Smarter Balanced Pilot Assessment Updates, March 5, 2013

Administrative Updates/Clarifications/Reminders:

1) **Secure browsers for iPad and Android devices are now ready.** They may be downloaded at the following links:

   iPad:

   Google Play (Android):
   [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.air.mobilebrowser&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwxLDEsImNvbS5haXIubW9iaWxlYnJvd3NlcjIj](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.air.mobilebrowser&feature=search_result#?t=W251bGwsMSwxLDEsImNvbS5haXIubW9iaWxlYnJvd3NlcjIj)

   By early next week, updated information will be available on the secure browser page on the portal at [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/default.html](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/default.html). The *Technical Specifications Manual for the Pilot* will be updated with mobile secure browser information as well at:
   [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources/Smarter_TechSpecsManual_Pilot.pdf](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources/Smarter_TechSpecsManual_Pilot.pdf). Finally, a new document has been created just for mobile secure browsers information and will be posted for users early next week.

2) Please be advised that ELA assessments present some **listening** items to students. Note that there are two types of listening items: one that asks students to play, watch and listen to a slide show and answer questions, and another that asks students to listen to the presentation and answer questions.

   In both instances, this is a listening exercise and not a reading exercise. No written text will accompany the slides or presentation. Note: This is not an error and should not be reported to the Help Desk. The student simply clicks **[play]** to watch and listen to the slide show or clicks the microphone button to listen to the presentation.

3) **Headphones** will be needed for all students taking all ELA tests because each form includes listening items. Headphones will also be needed for those students receiving the Text-to-Speech accommodation in mathematics (grade 3, 7, and 11) and ELA (grade 4, 7, and 11) only. (Text-to-Speech is not used for reading passages.) Please communicate this to your districts and schools so that students’ testing experience will not be interrupted due to a lack of equipment.

4) **No test items may be read aloud** to any student for any content area even for those grades and content areas for which the text-to-speech accommodation is not available. This is stated in the TAM on pages 32, 40, and 48.

5) Page 15 of the Technical Specifications Manual informs states that students who are using mobile tablets for testing must have external keyboards. A clarification to this requirement is that these need not be plugged in. **Any form of external keyboard that disables the on-screen virtual keyboard is acceptable.** This includes mechanical, manual, plug and play and wireless-based (e.g., Bluetooth, RF, IR) keyboards. The external keyboard will override the on-screen keyboard and allow students more screen real estate for viewing items that require text-based responses. Students who have an accommodation that requires them to use the on-screen keyboard are exempt from this requirement. English language dictionaries may be used only during part two of an ELA performance task (see page 15 of the TAM).

6) Note that the tables on pages 17 and 18 of the TAM have been provided as a **guideline** for possible ways to schedule the assessments over multiple days or sessions and should not be interpreted as a mandate.

7) **Special forms will be delayed until March 14:**
   a. Spanish side-by-side
   b. Online glossary (math only)
   c. Braille (ELA and Math)
   d. Text to speech (ELA and math)
   e. Online glossary (math only)

Resources and resource updates:

1) The **Performance Task module** is now available. This module provides a detailed description of the performance tasks and explains how to administer them.

2) **Six mini-tutorials have been posted to the portal** that provide coordinators, administrators, and students with brief demonstrations of features of the Student Interface of the Online System, such as global features, expandable passages/stimuli, calculators, and text-to-speech. These tutorials are located here:
   [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#training](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#training)

3) A **live-recording training presentation** is now posted under [Resources and Documentation (Training and Tutorials)](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#training).
4) **Frequently Asked Questions** document has also been posted to the portal to assist users with commonly asked questions about the pilot. This FAQ can be found at: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources/FAQ_022613.pdf](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources/FAQ_022613.pdf).

5) Important updates have recently been made to the *Test Administration Manual* (TAM). These revisions can be found on a change log on page 59 and include updates to topics on Accessibility and Accommodations, Allowable Resources, and Directions for Administration.

6) The Pilot Test **Accessibility and Accommodations Guidelines** document has been updated on page 2. Note that *schools*, not the Consortium, will assign research forms according to documented student need. This has also been updated in the TAM.

7) Additional information about administering the Pilot Test using iPads and Chromebooks is now available under the **Secure Browser** tab (scroll down and click on iPad or Google Chromebooks).

**Reminders:**

1) AIR has begun contacting schools (for which state leads provided information) that have visually impaired students to ascertain whether they have the required technology for the text-to-Braille online assessment, and if not gather information about what technology they do use with their students.

2) For those schools that will be administering computer-administered items plus a PT with classroom-based activity, Test Administrators will have access to documents that support the test administrator's role in delivering these items:
   - *Classroom Activity Administrator Guidelines*. These general guidelines provide information to prepare Test Administrators for administering a classroom activity and have been posted to the following location on the portal: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html#additional](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html#additional)
   - Instructions for accessing and downloading specific classroom-based activities were posted on the portal **February 15** under the Resources and Documentation tab (Additional Resources). The document is called *Instructions for Downloading Classroom Activities*.

Throughout the assessment window which ends of May 24, Oregon will continue to help communicate the following:

a. Prior to testing, encourage those involved with the Pilot to attend one of the training sessions for coordinators and administrators. Information may be found here: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#additional](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#additional)  
   [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#training](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#training)

   Two versions of this presentation are available on the portal. One is a slide show without voiceover and the other is a recorded version. The slide show may be found at the link below on the portal (the recorded version appears directly beneath it):

b. Secure browsers must be installed on all machines on which students will be testing at least one day before the administration. Information may be found here: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/default.html?pilot](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/browsers/default.html?pilot)

c. Encourage those involved with the Pilot to review the training modules on the portal. Information may be found here: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#training](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources.html?pilot#training)

d. Remind those involved with the Pilot that they must designate Test Administrators in TIDE (District and School Coordinators have already been added). You may find more information here: [http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources/Smarter-Pilot_TIDE_UserGuide.pdf](http://sbac.portal.airast.org/Pilot_Test/resources/Smarter-Pilot_TIDE_UserGuide.pdf)