

# Transitioning to New Assessment Systems: *Lessons from Two States*

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San Francisco, CA | December 11, 2015



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*This document was produced under prime award #S283B050022A between the U.S. Department of Education and WestEd. The findings and opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Education.*

# Topics for Discussion

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1. Assessment landscape – opportunity for balance and rethinking priorities
2. Two state stories
  - a) California
  - b) New Hampshire
3. Getting ahead of the curve

# Assessment Landscape

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- Adoption of rigorous college- and career-ready standards and need for assessments aligned to those standards
- Calls for new or different approaches
  - CCSSO report
  - Council of Great City Schools
  - Testing opponents as well as advocates
  - Option to create “hybrid” tests using items or components from multi-state consortia
- Federal initiatives
  - Every Student Succeeds Act
  - Testing Action Plan

# Transition – Why Now?

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- Great opportunity – moment in time
  - “Let’s measure what we value instead of valuing what can easily be measured.”

Henry Braun, Boston College

# New Hampshire - Capitalizing on State Strengths and Values and Federal Flexibility

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- New Hampshire was approved by USED to pilot a customized approach to assessment
  - Performance Assessment of Competency Education (PACE)
  - Originally 4, now 8 districts out of 85
  - Non-pilots using Smarter Balanced
  - Pilot sites use SB once in each grade span
  - 2 years
  - Currently ELA, math, science, the Arts, & NH Work-Study Practices

# New Hampshire's Assessment System Redesign

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- Part of its vision for a more innovative system of assessments aligned to state values and priorities for its students
  - Leader in competency-based education
  - More local management of assessment..provides alternative route of demonstrating measurable progress in student outcomes
  - Curriculum embedded: linked to local instruction and designed to provide timely, useful feedback to teachers, students, and parents
  - Reduce level of standardized testing

# New Hampshire's Assessment System Redesign (cont.)

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- Key component is set of common, complex, multi-part tasks that require students to apply what they have learned through research projects, presentations, performances
- Focus is on deeper learning of core competencies such as content mastery, critical thinking, self-direction
- Implemented with support from foundations (Nellie Mae, Hewlett) and NCIEA

# New Hampshire's Assessment System Redesign (cont.)

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- Outcome of multi-year effort to redesign AND refocus state's assessment system around shared responsibility for student success
- Data are being systematically collected so state can study
  - Training & PD concerns
  - Comparability issues
  - Scoring challenges (who, how)
  - Appropriate evidence for Peer Review

# California - Capitalizing on State Strengths and Values and Political Landscape

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- California Superintendent required to recommend to CA State Board of Education and legislature the build-out of the assessment system in March 2016
  - California currently assesses what is required by federal law
  - Taking advantage of federal flexibility without a waiver
  - Governor, State Chief, and State Board President agree
  - Principle of “subsidiarity” in full force
  - Alignment of resources/programs

# Subsidiarity

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- **Subsidiarity** is a principle of social organization. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines subsidiarity as the idea that a central authority should have a subsidiary (that is, a supporting, rather than a subordinate) function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more immediate or local level.

# Draft Framework for Developing the Assessment System

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- California stakeholders — including students, educators, and parents — envision and will benefit from...
  1. **...an integrated, coherent system of multiple measures...**
  2. **...a purpose-driven system...**
  3. **...an inclusive system...**

# Draft Framework for Developing the Assessment System

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- California stakeholders — including students, educators, and parents — envision and will benefit from...
  4. **...a system that is guided by research and industry best-practice-supported expectations...**
  5. **...an innovative system...**
  6. **...a transparent system...**

# Draft Framework for Developing the Assessment System

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- California stakeholders — including students, educators, and parents — envision and will benefit from...
  7. **...a dynamic, streamlined system that is feasible, efficient, and cost-effective...**
  8. **...general guidance, resources, and tools from the CDE that support local-level decision-making about the combination of measures that is most appropriate in each situation.**

# Gathering Stakeholder Input

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- Subject matter experts
  - Science
  - Social Studies
  - Technology
  - Visual and Performing Arts
  - ELA
  - Mathematics
- Advocacy groups

# Gathering Stakeholder Policy Input

Assessment Name	Subject/Content Area	Grade(s)	Student Population(s)	Assessment Type	Delivery Mode
<i>Examples: Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment, Desired Results Developmental Profile, California English Language Development Test</i>	<i>Examples: Science, Social Studies, Performing Arts</i>	<i>Examples: Grade 2, Grades 6-8, Grade 12</i>	<i>Examples: All grade 5 students, English learners, Students enrolled in Biology</i>	<i>Examples: Formative, Interim, Summative</i>	<i>Examples: Computer-supported, Computer adaptive, Paper-pencil</i>

# Gathering Stakeholder Policy Input

Item Type(s)	Purpose	Audience	Responsibility	Alignment to Guiding Principles
<i>Examples: Selected-response items, Performance tasks, Portfolio</i>	<i>Examples: Inform instructional decision-making, Program evaluation, District accountability</i>	<i>Examples: Elementary grade educators, Parents, District administrators</i>	<i>Examples: Local, State-Supported, State</i>	

# Emerging Lessons Learned

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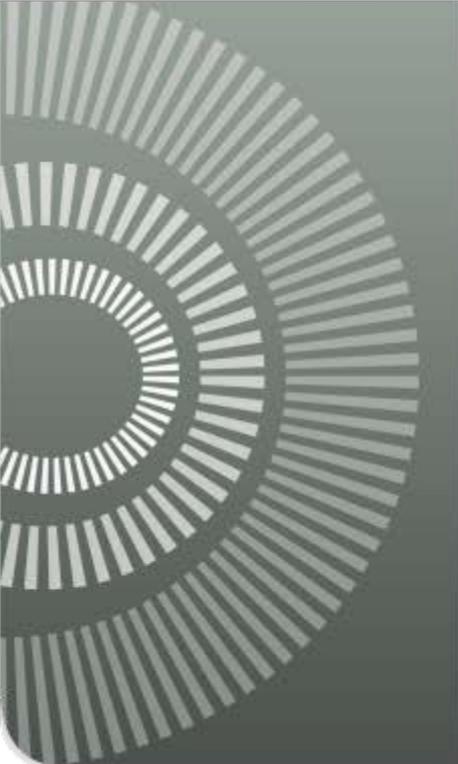
- Build on state's unique strengths or what's currently working well
- Take advantage of the political landscape
- Components must reflect core values and priorities
- Transparency is critical
  - Here's where we are, where we want to go, and how we propose to get there
- Be collaborative and leverage resources and expertise across educators, schools, states
- Monitor progress and scale up gradually

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