

## SED Update November 2012

### Assessment

The Testing Guides that were due to be out in October are [obviously] delayed. We are told to expect them by Thanksgiving. The new writing rubrics are supposed to be included in the guides.

Speaking and listening will no longer be included in the new versions of the 3-8 ELA assessments because the way it had been done previously was not aligned to the Standards. Guidance and sample rubrics for speaking, listening, presenting, and viewing will eventually be distributed (but not soon) because this is still important. The exclusion of this from the assessments doesn't mean that these skills are unimportant. Rather, they are very important. The inauthentic nature of standardized testing makes it problematic to assess.

Plans are being made to provide training in the new assessments, including their scoring. Training will be provided to the Network Team in late January or early February who will, in turn, train the field.

Don't forget the [calculator and ruler rules](#) for the 2013 math tests (see last bullet):

- Grades 3-8 students must have the use of a ruler for the entire test.
- Grades 4-8 students must have the use of a protractor for the entire test.
- Grades 3-5 students will not have the use of calculators.
- Grade 6 students must have the use of a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator for the entire test. (Schools may choose which type they purchase.)
- Grades 7 & 8 students must have the use of a scientific calculator for the entire test.
- **Note (this is a change): calculators will not be permitted for Book 1, grades 6-8.**

### Curriculum

The [discussion](#) about Global Studies continues. There are a few options that the Board of Regents is considering:

- Thematic approach: In this option, Unit of Study 1 would be a foundational course concentrating on building skills in economics, geography, civics and world history; Unit of Study 2 would be a thematic approach to contemporary world history and geography; or
- Chronological approach: Unit of Study 1 would address the Neolithic Revolution to the Age of Enlightenment (approximately 8000 BCE to 1600); Unit of Study 2 would address the Age of Enlightenment to present (approximately 1600 to present). This is the current practice in most districts; or
- Chronological approach: Unit of Study 1 would address the Neolithic Revolution to the end of the Napoleonic Period (approximately 8000 BCE to 1815); Unit of Study 2 would address 1815 to the present. This option would narrow the scope of the study of the classical civilizations in Unit 1.

In any case, the exam would only cover the second year. Until additional funding was located there would not be a state assessment for the first year. The next step is to seek public comment about the options (January-ish) with framework revision occurring in the spring (presented to the Regents in April). A new version of the Regents exam would be targeted for June 2016. Subsequently, a unified K-12 social studies field guide will be developed.

### Computer Based Testing

A limited amount of funds will be made available to needier districts to help them acquire hardware and software in order to do computer based testing. This December, some districts will be allocated funds to purchase certain pre-approved hardware and software in January. This is a short turnaround.

### Data Portal

SED is proceeding with their [plans](#) for a common portal for educators, parents, and students. They are already providing data to the vendors who are developing this. SED made an early commitment to partner with five states to have a common platform although there are no plans for a national portal at this time.