



CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

TOM TORLAKSON

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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INVITATION TO INTERSEGMENTAL SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT COLLABORATIVE

As many of you know, in 2009, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA) committed to developing a set of K-12 academic content standards that would help prepare students for success in career and college. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) initiative is a voluntary, state-led effort to establish clear and consistent education standards. On August 2, 2010, the California State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the CCSS for California. California is putting these standards to work, using them as the foundation for remodeling our education system. The standards keep the best of what we have, but replace outdated ways of learning with a clear focus on the key knowledge and skills students need for success in college and the workplace. More information about the standards may be found on the CDE's CCSS Resources Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc>.

One of the primary desires of the implementation of the CCSS is to strengthen the preschool -16 continuum and engage higher education in current K-12 changes in curriculum, instruction, assessment and goals for increased student achievement. In June 2011, California joined the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), a multistate consortium composed of 25 states that have been working collaboratively to develop a student assessment system aligned with the CCSS that accurately measures student progress toward college and career readiness.

Collaboration with higher education is critical to achieving the goal of better preparing students to enter college and the workforce. Representatives from higher education are involved in key design decisions—with the goal that colleges and universities across SBAC member states will accept the assessment as evidence that high school students are ready for entry-level, credit-bearing coursework.

On February 22, 2013, the California Department of Education, in collaboration with the WestEd Comprehensive Center and the Smarter Balanced Higher Education Leads, will convene the Intersegmental Smarter Balanced Assessment Collaborative in Sacramento. This meeting will be the first in a series designed to engage faculty leadership of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California in discussions and planning regarding state implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium assessment system. Meeting goals include increasing awareness and understanding of the developing assessment system

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and providing a forum for in-depth discussions and explorations of how faculty and other postsecondary stakeholders can be involved in these important educational changes.

I encourage you to participate in this first convening. Please RSVP by contacting Nancy Brownell, Senior Fellow for Common Core implementation at 916-319-0693 or by e-mail at nbrownell@cde.ca.gov.

We look forward to your participation in this exciting and important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Tom Torlakson

cc: Monica Lin, UC SBAC Lead
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