



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2013-070

TO: School District Superintendents
District Technology Coordinators
District Assessment Coordinators

FROM: Deb Lindsey, Leader
Assessment Unit

DATE: May 29, 2013

SUBJECT: SBAC Online Assessment Practice Test Available
SBAC Technology Readiness Reminder

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SBAC PRACTICE TESTS

The Wyoming Department of Education is exploring options for the next generation of the state assessment beginning in the 2014-15 school year. The Smarter Balanced Assessment is one option currently being explored. Release of online practice tests offers Wyoming educators a look at the exam.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) has released its set of example test questions for grades 3-8 and 11 in both English and Spanish. The practice tests will be available on the SBAC website at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>.

The practice tests provide a preview of the types of questions featured in the summative assessment beginning in the 2014-15 school year. That includes selected-response items, constructed-item response items and performance tasks. Students and teachers will not receive reports or scores from the practice tests. The tests will be used to help SBAC gather information and performance metrics regarding assessment items and their test delivery system under real-world conditions.

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FOR YOUR ACTION

SBAC TECHNOLOGY READINESS REMINDER

In order to know whether our districts and schools are ready to implement an online assessment system, SBAC, in conjunction with Pearson, has created a technology readiness survey tool to provide updated information on technology and infrastructure readiness across all participating states twice per year.

Use of the tool will allow local schools to capture and report key readiness indicators, including: number and type of computers; local network and bandwidth infrastructure; as well as local staff resources and other information needed to evaluate overall technology readiness to support a transition to digital delivery of assessments.

Data from the Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) will also be reported to policymakers and be used by the WDE to identify areas to focus attention for successful implementation of online testing. Training modules have been developed to make completion of the TRT easier for districts and schools. The training modules can be found here: http://techreadiness.org/t/TRT_2013_02-14/launch.html

District technology coordinators recently received an email with log in information for the TRT. Access to the TRT closes on Friday, June 14, 2013.

As announced in the December 31, 2012 Memorandum to Superintendents, other technology information is available on the SBAC website (<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology/>) and the WDE website: http://edu.wyoming.gov/programs/statewide_assessment_system/smarter-balanced-assessment.aspx.

This includes a bandwidth checker as well as minimum technology specifications for devices.

Please direct any questions that you may have about the TRT to Steve Marsh, Assessment Supervisor at the WDE (steve.marsh@wyo.gov and 777-3498). Thanks in advance for your help with this important project as we move toward implementation of next generation assessment systems.