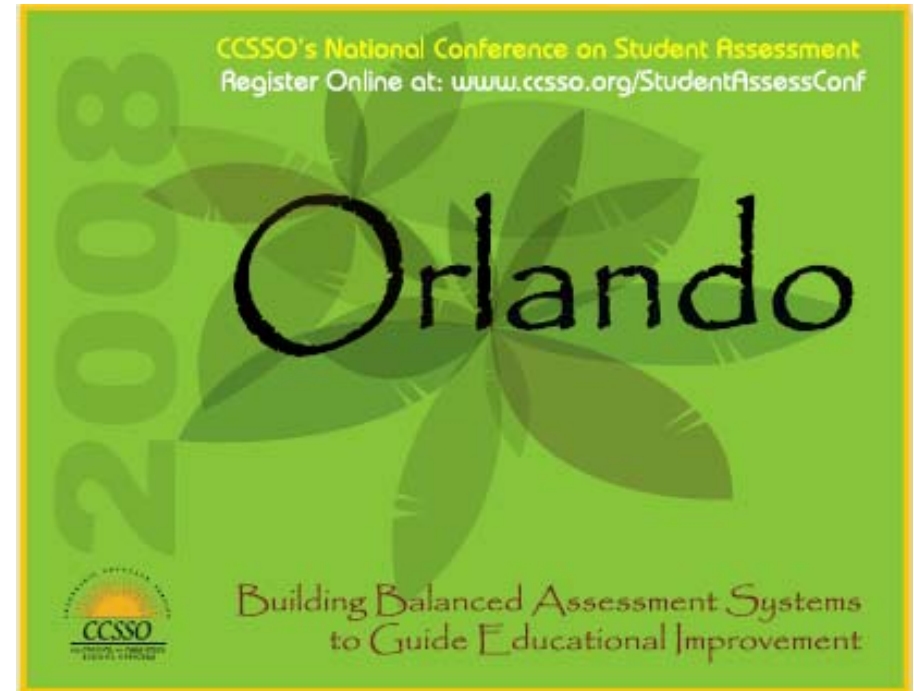


Operational Best Practices for Statewide Assessment Programs:

**A Cooperative Effort
Between Test Publishers
and States**



Jon S. Twing, Ph. D.

Executive Vice President

Pearson

Agenda

- Jon S. Twing, Pearson
 - Introductions & History
- Wes Bruce, Indiana Department of Education
 - Collaborative Efforts, Needs and Desires
- Judy Feil, Ohio Department of Education
 - Transition Between Contractors – Example of a Need
- Lisa Ehrlich, Measured Progress
 - Scanning and Editing – Example Best Practice
- William G. Harris, ATP
 - Commentary on the Process

John Tanner, CCSSO - Moderator

Background

- Secretary Spellings suggestion to Publishers for Operational Best Practices—including her desire for collaboration with CSSO (Dec. 2006)
- Joint meetings between ATP and CCSSO with participation of AAP Test Committee to set up structure and procedures for a collaborative effort
 - Effort to draft a Memorandum of Understanding with CCSSO
 - ATP and AAP Test Committee Updates: April, June and October, 2007
 - CCSSO Updates and WebEx Meetings: September, October and December 2007
- Lack of clear examples of best practices led to the decision for a collaborative effort to create documented best practices from current operational expertise

Initial Meeting and Charge

- December 5, 2006 Meeting in Washington, DC
- Established Best Practice Working Group (BPWG)
 - Pearson
 - CTB
 - Measured Progress
 - ETS
 - Caveon
 - Data Recognition Corporation
 - College Board
 - Riverside Publishing
- A living document for eventual review in collaboration with CCSSO with an objective of documenting Best Practices regarding operational fulfillment for the testing and assessments enterprise.

ATP/CCSSO Best Practice Working Group

- Jon S. Twing, Ph.D., Pearson - Chair
- Lisa Ehrlich, Ph.D., Measured Progress – Secretary
- Phil Young, Ph.D., later replaced with Peg Murphy, ETS
- John Fremer, Ph.D., Caveon
- Doyle Kirkeby, Data Recognition Corporation
- Scott Merritt, CTB/McGraw-Hill
- Matt Costello, College Board
- Scott Hinders, Riverside Publishing
- Wes Bruce, Indiana Department of Education
- Chris Domaleski, Ph.D., Georgia Department of Education
- Judy Feil, Ph.D., Ohio Department of Education

Subsequent Meetings for Working Group

- Publisher hosted meetings since February, 2007
- ATP and AAP updates
- ATP Conference Presentation
- CCSSO Updates via EIMAC Conferences
- Various conference calls and e-mail correspondence as required

Goals

- Document “best practices” not define standards
 - Standards are written to be met and operationally adhered to
 - Best Practices are not prescriptive: indicate/describe **what** to do, not **how** to do it
- Joint Working Groups – ATP and CCSSO
- Focus on operational fulfillment for the testing and assessments industry for essentially large-scale, high-stakes, NCLB mandated and related assessments

Goals

- Ultimately to be used in collaboration with CCSSO membership
- Draft of joint Best Practices document circulated for public review/comments and approval of each organization
- Consensus process for revision and finalization of draft documents – akin to ISO/ANSI
- Publish/distribute individual sets of Best Practices

Operating Ground Rules . . .

- Focus on operational elements of testing
- Must align with NCLB Peer Review Guidance
- Standards on Psychological Testing cover technical areas these Best Practices will not address
- Best Practices should not be prescriptive, but should be performance oriented
 - Example: EPA emissions levels - car manufacturers not told how to meet them; just what levels they must achieve

Accomplishments

- Reviewed a variety of existing standards
- Agreement on approach, information collection template, roles and responsibilities
- Nondisclosure/Antitrust discussion
- General timeline, updates and materials disposition procedures
- Refinement of document format, leveling and drafting of Best Practices

Commentary

- Dr. Barbara Plake
 - “Really good practices”?
 - “Suggestions or guidelines”?
- Unbelievable collaboration...truly collegial
- A mix of process engineers, practitioners and policy makers
- No exclusive to NCLB type assessments

Contact

Jon Twing
Pearson

jon.s.twing@pearson.com

319-339-6407