

REPORT ON FIELD TEST OF NEW MISSOURI ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TEST ITEMS

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 161.092, RSMo

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 1:

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

SUMMARY:

The Missouri Assessment Program will transition to online assessments during the 2014-15 school year for the grade level assessments in English language arts, mathematics, science, and the assessment for the most cognitively disabled students. This transition will include different types of test items developed to reflect proficiency on Missouri’s revised standards in English language arts and mathematics.

As is customary with all new items used in Missouri’s state assessments, field tests of those items are currently being conducted in many school districts. The field test process uses test items that have been determined to accurately represent the standards and contain material appropriate to the grade level. Its structure is intended to be very much like the tests that will eventually be given to all students. However, the purpose of a field test is to test those items and determine which ones are statistically valid and reliable in a large-scale assessment with students. It provides information so that only the best, most accurate items are selected for the formal assessment.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the field tests currently being conducted in Missouri.

PRESENTERS:

Sharon Helwig, Assistant Commissioner, and Michael J. Muenks, Coordinator of Assessment, Office of College and Career Readiness will assist in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.



ASSESSMENT FIELD TESTS

SPRING 2014

April 2014

Missouri Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education

Spring 2014 – What's Happening

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- ▣ Smarter Balanced English language arts and mathematics
- ▣ Missouri Grade-Level Science
- ▣ Alternate Assessment (MAP-A) – Dynamic Learning Maps English language arts and mathematics



Field Testing

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What is a Field Test?

A Field Test is the testing of items to determine that the items are fair to all students and will produce valid and reliable scores.

Why is it important for Missouri students to participate?

Missouri participation means that Missouri's students will have contributed to the item level data for items that will potentially be used in Missouri.

Smarter Balanced Field Test

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- Updated Missouri Learning Standards for English language arts and mathematics
- English language arts and mathematics
- Grades 3-8 and high school
- 360 districts/604 buildings selected
- About 23,000 students representing Missouri in the field test

Smarter Balanced Field Test (cont.)

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- Three testing windows
 - Window 1 – March 25-April 11
 - Window 2 – April 7-April 25
 - Window 3 – April 26-May 16
 - Due to weather . . . Window 4 – May 10-June 6
- Student Enrollment
 - Districts uploaded student enrollment file

Smarter Balanced Field Test (cont.)

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- What does it look like?
 - Classroom activity
 - Non-Performance Task Sessions
 - Performance Task Session
 - 3-4 hours total testing time

Smarter Balanced Field Test (cont.)

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□ Prominent Questions

- Can districts still upload students?
- Is it possible for a district to change a testing window?
- How do Test Administrators access the system?
- How do Test Administrators start a test session?
- Where can District Test Coordinators and Test Administrators find training materials?

Missouri Grade-Level Science Field Test

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- Grades 5 and 8
- Movement of current paper/pencil assessments to online format
- No change in test design or content expectations
- 108 districts; 139 buildings selected
- About 18,000 students in grades 5 and 8

Missouri Grade-Level Science Field Test (cont.)

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- Testing windows
 - Window 1 – March 17- March 28
 - Window 2 – March 31- April 18
- Student Enrollment File
 - DESE provided using Spring 2014 information

Missouri Grade-Level Science Field Test (cont.)

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- What does it look like?
 - Three sessions:
 - Constructed Response Items
 - Selected Response Items
 - Performance Event
- Approximately 2 ½-3 hours testing time

Missouri Grade-Level Science Field Test (cont.)

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□ Prominent Questions

- How do Test Administrators access the system?
- How does a Test Administrator begin a test session?
- How are accommodations handled for students with disabilities?
- Can students be added if they transferred to the district after the Spring 2014 precode was submitted?

Alternate Assessment (MAP-A) Field Test – Dynamic Learning Maps

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- Assesses the most significantly cognitively challenged students
 - English language arts & mathematics
 - Grades 3-8 and high school
- Testing Windows
 - Window 2 – March 17-April 11
 - Window 3 – May 1 through end-of-school year

What We've Learned

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- Precoding by DESE works best.
- Streamline manuals
- School support
- Strong encouragement to use practice items/tests/interims early and often
- Advantage of technology, especially for students with disabilities