



## **Background Reading List on Assessing the Common Core**

**Support Materials Following Deb Sigman's (CDE) Teleconference  
Conversation with Steve Rees (School Wise Press) of June 7, 2011**

### **The Road Ahead for State Assessments**

A collection of essays by three authors  
May 16, 2011  
Published by the Rennie Center and PACE

[http://renniecenter.issuelab.org/research/listing/road\\_ahead\\_for\\_state\\_assessments](http://renniecenter.issuelab.org/research/listing/road_ahead_for_state_assessments)

The adoption of the Common Core State Standards offers an opportunity to make significant improvements to the large-scale statewide student assessments that exist today, and the two US DOE-funded assessment consortia -- the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) -- are making big strides forward. But to take full advantage of this opportunity the states must focus squarely on making assessments both fair and accurate.

A new report commissioned by the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy and Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), *The Road Ahead for State Assessments*, offers a blueprint for strengthening assessment policy, pointing out how new technologies are opening up new possibilities for fairer, more accurate evaluations of what students know and are able to do. Not all of the promises can yet be delivered, but the report provides a clear set of assessment-policy recommendations.

### **Experts Envision Hurdles to Come for Common-Core Tests**

4/20/11 by Sarah Sparks  
*Education Week* (requires subscription to log-in and read)  
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/04/20/28aera-2.h30.html?qs=assessment>

The assessment hurdles ahead are not small ones. Whether California joins the Smarter Balance team, or remains with the PARCC group, the challenges are daunting. Yet the opportunity is substantial. This article covers these challenges and opportunities from a national perspective.

## **Quality of Questions on Common Tests at Issue**

1/21/2010 by Stephen Sawchuck

*Education Week* (requires subscription to log-in and read)

[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/01/21/19assess\\_ep.h29.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/01/21/19assess_ep.h29.html)

About the cost and quality-control challenge of open-ended test items. Also covered the difficulty of scoring open-ended items in any reasonably consistent manner. Touches on the riddle of what artificial intelligence can do to score written student responses. The writer looks at Florida and Tennessee's experiments, and also turns to Joan Herman at UCLA's CRESST Center for comment. The practical challenges to both testing consortia, she believes, will be difficult to overcome by 2014, but she is confident that in the long run, more complex assessments will become feasible.

## **Computer-Adaptive Testing Poses Challenges, Expert Warns**

By Catherine Gewertz

May 16, 2011

*Education Week* (requires subscription to log-in and read)

[http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2011/05/computer-adaptive\\_testing\\_pose.html?qs=assessment](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2011/05/computer-adaptive_testing_pose.html?qs=assessment)

This is a summary and commentary on the essay about computer adaptive assessment by Mark Reckase, professor of measurement and quantitative methods at Michigan State University. That essay was one of three published in May by the Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy and Policy Analysis of California (PACE). It's a useful, brief piece which offers a balance of enthusiasm and caution on the promise of computer adaptive assessments.

## **Selected CDE Web Site References to the Common Core**

This is a guide to a few of the curricular and assessment support materials about the Common Core State Standards that the CDE has posted on its Web site.

### **Main resource page on the Common Core**

**Published by CDE**

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cc/>

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were developed through a multi-state initiative to establish consistent and clear education standards for English-language arts and mathematics that would better prepare students for success in college, career, and the competitive global

economy. The California State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the standards on August 2, 2010.

**Common Core State Standards for English-Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects  
Published by Sacramento County Office of Education  
and adopted by the California SBE on August 2, 2010.**

[http://www.scoe.net/castandards/agenda/2010/ela\\_ccs\\_recommendations.pdf](http://www.scoe.net/castandards/agenda/2010/ela_ccs_recommendations.pdf)

**Common Core State Standards for Math  
Published by Sacramento County Office of Education  
and adopted by the California SBE on August 2, 2010.**

[http://www.scoe.net/castandards/agenda/2010/math\\_ccs\\_recommendations.pdf](http://www.scoe.net/castandards/agenda/2010/math_ccs_recommendations.pdf)

**Grade level Curriculum (K-6) Including the Common Core Standards  
Published by the CDE**

**Jan-May 2011, grades K-6**

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/grlevelcurriculum.asp>

A Look at Kindergarten through Grade Six in California Public Schools is a compilation of subject -matter curriculum, including information about the Common Core State Standards, organized by individual grade levels.

**Deb Sigman's slide deck on California's choice for the PARCC assessment consortium, September 28, 2010**

[http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/documents/assess10\\_3pp.pdf](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/documents/assess10_3pp.pdf)

**Transcript of her speech (can be read to accompany her slides)**

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/documents/assess10trans.pdf>

*This recommended reading list has been brought to you by School Wise Press, where since 1995 we have been helping educators share their schools' vital signs ... And by our assessment consultancy, the Owl Corps, where we are ready to put assessment wisdom to work.*

[www.owlcorps.com](http://www.owlcorps.com) + [www.schoolwisepress.com](http://www.schoolwisepress.com)

