

The Future is (Almost) Now: Implementing Smarter Balanced Assessments in 2014-15

Joe Willhoft, Executive Director
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium



Presentation at CCSSO National Conference on Student Assessment
June 21, 2013 National Harbor, Maryland

Development of the Sustainability Plan

Dec 2011 - Present

- Formation of and regular meetings with a Sustainability Task Force
- Updates to K-12 and Higher Ed leads
- Interviews with relevant external organizations
- Consultation support
- Approval of business model by Task Force and Executive Committee
- Solicitation of potential partner organizations
- Adoption of Sustainability Plan by governing state chiefs
- Establishing cost models
- Negotiations with selected partner

Key Sustainability Principles

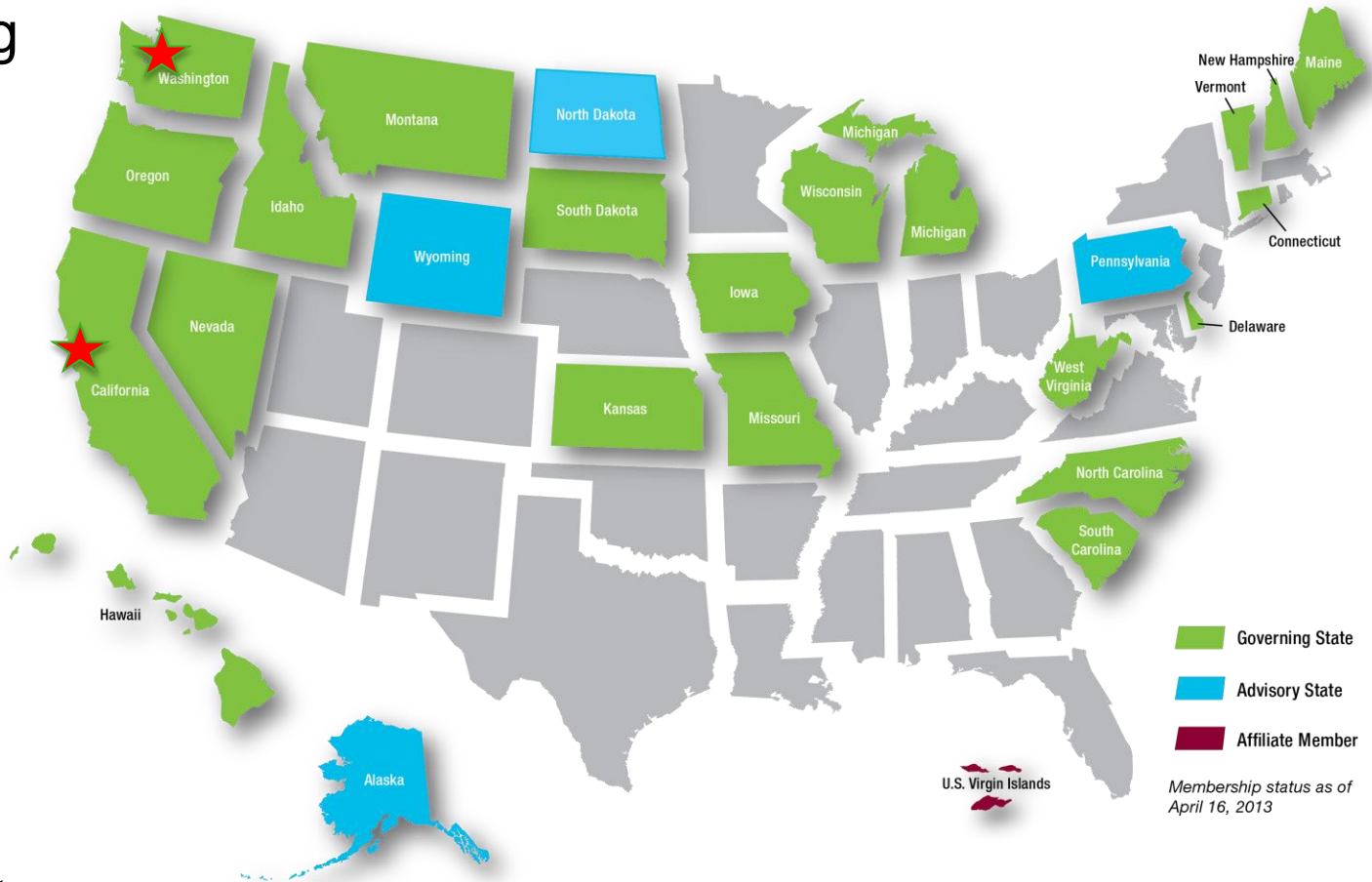
- Retain state led governance of the Consortium, with only minor changes to the current governance structure
- Shared state ownership of the item pool, digital library, and other IP
- Establish a business model that retains state autonomy

The Smarter Balanced Business Model

- Smarter Balanced provides each member state with the services necessary to maintain quality and comparability of the assessment system
- States retain the autonomy and flexibility to acquire assessment management and administration services
- The Consortium affiliates with an existing public entity for “backbone” support
 - HR, legal, fiscal management, front office, etc.

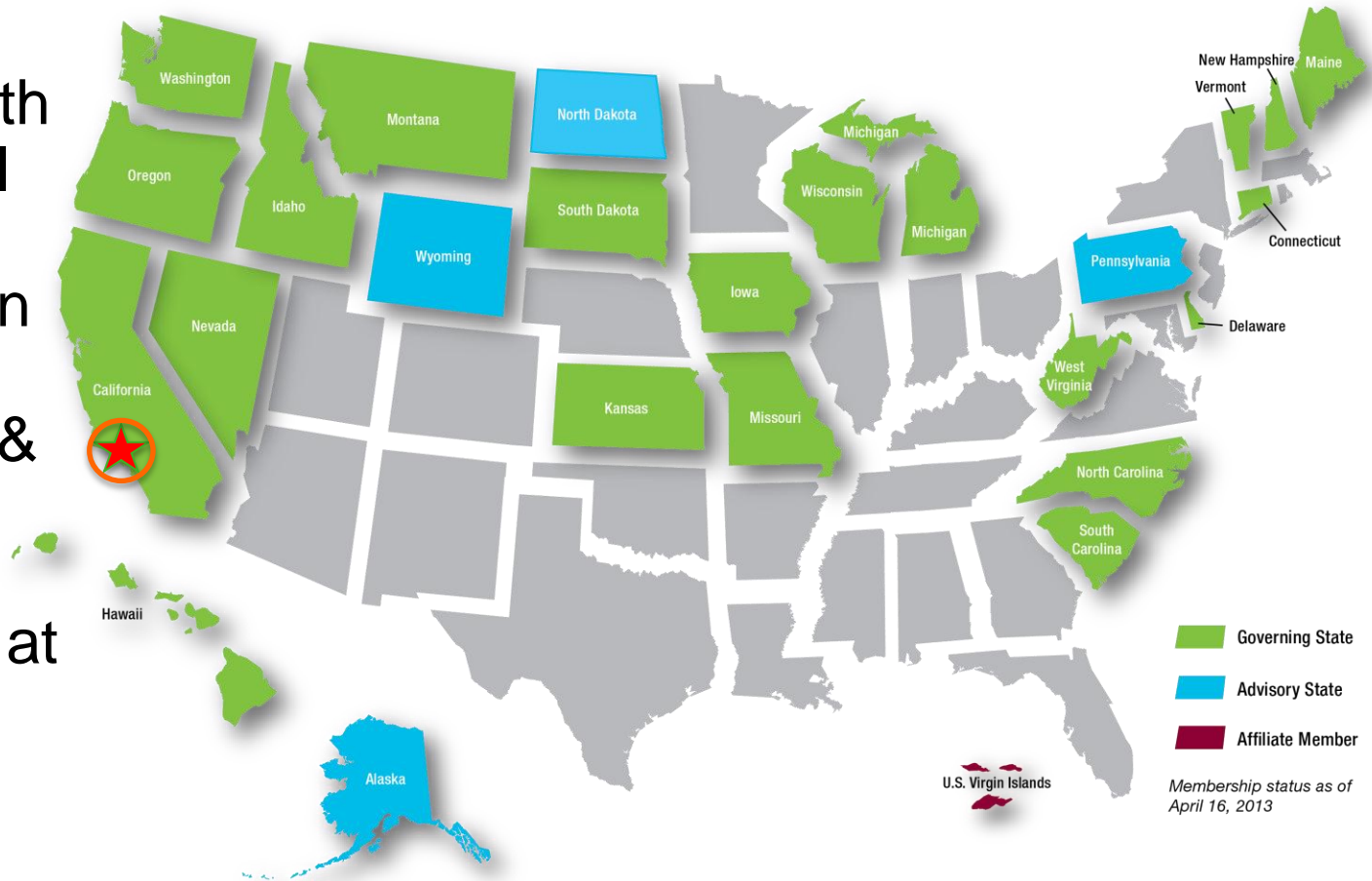
A State-led Assessment Consortium

- 21 Governing States, 4 Advisory States, 1 Affiliate Member
- Washington state is fiscal agent
- WestEd provides project management services



Sustainability for 2014-15 and Beyond

- Future affiliation with the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, & Student Testing (CRESST) at UCLA



Services Provided by Smarter Balanced

Summative & Interim

- Develop, calibrate and evaluate quality of items
- Ensure integrity of blueprint and scale
- Provide necessary Peer Review assurances for federal accountability
- Develop and release the Smarter Balanced version of the test administration platform (on annual basis)
- Develop and implement a certification process:
 - To certify eligible vendors for test administration
 - To certify States' implementation of the overall Smarter Balanced system
- Produce materials and processes to maintain consistency across States (e.g., training, administration manuals, accommodations procedures, etc.)
- Produce standardized reports for assessment results
- Supply student results to the state level (if requested), and provide access to reporting system
- Conduct research studies in support of the Smarter Balanced validity framework and use of effective accommodations and supports for students
- Design paper & pencil forms

Digital Library

- Develop and maintain digital library application
- Centrally host digital library application
- Facilitate development and review of formative materials
- Regular review and evaluation of user needs

Member Services

- Provide general communication tools & templates
- Provide “Tier-1” help desk support for State Assessment Directors and Chiefs
- Maintain state-led governance system

Services Provided by States

Summative & Interim

- Deliver the assessment
- Host the test administration platform
- Provide help desk services to users for test administration
- Provide training at the local-level on the assessment administration procedures
- Score operational items, tasks, and tests
- Produce any special reports to comply with state-specific accountability requirements
- Produce and distribute any paper & pencil forms
- Manage coherent flow of institution, teacher, and student data, including:
 - Maintain unique, high-quality student identifier
 - Transmit student registration data using the Consortium interoperability standard
 - Reconcile student records
 - Deliver student data sets to Districts
 - Delegate permissions/access to Districts
 - Manage transmission of Grade 11 scores to IHE's

Digital Library

- Establish and maintain user permissions
- Engage with Smarter Balanced in development of formative materials

Member Services

- Communicate with legislature and in-state stakeholders
- Serve as primary point of contact for Districts, Principals, Teachers, Parents and other primary users

Sustainable Per-Student Costs

COMPLETE SYSTEM		Consortium Services	+	State-Managed	=	Total per Student
Gr. 3-8 & 11	Summative Interim Formative	\$9.55	+	\$17.75	=	\$27.30
Gr. 9, 10, & 12	Summative Interim Formative	\$9.55	+	\$17.75	=	\$27.30

-OR-

BASIC SYSTEM

Gr. 3-8 & 11	Summative Only	\$6.20	+	\$16.30	=	\$22.50
Gr. 9, 10, & 12	Summative Only	\$6.20	+	\$16.30	=	\$22.50

Learn More and Stay Engaged

Visit

www.smarterbalanced.org

for the latest news and developments

Sign up for our e-newsletter

Follow us on Twitter at

@SmarterBalanced

The screenshot shows the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium website. At the top left is the logo, and at the top right are navigation links for Home, Contact Us, and Member States Login. Below this is a search bar with the text "What are you looking for?" and a "Search" button. A horizontal menu contains links for ABOUT, SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENTS, K-12 EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION, PARENTS & STUDENTS, and RESOURCES & EVENTS. The main content area features a large banner for "Technology Strategy Framework and System Requirements Specifications" with a sub-headline "Minimum specifications allow schools to determine which computers will support the administration of Smarter Balanced assessments in the 2014-15 school year." and a "READ MORE" link. Below the banner are three columns: "Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium" with a brief description and "READ MORE" link; "Latest News" with a headline "Alaska Joins the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium" and a "READ MORE" link; and "School Years" with a list of years (2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013) and a "What's Happening" section for the 2012-2013 year with a "READ MORE" link.