Inside Assessment

Delaware Department of Education, Office of Assessment

Special Points of Interest:

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Warning: Incorrect Test Given to Students!

When logging into the Test Administration system, it is extremely important for test administrators to carefully select the type of test that students will be participating in during the testing session. It has come to our attention that some students were given a summative test when they should have received an interim assessment or were administered an interim assessment when they should have received the summative test. Please be certain you are selecting the correct test before proceeding with test administration. *If you find that you have inadvertently selected the wrong assessment, immediately have students pause the assessment and contact Helen.Dennis@doe.k12.de.us.*

Who Are Our Hand Scorers?

The Smarter assessment system incorporates items requiring a deeper understanding than can be measured using simply a multiple-choice item test. Students interact with the assessment items and respond in different ways.

Some responses are machine-scored, while other responses require hand-scoring. Students are asked to respond in writing to constructed-response, short-text, and essay items. These items require higher-order thinking and reasoning skills as students process and synthesize information to construct a written response.

Interims are designed to support instruction. Interim hand-scoring items will be scored locally by educators working with students on a regular basis. The scoring process provides an opportunity for teachers to see firsthand the strengths and needs of their individual students.

The summative assessment also includes both machine-scored and hand-scored items. To ensure consistency of scoring, summative hand-scored items will be scored by an external scoring organization—the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). DRC maintains high expectations when hiring and employing scorers.

High Expectations for Summative Scorers:

Step 1 – Screening
- Four-year college degree in relevant scoring content area
- Educational/work experience related to scoring subject
- Prior scoring experience is considered

Step 2 – Interview
- Personal interview
- DRC content-area proficiency assessment

Step 3 – Training
- Item training
- Reliability calibration/validation

Step 4 – Ongoing Validation
- Read-behind validation
- Ten percent double-scoring, supervisor review
- Ongoing accuracy review

Step 5 – Retraining (if warranted)
- Re-assignment of scoring and all previously scored work
- Follow-up tracking for accuracy
- Dismissal from process and rescoring of scored work

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Smarter News

Smarter Summative Test Security – Social Media

"Smarter Balanced has a vested interest in ensuring that assessments are supported by security protocols that establish both fairness for student engagement and validity in the interpretation of results. Maintaining test security during administration of the summative assessment is critical to preserving the integrity of the test." (Smarter Balanced)

Staff at UCLA and Smarter will be monitoring social media for any instances of online posting of test items. If an item is posted, the following process will occur.

- Relevant information will be shared with the state Department of Education (DOE).
- When verifiable, DOE will contact the school the student attends and take necessary actions to have the item removed from social media.
- Follow-up contacts to Smarter will take place to share details related to actions taken.
- An item risk rubric will be used to determine whether the breach requires the item to be removed from the assessment.

Smarter Summative Assessment Window Opens

Students in Delaware recently began the Smarter summative assessments for grades 3–8 in English language arts/literacy and mathematics. As of March 18, there have been 16,419 tests started and 11,744 tests have been completed.

For grades 3–8, the testing window runs from March 10–June 4, 2015. Students in grade 11 will be testing during the April 13–June 4, 2015 window. Paper and pencil form Smarter assessments will take place from May 4–20, 2015.

DTC Check-In Webinar/Conference Calls

The Smarter summative test window opened on March 10, 2015. In an effort to support the summative assessment process, the Office of Assessment will be hosting weekly webinar/conference calls with DTCs to answer questions and gather feedback. Calls began two weeks prior to the assessment window opening and will continue throughout the window. DTCs submit questions prior to the call; however, impromptu questions are always welcome and will be addressed on the call as time allows. Previous questions and responses are posted weekly and a link is sent out with upcoming call-in details. For additional information, please contact at Carolyn.lazar@doe.k12.e.us.

Classroom Activity Update

Classroom activities are required to take place prior to the administration of the performance task. It is recommended that these activities occur no more than 3 days prior to the performance task; however, they may occur on the same day as the performance task. Classroom activities for the Smarter summative assessment may be accessed via Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE).

The PT Classroom Activities are now available in TIDE:

| Home | View Students | View Users | Rosters | General Resources | **PT Classroom Activities** |

View Classroom Activities

View Classroom Activities

* State : 000000 · Delaware

* District : 17 · Cape Henlopen School District

* School : 710 · H. O. Brittingham Elementary School

Show Classroom Activities

Grade	Subject	Classroom Activity
03	MT	G3M-Summative-Perf-ScienceKit
04	MT	G4M-Summative-Perf-ClassPet
05	MT	G5M-Summative-Perf-CabinetOrg
03	ELA	G3E-Summative-Perf-Trees
04	ELA	G4E-Summative-Perf-Thunderstorms
05	ELA	G5E-Summative-Perf-Telescope

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Other Assessment News

English Language Learners (ELLs) Designated Support Changes

Smarter has issued a number of clarifications and changes to Smarter ELL designated supports in the past two months. As a helpful reminder, this article will summarize the most significant of these changes.

Accessibility Guide for Classroom Activities. This document clarifies that students with disabilities are allowed to have accommodations, and ELLs should have access to language supports they regularly use during classroom instruction during the "Classroom Activity" associated with the Performance Task (PT). The Smarter list of designated supports and accommodations applies during both the computer adaptive test (CAT) and the PT sessions.

Human Interpreter. In February, Smarter clarified that states could permit the use of a human interpreter during Smarter testing in two cases. A human interpreter can be used by ELLs on the mathematics test. A human interpreter also can be used by students with disabilities who have a hearing impairment on the mathematics test and the listening portions of the test if they use cued speech or signed English (an ASL interpretation accommodation is already embedded in the test for listening items). States must document the use of interpreters and ensure a high quality of interpretation. Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) published two forms for this purpose:

- Human Interpreter Verification Form – documents the student's use of an interpreter
- Human Interpreter Certification Requirements Form – documents the interpreter's participation and qualifications

The Human Interpreter Verification Form must be approved by DDOE before a student receives this support. Designated support codes for the use of an interpreter are 4.12 – Human Interpreter, World Languages and 6.10 – Human Interpreter, Visual Communication.

Read Aloud for Spanish Mathematics Items. Students may use the designated support 4.05 – Human Reader, Items for Spanish mathematics items if their school submits a unique accommodations form to Helen Dennis in order to document the accommodation.

Paper/Pencil for ELL SIFE Students. Among ELLs there is a subset of students who have interrupted schooling or very limited schooling prior to arriving in the U.S. These students may be immigrant, migrant, refugee, or bi-national and are often referred to as Students With Interrupted Formal Education (SIFEs). Many SIFE students are also among the unaccompanied youth that Delaware has received this school year. SIFE students may have little or no experience with computers. Despite use of the Smarter and DCAS Practice Tests, they may be unable to learn quickly how to answer some of the more unusual item types presented in the test without extensive help from test administrators or coaching. Coaching, however, is not permitted on the test. DDOE recommends, therefore, that all ELL SIFE students be given an opportunity to try the Smarter and DCAS Practice Tests. If it is determined that the student's computer learning curve is too great for the student to function on the online test, districts may order paper/pencil tests for these students. Designated support 4.10 should be selected. School coordinators should order additional materials if needed by e-mailing the DeSSA Help Desk or by calling 1-877-560-8331.

Embedded Glossary in Spanish. Spanish has been available in a vertically stacked English/Spanish test for mathematics since the Smarter Field Test. Ten other languages were available in translated glossaries. Spanish was added to the list of embedded glossaries available as part of designated support 3.05.

Non-Embedded Translated Glossaries for Download. Non-embedded translated glossaries have been posted on the DeSSA Portal for download under "General Resources" for students with designated support 4.08. There are now ten Smarter languages available in PDF form in a single download.

Non-Embedded Translated Directions for Download. Non-embedded directions have been posted on the DeSSA Portal for download under "General Resources" as part of designated support 4.09. There are now 15 languages available in PDF form in a single download. These directions do not include the full Test Administrator Manual (TAM) directions.

TAM Directions Translation. TAM directions are currently being translated into five of the most common native languages among Delaware ELLs, as entered in the ELL 2.0 database. These languages are Spanish, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Korean, and Arabic. An announcement will be made when these become available.

If you have any questions regarding these designated support changes, please e-mail Helen Dennis.

> **Note**: We recently learned that the non-embedded glossaries—designated support 4.08—are for the paper/pencil test ONLY.

Other Assessment News

2015 School Day Scholastic Aptitude Test (SD SAT)

The School Day Scholastic Aptitude Test (SD SAT) will be administered on April 15, 2015. The deadline for registration is fast-approaching, and we are in our final push to have students register to take the test. Students have until **11:59 pm on April 1, 2015,** to complete the registration process.

The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) has established the goal of **100% participation** for Delaware's juniors for the 2015 SD SAT.

College Board introduced the SAT Counselor Registration Report to aid in the logistics of the registration process. This web-based tool allows an individual to view and create customized reports showing the students in the school who are registered for the SAT. The tool can also be used to track students who used a fee waiver, were absent on test day, and other information to encourage students.

Every registered high school has access to the SAT Counselor Registration Report. If a counselor is in need of his/her access code, they should call and request their information at 1-888-SAT-HELP. *If you have any questions, please contact Rita Fry, Delaware NAEP State Coordinator.*

Training CDs Available

The Department of Education has developed a training CD that provides the online PDMS training courses available for all Test Administrator and Support Personnel. These CDs are available for staff who do not have access to PDMS. Please contact Lisa Alexander, Lisa.Alexander@doe.k12.de.us, with the total number of copies needed.

Paper/Pencil Updates

Final paper/pencil counts entered have been processed. A small overage will be sent to each district with the initial orders. If needed, the District Test Coordinator can request any additional orders from the help desk.

Newly Released Training Available

DeSSA Training Module	Course Number	Release Date
Let's Talk Universal Tools	On DeSSA Portal	3/3/2015
Student Interface for Online Testing	On DeSSA Portal	3/3/2015
Accessibility and Accommodations Training	On DeSSA Portal	3/3/2015
DeSSA – Test Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)	PDMS – 23766	3/6/2015