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

[Map image showing various states, with Washington, California, and Wyoming highlighted.]

Membership status as of April 16, 2013
Future affiliation with the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, & Student Testing (CRESST) at UCLA
Services Provided by Smarter Balanced

- 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total per Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 3-8 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Summative Interim Formative</td>
<td>$9.55</td>
<td>$17.75</td>
<td>$27.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 9, 10, 12</td>
<td>Summative Interim Formative</td>
<td>$9.55</td>
<td>$17.75</td>
<td>$27.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Basic System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Total per Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 3-8 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Summative Only</td>
<td>$6.20</td>
<td>$16.30</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 9, 10, 12</td>
<td>Summative Only</td>
<td>$6.20</td>
<td>$16.30</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-OR-
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