

ND State Assessment Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Date:	October 6, 2015	Location:	Kelly Inn – Bismarck, ND	Time:	10:00 am – 4:00 pm CST
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Attendance:					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kirsten Baesler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Chiang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ned Clooten
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Hoverson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cory Steiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stacy Murschel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer Weber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aimee Copas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linda Hoag
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jon Godfread	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scott Faul	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dave Wheeler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ryan Townsend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tracy Friesen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Archuleta
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patty Barrette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Representative Cindy Schreiber-Beck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Representative Dennis Johnson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator Nicole Poolman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senator Joan Heckaman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stacey Castleman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gene Modin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tammy Owens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vanessa Anderson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Goettle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Lind	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lyn Hendry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carrie Weippert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Kasper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wayne Trottier
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Kaspari	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Gallagher	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Matzke
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ann Ellefson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gerry Teevens		

Opening Comments – Superintendent Kirsten Baesler

- Welcomed the task force members and thanked them for serving.
- Reminds task force the team must stay on track, as there is great opportunity for us to drive the direction of what our assessment plan is.
- Huge array set before us and enormous level of complexity ahead of us as what do we value and where do we want to go in assessments and the expectation that assessments will never go away.
- Assessments are necessary and serve different purposes for different stake holders.
- Assessments are part of our education system and will remain part of education system forever so we need to decide what is going to best suit the needs of our North Dakota students.
- You all are invited members of this task force for the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and I value that you accepted the invitation to be a member of this task force. I value your opinions and I want you to share your thoughts and perspective on the decision where we're going in the state of North Dakota towards student assessment. I encourage the team to continue to share those opinions.
- The process and protocol of the task force has been established.
- There are numerous groups in the state of North Dakota discussing this same issue and all these groups have their own process, protocol, and agenda items.
- The State Superintendent, by law, has the responsibility to make a decision and wants to hear your opinion, your perspective and wants each member to contribute to what that decision the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction will be.

Opening Comments – Dr. Rick Melmer

- Welcomed the task force members.
- Quick overview of agenda for the day
- Review of task force objectives
 - Develop foundational knowledge of assessment
 - Review past and current ND assessment practices
 - Understand national assessment initiatives
 - Develop recommendations for K–12 assessment practices in North Dakota
 - Submit recommendations to NDDPI for consideration

- Some members are anxious to get to the next level; however, some may feel there is still foundational work that needs to be done.
- Reminds the group that some members have deep knowledge on assessment, but there is still some that have to learn about what a good balanced assessment is.
- Introduction of Assessment Solutions Group (ASG) presentation.
- Introduction Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) presentation.
- Smarter Balanced will have a presentation in person at the November meeting.
- North Dakota is in a unique position, as it does not have a State Board. Most of the time decisions regarding assessments would land with the State Board in each state, but there is no State Board in North Dakota so NDDPI is be going to make the final assessment decision.
- Smarter Balanced and (PARC) are two testing consortiums funded by U.S. Department of Education to develop tests for all states.
- Reminders
 - Notes posted on the website
 - All presentations posted on the website
 - Meetings are held in public, but are not public meetings

Developing a High Quality Assessment System – Ed Roeber and Barry Topol – (ASG)

- Provided insight as to what is going on at the national level
- Provided the trends happening around the country with assessments
- Explained independence of company. They help states understand the technical difficulty and design tradeoffs, and written Request for Purchase (RFP)
- They do not build or advise builders on how to build an assessment
- ASG clients are states and are vendor neutral
- There are about 7-8 vendor assessment companies available to states
- ASG does not consider SBAC and PARCC vendors, but a consortium of states that do the same thing other states have done. ASG treats both SBAC and PARCC as any other state
- There are two basic types of assessment:
 - Assessments *for* learning – These are assessment processes that occur during daily instruction and help teachers adjust instruction and students adjust their learning (formative in nature)
 - Assessments *of* learning – These are assessments that occur at the conclusion of a unit of instruction (summative in nature) or at the end of a school year
- A balance between summative, interim, and formative approaches to assessment is needed
 - Summative assessment
 - Annual assessment given at the end of the school year
 - Interim or benchmark assessments (mini-summative assessments) used one or more times during the year
 - Formative assessment strategies
 - These are used daily, embedded in classroom instruction, to assure students are learning what teachers are teaching.
- For more detailed information regarding ASG presentation, please reference the ASG PowerPoint on the website

After Lunch Discussion – Dr. Rick Melmer

- As the group considers the work of the Assessment Task Force – what information do you need to prepare for a set of recommendations to the NDDPI? What would you like to see come from

standardized assessment? As a group, all need to agree on accepted truths. These are proposed truths

- What is the purpose of the tests? Descriptions of the different tests (who, what, purpose etc.) NC & NIT and Innovation Lag
- Tests are to drive curriculum. The curriculum is to drive student achievement to be 90% proficient or higher. (NOT true... test do not drive curriculum, test are the last thing developed, standards are built and then test are developed).
- To what level can we make a recommendation? (remove tests, combine tests, shorten tests, move windows)
- What tests best align with college and career readiness standards? This is the “end game” so the yearly assessments needs to align with these benchmarks.
- What are the critics saying who oppose Smarter Balance? Opinion vs. Research
- Why are some schools using so many optional assessments and others are not? There seems to still be parent anxiety about this test.
- I would like to see a spreadsheet of available assessments matched to many criteria. The real debate is in the weight to each criteria especially the benefits of developing our own.
- Need definitions of abbreviations. Information about the entity or organization that the abbreviations stand for.
- At this time, I believe you have provided a great deal of information. I do not feel I need more information to move forward. I would like to now begin the task of discussions that could lead to our recommendations.
 - Are these tests actually preparing our students for college or the work force? To give all students a chance to succeed, how do “we” accommodate those students that do not test well?
 - Timeline and budget? There was some discussion today about the options of drafting our own ND state tests. Is this really an option given the time and money needed for such an endeavor?
 - Do these assessments measure readiness? What measures are important?
- I would like to hear more about some of the pros and cons from some of the major vendors. We know the weakness of Smarter Balanced. What are the strengths and weakness of ACT, PARCC , others?
- Develop and articulate our commitments and beliefs about the (NDSA). A clear target will help us direct our conversation.
- I am interested in learning more about competency based and performance based assessments. I see that many states have gone with ACT and ACT Aspire. It might be good to hear from states that have gone that way.
- What options are available to develop a test that can be reviewed by parents? Adaptive test cannot “really” be reviewed.
- Clear definition of what purpose assessments serve for each stakeholder. Concise results that determine learning has occurred.
- What assessments are redundant in nature to all stakeholders? Is ND willing to pursue federal waiver to access other types of assessments? Look at student success and how assessment interplay mindful of the future. Where federal government ends up with ESEA bill, but may change outcomes of task force.
- What are the specific options for recommendations? (Ex: combo tests, eliminating, replacing)
- Look at reports that are available to parents and schools for the main assessments. See what info/students results look like and how they are/can be used for accountability and student success.
- What are our options for a state assessment? Should we decide to choose a different one?
- Constitutionality of SBAC, governance of SBAC. A handout on ineffectiveness of standardization. Is it a law of federal Title I or do we lose funding? What do tests actually accomplish?

- You have provided a great deal of relevant information. We can look at all of the assessments, their purpose, and what are the duplications if any. Survey info was very valuable.
- I need to know what each stakeholder's needs from assessments, but also think that these stakeholders should be weighted to focus on kids first.
- I would be interested to know more about North Carolina and New Hampshire and what their assessments entail.
- I need more info on the value of what comes from the tests. Learn more about the tests or questions, what are our options?
- The time it took for state assessment last spring. Assurances that data comes back to school in a timely manner.
- What viable options is the department willing to consider? What are features, drawbacks, limitations of each?

Overview of ESEA Requirements - Peter Zamora - (CCSSO)

- Reviewed the handout "Comparison of Select Elements of ESEA Proposals"
- Provided an update on the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind
- Every state must test. Is testing part of the new bill?
- Provide an update on what he thinks will happen for balance of this year

Summary of Student Data Collection in ND – Steve Snow – NDDPI

- What is going on with student data?
- What is being collected? Who is collecting data?
- What is happening with the data?
- Discussion on security of student data
- Discussion on what is TIENET System
- Approved accommodations to take the tests
- Both Measured Progress and McGraw Hill does assessments and evaluation to make sure of the validity of tests
- Confidentially agreements with Measured Progress and Smarter Balanced. Data is not being shared.
- Definition of Consortium and Vendor
 - North Dakota is in a consortium with 18 other states
 - Vendor is Measured Progress
- How PowerSchool is involved in testing?
- Discussion on secure testing channels and browsers
- Discussion on student privacy

Review of North Dakota Assessment Survey – Superintendent Baesler – NDDPI

- Comprehensive survey of North Dakota schools and assessment testing was shared and reviewed individually.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

Task Force would like additional information on.....

- McGraw-Hill and Metric Tech duties/purpose
- More assessment information on what New Hampshire and North Carolina are currently doing
- Chart of current test students are taking. What is the test purpose and reason for taking them?
- More information on the waiver and its options
- More information on the "Opt out" option

- List of assessment vendors
- More information on summative and formative
- What are the standards?

Assessment Task Force Presenter Wish List

- College Professor Panel
- Student Panel
- Teacher Panel
- Higher Education Panel
- A pitch from vendors

Next Meeting:					
Date:	November 5, 2015	Location:	Bismarck Heritage Center –Rom A	Time:	10:00 am – 4:00 pm CST