

Common Assessment Initiative

Benefits, Roles and Responsibilities of Pilot College Participation

CALL TO ACTION: The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office seeks Pilot Colleges to participate in the Common Assessment Initiative, and to provide critical support and feedback in the development of a Common Assessment System that will benefit all California Community Colleges and students.

What is the Common Assessment Initiative?

The Common Assessment Initiative (CAI) contract was awarded to the Butte-Glenn Community College District in November 2013 to develop a Common Assessment System for the benefit of all California Community Colleges and students. The initiative partners include Cal-PASS Plus (a partnership among San Joaquin Delta College, San Joaquin COE and Educational Results Partnership 501c3), Saddleback College, The Academic Senate of California Community Colleges, and is guided by a steering committee representing a broad cross section of California Community College leaders. The Common Assessment Initiative will comprise assessment information, test creation, test delivery, test administration, a robust data warehouse and course placement information and tools focused on multiple measures. The goals of the proposed system are:

- Develop and use centralized and integrated technology solutions to support the assessment and placement activities of the California Community Colleges.
- Help colleges serve more students with robust and effective assessment and placement tools with an emphasis on multiple measures.
- Expand the underlying systems of data and research and improve access to the data in support of students, faculty and staff.

The development of a common assessment instrument for each of the curricular areas of math, English and ESL is one element of this grant. The initiative's ultimate goals are improved student placement, expanded use of multiple measures of placement and enhanced research and data exchange.

What is the purpose of the Pilot Phase?

The coalition partners, with leadership from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, will design and test the CAI platform, assessments, user interface, professional development for key staff, and multiple measures analysis tools at eight pilot colleges. Feedback from faculty, staff, and students will be coupled with comprehensive research validation and evaluation measures to ensure the common assessment system and support tools are effective and appropriate prior to a system-wide implementation.

What are the benefits of being a Pilot College?

As a pilot college, you will have the opportunity to be on the ground floor of designing the first Common Assessment system for the California Community College system. The pilot colleges will provide direct input during the creation and design of the assessment. Participation affords your college and faculty a prominent role in the development and testing of the assessment and testing platform, and of the user interfaces for faculty, staff, and students. Your college will also benefit from the early adoption of the new Common Assessment Platform and placement tools, as well as direct technical assistance, professional development and customized support.

Roles and Expectations for Pilot College

- **Complete the Pilot College Application for the Common Assessment by May 15, 2014.**
- Commit to working with coalition partners to implement the Common Assessment Pilot Test.
- Identify key leadership who will work with coalition partners on implementation and feedback.
- Commit to pilot the use of an assessment system that utilizes multiples measures of placement for incoming students.
- Assist in the selection or development of processes, tools and applications required to support the CAI.
- Attend professional development activities for faculty related to the CAI.
- Identify roadblocks and solutions to issues that could prevent a seamless user experience for faculty, staff, and students as they navigate the CAI.
- Commit to providing faculty and staff to participate on Work Groups. (Anticipated content Work Groups include: Math Test, English Test, ESL Test, Multiple Measures, Professional Development, Testing Platform).
- Submit an agreement to participate acknowledged by your college president.
- Members participating in the pilot college work will be expected to attend one in-person or virtual meeting once every two months. Members involved in Work Groups should expect more involvement based upon deliverables and deadlines, but Work Groups will be dissolved once the deliverable is achieved.

Criteria for the selection of the Pilot Colleges:

- Willingness to commit to the roles and responsibilities of being a Pilot College stated above.
- All applications will be vetted to determine a cross section of colleges, with criteria including: rural vs. urban, geographic diversity across California, diversity of student populations and diversity of current assessment tests used and student information systems deployed. Use of and interest in multiple measures that inform student placement will also be considered. Consideration will also be given to the grantee colleges under the project.

Tentative Work Plan Timeline

May 2014 Secure Pilot College Commitments to Participate

May 2014 – Dec. 2015 Pilot College Participation in the Design/Testing of the Common Assessment

First Tentatively Scheduled Series of Work Group Meetings

06/03/2014	Multiple Measures Workgroup—this is a Sunday
07/08/2014	English Test Workgroup Meeting (prep RFP)
07/09/2014	Math Test Workgroup Meeting (prep RFP)
07/10/2014	ESL Test Workgroup Meeting (prep RFP)
08/26/2014	English Test Workgroup Meeting
08/27/2014	Math Test Workgroup Meeting
08/28/2014	ESL Test Workgroup Meeting

July & August Develop and publish a Request For Proposal (RFP) for a test vendor(s)

September Select test vendor(s) and begin assessment development

Other Relevant Information

Travel will be reimbursed for any off-site meetings.

A minimum of 1-2 year commitment is requested.