

December 7, 2012

# Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium e-Alert

Connecticut State Department of Education

Bureau of Student Assessment

## Technology Strategy Framework

Smarter Balanced recently released the technology strategy framework and system requirements specifications for the implementation of 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 computers will support the administration of the assessment system. By January, the Technology Readiness Tool will be updated with these specifications to allow districts to conduct a gap analysis. The technology strategy framework and a Q & A is currently available on the [Smarter Balanced Web site](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology) ([www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/smarter-balanced-assessments/technology)).

## Mathematics Informational Webinars

On September 7 and November 15, Student Achievement Partners' ,Jason Zimba, and Smarter Balanced Director of Mathematics, Shelbi Cole, presented informational webinars about the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM) to the Consortium. The September 7 webinar provided a deeper understanding of the standards with a focus on Smarter Balanced and its development of assessments aligned to the CCSSM, and provided an overview of the CCSSM's implications for assessment, including criteria for evaluating CCSS-aligned items and tasks. The November 15 webinar focused on identifying three shifts called for by the standards in assessment items through analysis of examples and non-examples. The webinar recordings are available at [www.smarterbalanced.org/resources-events/webinars/](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/resources-events/webinars/).

## Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs)

The draft ALDs are available for feedback and review through January 15, 2013. Developed by K-12 teachers, higher education faculty, and content experts, the initial ALDs describe levels of student performance in English language arts/literacy and mathematics on the Smarter Balanced assessments. Smarter Balanced has also released a college content-readiness definition with associated implications for 12th-grade and postsecondary coursework at each achievement level on the 11th-grade assessment. The draft initial ALDs and an online feedback survey are posted on the Smarter Balanced web site: [www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-level-descriptors-and-college-readiness/](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-level-descriptors-and-college-readiness/).



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[Connecticut's Smarter Balanced Web site](#)

