



Assessment Overview

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Supporting Schools and Students to Achieve

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Background on Federal Assessment Requirements



Federal Statewide Assessment Requirements



- Introduced under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) in 1965
 - Accountability for providing Title 1 funding to support economically disadvantaged students
- Several reauthorizations/modifications, most recently the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015

Assessment Under ESSA



- Reading/Language Arts
 - Grades 3-8 and at least once in high school
- Mathematics
 - Grades 3-8 and at least once in high school
- Science
 - At least once in grades 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12
 - Idaho tests in grades 5, 8, and 11
- Alternate assessments
 - For students with the most significant cognitive disabilities
- English language proficiency for English Learners
 - All grades K-12 annually

Assessment Under ESSA



- General requirements
 - Same assessment administered to all students
 - 95% participation (all students/all groups)
 - Aligned to state content standards
 - Must meet Peer Review requirements
 - Technical quality and accessibility requirements

Idaho's Assessment Program



- English Language Arts/Literacy and Math assessments
 - Content developed as part of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
 - CA, CT, DE, HI, ID, IN, MI, MT, NV, OR, SD, VT, WA, along with BIE and USVI
 - Delivery/scoring/reporting via separate vendor
 - Comprehensive assessment system
 - Formative/teacher resources
 - Interim (through-year/progress monitoring) assessments
 - Summative (end-of-year) assessments

Idaho's Assessment Program



- Science
 - Content standards approved in 2018
 - Assessment development started in FY 2019
 - Content developed in state partnership
 - CT, HI, ID, MT, OR, RI, UT, VT, WV and WY
 - First statewide assessment spring 2021

Idaho's Assessment Program



- Alternate Assessments (students with disabilities)
 - Previously developed as part of the multi-state National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)
 - Extended content standards approved in 2019 (ELA & Math) and 2020 (Science)
 - Assessment development started in FY 2019
 - New content developed as part of state partnership
 - HI, ID, MT, SC, SD, VT, WY

Idaho's Assessment Program



- English language proficiency assessment
 - ACCESS assessment
 - All English learners grades K-12 annually
 - Content developed as part of WIDA Consortium
 - 40 states, territories, and federal agencies
 - DRC is administration vendor

National Overview



- 15 entities Smarter Balanced
 - PARCC disbanding
 - Other states using variety of approaches
 - Leasing test questions
 - State developed
 - Combination



Assessment Options and Considerations



Achieving Idaho Goals through Assessment



- As we consider which assessment(s) to choose for Idaho’s system of state assessments, what goal(s) are we trying to achieve, and how do assessments fit in?
 - “To achieve _____ <goal> _____,
 - “We need to do _____ <action> _____.
 - “Our assessments should help us do <action> by _____.
 - “It is also very important that our assessment be affordable and
 - <characteristics>_____.

Source: Modified from Brian Gong, Center for Assessment

Technical Considerations



- Must meet Peer Review
- Example options
 - Computer adaptive
 - Fixed form
 - Paper/pencil
 - Types of questions (multiple choice, short answer)
- Additional high school considerations
 - What do you want to measure?
 - Content standards
 - College and career readiness
 - What grade to test in high school?

Other Assessment Considerations



- **Practical criteria**

- Budget
- Time to administer
- Time to develop
- Infrastructure (e.g., technology, assessment literacy)

- **Political/values criteria**

- Vision for assessment (more than federal?)
- History of program (e.g., technology credibility) and vendors
- Risk/innovation level

Source: Modified from Brian Gong, Center for Assessment

Assessment Development Logistics



- Multi-step process (3-5 years)
 - Adoption of content standards
 - Writing/licensing
 - Standards alignment
 - Accessibility
 - Field testing
 - Bias and sensitivity review (Idaho law § 33-134)
 - Peer Review

Assessment Options for Consideration



- Idaho-developed assessment
- Collaborative effort (example Idaho Science assessment)
- Consortium membership
- Purchasing/leasing test questions



Assessment Costs



Current Assessment Costs



- FY 21 total, including content development, delivery, scoring, and reporting
 - ELA/Literacy & Math = \$3.8 million
 - Science = \$1 million
 - Alternate assessments = \$400,000 (froze development)
 - English language proficiency = \$600,000
- Total assessment costs \$5.8 million
 - State and federal

Selected Comparisons



- Data from the most recent Assessment Solutions Group survey administered in the fall of 2020
 - 43 states and D.C. responded
- Estimates by combining ELA, Math, Science, Alternate, and English language proficiency assessments

Selected Comparisons



- Assessment Solutions Group report details for select states
 - Massachusetts = \$36.4 million
 - Nebraska = \$10.4 million
 - Texas = \$90 million
 - Utah = \$8.5 million

Questions



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