Smarter Balanced Field Test
WEA Member Survey Results
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)

The new, statewide assessment to measure state standards, starting in 2014-15

- Will replace the math, reading and writing portions of the MSP in grades 3-8
- Meeting standard on the test for 11th graders is a graduation requirement for the Class of 2019

SBAC Field Tests occurred in the Spring of 2014

- **680 of 2,380** (29%) schools statewide volunteered*
- Included English Language Arts (ELA) and Math in grades 3-8 and 11.

*Note: Some volunteer schools did not complete field tests.
Background

- **Survey Goals:** Identify [1] member opinions on and issues associated with the SBAC Field Tests and [2] how WEA can support members with this new statewide standardized test.

- **1,569** (of 17,578) Certificated and ESP members responded – a 9% response rate.

Means for All Respondents

**Q2:** Overall Level of **Common Core Curriculum Alignment**

- **Scale Mean:** 2.65
- **Not aligned:** 2
- **Fully aligned:** 4
- **Scale Mean:** 2.50
Q3: Overall Experience Administering SBAC Field Tests

2.26

1. Difficult and Frustrating
2
3. Smooth and Straightforward
4

Scale Mean: 2.50

Q4: Overall Impact of SBAC Practice and Administration on the School Day

1.72

1. Very Disruptive
2
3. Not At All Disruptive
4

Scale Mean: 2.50
Over half (54%) of member respondents estimated that 2-5 hours of *preparation time* is needed to adequately administer the SBAC Field Tests.

Over 2/3 (68%) of member respondents used 1-10 hours of instructional time to *practice* for the SBAC Field Tests.

Half (50%) of member respondents reported 11 to 20+ hours for students to *take the test*.
The mean amount of time it took for most students to complete the SBAC was 4.94 hours for ELA and 4.07 hours for Math. This is about 1 hour longer than estimated.

Q18 and Q21: Mean Amount of Time For Students To Complete Each Subject, in Hours*

*Open response question; responses were converted to hours and rounded to the nearest quarter-hour. Responses with a range indicated (e.g., 5-6 hours) were converted to the midpoint of that range (e.g., 5.5 hours).

The most frequently reported ELA student challenge was the lack of keyboarding skills, followed by the test layout (split screen, scrolling and difficulties navigating).

Q19: ELA SBAC Student Challenges*
(812 respondents, coded from open responses)

Number of Respondents Who Mentioned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Keyboarding Skills</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Layout (Split Screen, Scrolling, Navigation)</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long, Confusing Instructions</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclear Test</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult, Above Grade Level</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Test</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Tools/Features</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Open response question; responses were coded with up to four topics and counted by topic.
The most frequently reported Math student challenge was using the embedded tools (e.g., fractions, calculator, etc.), followed by the test being too difficult.

**Q22: Math SBAC Student Challenges***
*(634 respondents, coded from open responses)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of Respondents Who Mentioned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Tools (Fractions, Calculator, Graphs, Formulas)</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult, Above Grade Level</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Glitches (e.g., Logging In/Out, Lose Internet)</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclear Test</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Layout (Navigation, Requires Answers)</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount of Reading</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound, Text to Speech</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Open response question; responses were coded with up to four topics and counted by topic.
The most frequently reported comment about the SBAC Field Tests overall was that the entire process caused schedule disruptions, loss of instructional time.

Q7: Overall SBAC Comments*
(713 respondents, coded from open responses)

* Open response question; responses were coded with up to four topics and counted by topic.
For questions about the SBAC, please contact:

Sally McNair
Education Policy Implementation Coordinator
WEA Center for Education Quality

e-mail: smcnair@washingtonnea.org

For questions about the SBAC Field Test Survey, please contact:

Bethany Gordon
Research Specialist
WEA Center for Education Quality

Email: bgordon@washingtonea.org