

Colorado Content Collaboratives Meeting – Cohort I

April 18 & 19, 2012

Breckenridge, CO

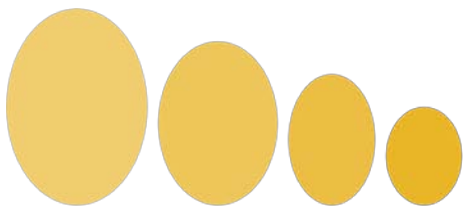
Session Summary

Goals of Meeting:

- On-going review of existing assessments for use in Fall 2012 trial
- Identify gaps by the end of Day Two
- Discuss next steps between now and Colorado Springs
- Discuss next steps for Colorado Springs

The Cohort I Content Collaboratives in Social Studies; Reading, Writing & Communicating; Visual Arts; Music; Dance; and, Drama and Theatre Arts, reconvened in Breckenridge to continue their work of reviewing and recommending assessments to be included in the trial/pilot project Fall 2012. The bulk of the meeting time during these two days was devoted to the task of reviewing the many and varied assessments utilizing an Assessment Content Validity Review Tool co-designed by the Center for Assessment and the Colorado Department of Education.

Prior to moving to their respective Collaborative work areas, participants were introduced to the revised Assessment Content Validity Review Tool. This revision now allows for the assignment of a numerical score for each review criterion, and the automatic summary tabulation for each assessment review. The participants were also introduced to a means to visually summarize the results of the assessment reviews. These visual summaries will be very helpful in more easily comparing the specific strengths, weaknesses, and overall ratings of the assessments.



Following these presentations, the Content Collaboratives gathered with their facilitators in their respective meeting areas to continue the work of reviewing the assessments. Below are summaries of the work of each of the three Collaboratives.

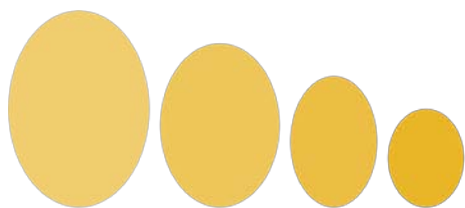
Reading, Writing and Communicating

The Reading, Writing, and Communicating (RWC) Collaborative organized into grade level subgroups: two K-2 subgroups, two 3-5 subgroups, and one high school subgroup. Throughout the two days, collaborative members reviewed assessments for their respective grade spans. The RWC collaborative discussed and distinguished between the various ways in which literacy assessments are used—diagnostic, screening, progress, monitoring, and summative. This helped the collaborative sort, prioritize, and identify a range of useful assessments. The collaborative also focused on the interdisciplinary nature of literacy and implications for integrating RWC assessments into other content areas. The RWC collaborative began the process of identifying assessment gaps, with particular emphasis at the high school level.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Collaborative also organized by grade levels, elementary, middle, and high school, and has been able to rate over 100 assessments thus far. Collaborative members were particularly impressed with how well the Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) worked within the review framework, and that there were no disagreements over the details, meaning, or use of each of these documents. The Social Studies Collaborative set up their work using Google docs which allowed each member to see what assessments had been reviewed, as well as other group ratings. After each of the four main work periods over the two days, each grade level grouping created an action plan for their next work session. These plans included prioritizing assessments to be reviewed, with alignment to the Colorado Academic Standards as the key factor. Those assessments not aligned were generally not recommended for review, or they received a low priority.

The Social Studies collaborative made significant progress in identifying gaps in quality assessments by both grade level and standard area - history, geography, economics, and civics.



The Arts—Drama & Theatre Arts; Visual Arts; Dance; and Music

Following the plenary session on Day One, the Arts Collaboratives organized into their specific content areas as follows:

- ◆ Visual Arts (3 subgroups by grade)
- ◆ Dance
- ◆ Music
- ◆ Drama/Theater

Review work continued in each area over the course of the two days on a wide variety of assessments in each content area. As with the RCW and Social Studies collaboratives, the Arts groups were able to both review assessments and begin the process of identifying gaps by both grade level and content area.

Next Steps

The Content Collaboratives will convene in Colorado Springs on Wednesday, May 2nd and Thursday, May 3rd to continue their work together. In the meantime, and to the extent possible, members of all Content Collaboratives will continue to review assessments and identify additional instruments that may be appropriate to add to the pool of assessments for review in Colorado Springs.

