



2014 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting

2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test

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2014 Smarter Balanced Field Test Update—By the Numbers

- Administered March 23 through June 13
- 4.2 million students across the consortium participated
- Over 3.1 million California students participated
- California's participation represented more than 73 percent of tested sample



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Smarter Balanced Field Test Update— By the Numbers (cont.)

- Concurrent users
 - California was prepared for 500,000 concurrent test takers.
 - The peak occurred on April 29, with 184,000 concurrent users.
- Technical Assistance Center (CaITAC)
 - The average number of daily contacts was 549.
 - Top requests were for resetting passwords and answers to general test administration questions.



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Focus Groups

Focus groups:

- Focus groups designed to gather input from participants regarding their experience with the Field Test were held in July through September 2014. The groups consisted of:
 - LEA coordinators, administrators, and test administrators
 - Parents and students



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Surveys

- Pre- and during testing surveys
 - Test coordinators, technology coordinators, test administrators
- Post-test survey
 - Test coordinators, technology coordinators, test administrators
- Analysis of focus group and survey data



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Perceptions

Perceptions of the Field Test:

- Initial anxiety was high, but actual test experience was highly positive
- Coordination
 - Scheduling of the testing
 - Alignment of the designated supports and accommodations language with the individualized education program (IEP) and entering supports/accommodations into the Information Distribution Engine (TIDE)



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Perceptions (cont.)

- Technology
 - Upgrades were sometimes needed before testing.
 - Some students need keyboarding, general computer skills.
- Lost passwords (most frequently reported problem)



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Feedback

Survey feedback:

- “We chunked each week by grade level district-wide, and it seems to be working well. It regulates the number of students online, and gives each school a manageable target per week.”
- “Overall 99% positive . . . students have been doing fine, teachers were a bit more stressed. Kids are engaged and excited about it. . .get antsy if they don’t get started on time and are sitting around waiting. Kids were using scratch paper. Having a tech person at site helped. Staggered start time and dates was very helpful.”



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Feedback (cont.)

Survey feedback:

- “ . . . Our training sessions have paid off. Coordinators and TAs are able to start test sessions and students are logging in and using our ID cards we provided all sites. Students are terrific! By far, our biggest headache . . . has been password resets.”



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LEA Takeaways

- Coordinate roles and responsibilities within the district and school for both assessment and technology.
- Resources provided by the state and the Consortium are appreciated and needed timely.
- Utilization of the Practice and Training Tests was important.
- Have students practice on the same devices on which testing is expected to be carried out.
- It is essential to provide training on universal tools, designated supports, and accommodations.
- Overall this was a very successful field test experience that will prepare us for spring 2015 administration.



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Congratulations!
Thank you!

**Collaboration was the
key to the successful
administration of the
Smarter Balanced Field
Test!**