

JOINT FEEDBACK TOUR – COLORADO’S NEW ASSESSMENT SYSTEM - QUESTIONS

Pueblo – November 9, 2010 – Pueblo Community College

1. Does this assessment system make sense to you?

- How do we do assessments if our district is not currently aligned with the standards?
- ICAP and dashboard will be useful.
- If the assessment system meets the goals (mastery, timely, ease of use) then it will do what we’ve been saying we want for years.
- How will the electronic component work for writing assessment? Will it be smart, fast enough?
- Overall makes sense. Still don’t know how high school piece will be grade level?
- Don’t have a problem with the direction. Don’t understand the timeline. How will we prepare teachers for new system?

2. What do you like about these components?

- Like the P-2 assessment and quarterly measurements. Will any of these tests be adaptive—will they move on if the kid gets the questions right? Will give us consistency across the state. ICAP and dashboard. You fund it, we’ll like it.
- Timeliness. Curious about P-2 assessments—how will they look? Unsure about adding social studies. If any new content area is added to summative will that lead to a redesign of the curriculum for that subject? But if social studies was added to summative, could teach/assess more for Learning and Behavior Skills, not just focus on content.
- Ongoing. Timeliness.
- ICAP. Gives students a reason to learn and shows where strengths are. Will have the same accommodations for ELL’s and other exceptionalities? Want ACT, Explore and Plan in 11th grade because it’s consistent across the nation. Need this whole sequence to really help the kids with college admissions.
- Summative results can inform summer school instruction.

3. What don’t you like about these components?

- Double test in 11th grade. Can’t really test mastery in some soft skills like job readiness. Lose trend data. How will we interpret results and compare to past, especially in terms of growth model?
- How will this affect SPF’s—unified planning?
- If it’s not mandated, it’s not going to happen in a lot of schools. How will we get kids to buy into assessment? There needs to be accountability for students to get them to buy into it.
- Summative assessment in 11th grade. Rather have Plan, Explore, ACT.
- Summative and ACT in 11th grade. No student buy in, accountability.
- There’s no discussion of assessing higher order thinking, depth of knowledge.
- No retention policy. Want students to have skills before moving on.

4. How can these components enhance student learning & performance?

- Dashboard will probably work for kids, can help with organization. Put interventions on dashboard for portability.

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- Social studies lends itself to cause and effect relationships, change over time for prediction, is what we do in higher ed. We want social studies included in summative assessment for this reason.
- Students will feel that they can use this. Will help with buy in because it will be useful. Students need to see their purpose in it.
- Funding? When will teachers/counselors have time to visit with students re ICAP and use dashboard?
- Quarterlies will serve as timely feedback. ICAP will help establish goals. Dashboard will be motivation
- Will be timely and give guidance. Will help with teacher planning and RTI. Will be able to push kids in the current year, rather than waiting for the next year with CSAP.

5. How will these components help you in your role?

- If summative data comes back in timely manner, helps us adjust instruction and identify subgroups. At district level, trend data is huge for accountability and for identifying PD needs.
- Will be valuable if can measure student skills. Mastery. More data points on students allows for better evaluation. Dashboard and ICAP students set their own goals so more student buy in.
- Help in formulation of school improvement plan and body of evidence for teacher evaluations per SB 191.
- Common assessments helps. If assessment is done for us, frees us up to do other things. Better able to individualize instruction. Ongoing feedback will be helpful. More data quicker.
- Will be beneficial for postsecondary if lowers remediation. Dashboard can be helpful for kids who move around to different districts. Dashboard helps students identify and align goals with what’s feasible for them. More collaboration needed between high schools and community colleges.