

Questions from TRT Training

TRT RELATED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Is this the field test district training or will there be training for field test districts?
The Technology Readiness Tool (TRT) training webinar is for all districts to introduce them to using the TRT. There will also be site readiness training that will initially focus on field test districts, but will be expanded to all districts about 4 months prior to the operational administration.
2. Is the device collection limited to the online testing environment or do we need to collect all device information?
Districts/schools only need to collect information on devices that could be made available to students for online testing.
3. Will the student October count file provided to the state from the districts suffice for the school survey data?
The Student October Count file does not provide the data needed to complete the TRT. Information collected through the TRT will inform many administrative and planning decisions, potentially at both the local and state level.
4. What is the timing for collecting the data?
CDE is requesting the data to be loaded by the end of March 2013.
5. What is needed from the multiple 'disjointed' testing locations?
If locations share a network, then proctor caching may be done once. If locations are on separate networks, each network will have proctor caching separately.
6. Can we export the data once it is uploaded into the TRT?
Yes, export is available for each of the data files.
7. Does the TRT provide bandwidth analysis?
The TRT merely collects bandwidth information; however, bandwidth analysis will be conducted during Site Readiness.
8. Are we required to collect 'virtual' devices?
If the virtual devices will be used for online testing, please collect them.
9. As our technology changes how do we keep the TRT data in sync?
Districts/schools will need to upload/replace or edit the data previously loaded.
10. Are the upload data immediately available or is there an overnight process?
There is an overnight process before reports are available.
11. How close to the test administration can we update the TRT data?
The TRT will remain open and districts/schools will upload updated data.
12. What are the minimum requirements?
The expectation is that the Pearson Online Testing Solution will be able to function at the PARCC minimum requirements. Security requirements will need to be considered (see Question #16). To date, PARCC has not issued those minimum requirements; however, they have issued Technical Guidelines and they can be found on the PARCC website:

<http://www.parcconline.org/technology> (Note: The PARCC Technical Guidelines will be updated on December 17th).

13. What are the screen size requirements?

The base level screen resolution requirements are 1024 X 768. Consistent with the PARCC Guidelines, the minimum screen size is 9.5 inches.

14. We are participating in the 1:1 initiative and using netbooks are they acceptable?

The system will function on netbooks as long as they meet the screen size and resolution requirements.

15. We have purchased MacBook Airs for all students, can they be used for testing?

They can be used as long as they meet the minimum screen size requirements (9.5 inches) and resolution requirements (1024 X 768).

16. We have purchased iPads for all students, can they be used for online testing?

iPads will not be allowed for the new Science and Social Studies field test. Working with Apple, Pearson is currently piloting the possibility of locking home screens to ensure test security.

17. Are external keyboards required for tablets?

The Pearson Online Testing Solution does not support tablets for the Spring 2013 field test.

18. The Technology Guidelines reference Windows 7. Is XP supported?

Yes, XP is supported by Pearson's system; however, as of 8/4/2014 Microsoft has announced that it will not be supporting XP.

19. Is the Mac 10.68 Operating System supported?

Yes.

20. Will a sample test environment be available to test devices?

Districts/schools will be able to test devices through the Site Readiness process and with PearsonAccess, which will allow schools to upload students, create testing groups, and simulate testing.

21. How often will the DTCs get together to discuss status/updates?

CDE and Pearson will work together to establish a monthly meeting with DTCs.

FIELD TEST AND OPERATIONAL ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS

22. Can we test early?

Field testing early will not be an option.

23. When do we need to be ready for online testing?

For districts participating in the field test, they will need to be ready in Spring 2013. All districts will participate in the first administration of the new assessments in Spring 2014.

24. Will a waiver be available if we cannot meet the technology requirements?

All districts will participate in the first administration of the new assessments in Spring 2014.

25. Will work-arounds be accepted?

Districts will be encouraged to creatively utilize all resources at their disposal to successfully participate in the online assessment administration.

26. We do not use static IP addresses, is that acceptable?

Pearson's online testing solution, TestNav, requires a static IP address for proctor caching. The proctor caching machine is the only machine on the network that would need to have a static IP. Proctor caching is strongly recommended because it dramatically decreases the likelihood that the district will have bandwidth related issues during online testing.

27. How many test sessions can be held within a day?

This has not yet been determined. Information gathered from the TRT and field testing will inform operational administration procedures. Local Infrastructure and logistical schedules will be a significant factor in determining the number of test sessions that can be held each day.

28. Can multiple grades be tested in the same computer lab?

This has not yet been determined. Information gathered from the TRT and field testing will inform operational administration procedures.