be used for learning all year.
Technology Readiness Tool

- First ever census of school technology
- Jointly issued by SMARTER Balanced & PARCC, with SETDA as partner; Pearson contracted to develop
- Consortia will provide tool to the states to deploy in six data collection windows between 2012 and 2014
- Will collect local data to determine technology readiness for online assessments, and provide gap analysis
- Data to support local/state/national planning for the transition to consortia assessment systems
Measuring Local Readiness

Readiness for online assessments has different dimensions:

1. Computers & other devices
   - Minimum system requirements
2. Ratio of devices to test-takers
   - Including testing window and session scheduling
3. Network and infrastructure
   - Bandwidth, network utilization, size of content
4. Personnel (staffing & training)
Technology Purchase Guidance

- Released initial guidance on instructional technology purchases (April 2012)
- Virtually any machine w/a 10 inch screen and popular OS on the market today will be supported
- Desktops, laptops, netbooks (e.g., ChromeBooks), tablets (MS, Android and iOS), thin clients/virtualization
More Information to Come

- Completion of first administration of Technology Readiness Tool to inform support for legacy devices and operating systems (and extent of Linux support)

- Future field tests to determine peripheral requirements and accommodations (e.g., keyboard, mouse, stylus)
“...in 2016-17 students will need access to a tablet (or other device) that employs a stylus for user input. The final implementation timeline for future required use of tablets will be described in the minimum specifications guidelines to be released in August 2012.”
PARCC/SBAC Approach: Device Security

- Any otherwise eligible device must meet security requirements for assessment.

- Includes, but not limited to, temporarily disabling: Web browser access, cameras (still and video), screen capture (live and recorded), email, text messaging, Bluetooth connections, application switching, and printing.
Device Validation

- SBAC RFI: Seeking input from technology companies on devices (brands/models) that meet these security requirements or will by January 2013.

- Preference for enterprise administrative solutions that facilitate the management of large numbers of devices

- Opportunities for dialogue re: device functionality/requirements
SETDA Initiatives

- Assess4ed and SRC support
- State Education Policy Project
- SETDA-PARCC-SBAC CCSS Alignment Project
- SETDA - CCSSO TILSA Partnership
Shared need for open identifiers and XML to allow for granular coding of CCSS for assessment items AND for other uses

Six month effort to develop, vet approach and determine long-term governance

Opportunities for involvement at multiple levels
SETDA-CCSSO TILSA

- Technology Readiness for Assessment
- Teacher/Student Readiness
- Security
- Device Validation
If Nothing Else...

- The shift is important – and is already underway.

- Shift to technology-based core education functions represents a sea change.

- Part of a broader shift – coordination and planning is critical.
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