Spotlight on States

Shifting to Online Assessments

11:00-12:15

Salon 1
Online Assessment Resources

http://www.setda.org/priorities/online-assessment/

Leading and Learning in the Digital Age
October 2014 • Arlington, VA
Implementing Online Assessments

What can states and districts do to prepare for the transition to online assessment?

In the 2013-14 school year approximately 30 states will use new online student assessments from either PARCC or TNReady, and 20 of those states will begin online assessments in the 2015-16 school year. As states and districts begin to implement online assessments, they will face a number of challenges, including: understanding and communicating the development of the assessments, the evolution of their infrastructure, and their approach to training and communication with districts, and an in-depth look at what it takes to implement online assessments.

The downloadable resources linked at the right supplement the narrative and range from training agendas to checklists for technology. We encourage you to use and share these materials.

Resources

- Preparing
- Planning
- Policies
- Technical Support

Resources are not a comprehensive list or extensive guide on how to plan for online assessments in your state or district.

States Currently Testing Online

- Delaware
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- Virginia

Working Toward Statewide Online Testing

- Michigan

Timelines

- ID
- DE
- NC
- VA
The Guide to Technology Requirements

One simple guide to tech requirements for assessment.

Click the Update Chart button to view the entire chart.
Select which rows to view, print and email.
Customize the chart to show Technology readiness for assessment and learning.

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Agenda

• Introductions and Overview
  – Lia Dossin, Manager Community and Technology, SETDA

• State Presentations
  – Abe Krisst, Education Consultant, Academic Office, Connecticut Department of Education
  – Jennifer Sattem, Fellow, New York Regents Research Fund

• Questions and Answer
  – Susan Van Gundy, Principal Consultant and Founder, Eduvate
Connecticut Experience

Connecticut’s Journey to All Online Testing
Connecticut Landscape

• Assessments:
  – Smarter Balanced at Grades 3 - 8 and 11
  – CMT/CAPT Science Test at Grades 5, 8 and 10
  – National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)
Big Push Year: 2013 – 14

• About 90% of our districts used the Smarter Balanced test as the state test this year.
  – About 10% did the “Legacy” assessment.

• Prior to 2013 - 14, our only online assessments were for our 2% and 1% kids.

• All test takers took the paper/pencil test as recently as the Spring of 2013.
Pre Field Test Technical Assistance By CSDE

- Promoted the Technology Readiness Tool
- Promoted the SpeedTest from the EducationSuperHighway
- Promoted the specifications and browser documents released by Smarter Balanced
- Communicated through in person meetings, as well as e-mail communication to technical contacts in districts.
Pre Field Test Technical Assistance By CSDE

- 24 Million Dollars in Grant Money
- 10 Million Dollars in Grant Money possibly coming
- CEN Network Improvements
Experiences with Technology

- Very Positive.
- Small glitches but nothing widespread.
- No major local network issues. Bandwidth seems to not have been a problem.
- Some device related problems.
- Districts have a sense of relief that things worked out.
- Kids seemed to have done fine.
- Challenge for next year seems to be ironing out glitches as well as scheduling problems due to inadequate number of devices at some schools.
Plans for 2014 - 15

• All Online
  – Except for Grades 5, 8 and 11 science.
  – Only paper/pencil option is “print on demand” accommodation.
Shifting to Online Assessments

A Gradual Transition in New York

Jennifer Sattem
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Current Computer-Based Testing

• Some New York districts administer local assessments on computer.

• State assessments, including Regents Exams, are not currently administered on computer.
PARCC Field Testing in New York

- An opportunity for districts to pilot computer-based testing in New York.
- Field tests were administered in ELA and Math in Grades 3-11.
- 225 Schools in 75 Districts agreed to participate in the PARCC Field Test in Spring 2014.
  - Most schools tested two grade levels.
  - A majority of schools tested both components (PBA & EOY) but at different grade levels or in different content areas.

A majority of schools participating in the PARCC field test administered the computer-based assessment.
New York’s Regional Information Centers supported districts and schools in preparing for and administering computer-based tests.
Lessons Learned for Computer-Based Testing

- Preparation is the key to success.
  - Field testing, system checks, and infrastructure trials are very helpful.
- Computer-based testing requires a significant time commitment from network and technology staff.
  - Communication and procedures need to be clear to all staff.
- Technology needs to be integrated into instruction so that teachers and students are familiar with the technology.
Communication is Critical

- Content Filters
- Firewalls
- Proxies
- TestNav
- District IT Communications

- Important Notices
- Test Administration Policy
- Test Sessions

- Special Alerts
- Technology Updates
- New Tools
- New Processes
- Important Notices

- LEA Technology Staff
- LEA & School Test Administrators
- NYSED & PARCC
- School Technology Staff

- Firewalls
- Proctor Caching
- TestNav
- District IT Communications
Q&A

Discussant:
Susan Van Gundy
Principal Consultant and Founder, Eduvate