



Wyoming Department of Education

Cindy Hill, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne WY 82002-0050

Phone: 307-777-7675 Fax: 307-777-6234 Website: edu.wyoming.gov

MEMORANDUM TO SUPERINTENDENTS NO. 2012-182

TO: School District Superintendents
District and School Assessment Coordinators
Technology Coordinators

FROM: Deb Lindsey, Director of State Assessment

DATE: December 31, 2012

SUBJECT: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Technology

ASSESSMENT: INFORMATION TO SHARE

As previously communicated, Wyoming is an advisory member of SBAC. While it's not certain we will be implementing the Consortium's assessment in the spring of 2015, we plan to continue to keep you informed as the assessment develops. On December 4, SBAC released a technology planning framework for member states preparing to implement the assessment system in the 2014-15 school year. The framework provides minimum hardware specifications and basic bandwidth calculations that will allow schools and districts to evaluate which of their existing devices will support the administration of next-generation assessments. The framework was developed with input and feedback from SBAC member states, work groups, and survey data from districts across the country.

Based on the research and data analysis, SBAC estimates that the majority of schools will be able to successfully administer the assessments with their existing infrastructure. The full Technology Strategy Framework and Systems Requirements Specifications report can be accessed at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/>. Please note the two attachments – one describes the technology specifications and the other provides instructions for using a new bandwidth checker. This tool will provide you with information on testing your network to see whether your systems will support on-line testing with SBAC.

When reviewing the framework, it is important to note that the minimum requirements apply only to the Smarter Balanced assessments and should not be considered minimum specifications to support instruction, which may require additional technology. In addition, all hardware choices should consider the individual needs of students. Some students may need hardware that exceeds these minimum guidelines, and some students may require qualitatively different hardware.

I encourage you to share the framework with appropriate staff and to begin evaluating the suitability of existing computers for the Smarter Balanced assessment system in the event Wyoming adopts the assessments for implementation in the 2014-15 school year. If you have any questions, please contact me at 307-777-8753.