



UPDATE: NEW JERSEY'S NEW STATE ASSESSMENTS

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BACKGROUND . . .

- Assessment Advisory Committee convened December 2005;
- Committee consisted of representatives from key educational organizations (NJSBA, NJPSA, NJEA, etc.) and from business community, as well as DOE policy makers;
- Resulting RFP for Grades 3-8 sought to embody vision and priorities of Advisory Committee;
- RFP released January 26, 2007; contract awarded to Measurement Inc (and its partner Harcourt) June 6, 2007.



Key Themes of New Program

- Formative assessments: resources for locally administered, ongoing diagnostic and benchmark assessments to guide instruction;
- Professional development: training for teachers in “assessment literacy” and in making use of assessment resources and practices;
- Score reporting that provides schools more information about student achievement;
- Statewide “summative” assessments administered later in the year, i.e., May not March;
- Maximum transparency.



Additional Features

- Provision for eventually including performance assessments;
- Shorter, more diverse LAL reading passages;
- Increased use of web-based score reporting, and integration of statewide student ID;
- Provision for piloting online testing, with eventual transition to full online mode;
- Spanish-language versions of tests;
- Annual testing irregularity detection plan.



IMPLEMENTATION

- Grades 5- 8 implemented 2007-2008;
- Grades 3-4 implemented 2008-2009;
- Testing window for 2008: April 28-May 15;
- Scores reported to districts early July 2008;
- Professional development and formative assessment provided throughout each school year starting September 2007;
- Harcourt's *Learnia* program is heart of formative assessment program – online diagnostic and benchmark assessments that allow focusing on specific content strands and impediments to learning.



BENEFITS AND GOALS

- Fuller integration by schools of assessment practices into daily instructional program;
- Continuity between formative and summative assessments;
- Consolidation and improved efficiency: by 2009, one contractor for grades 3-8;
- Promotion of student achievement through challenging test content, and more of it (more test items, and more open-ended content: e.g., shorter LAL reading passages allow us to use more passages and more test questions.).



High School Assessment Update

- High School reform initiatives currently underway will eventually transform HSPA;
- American Diploma Project favors end-of-course testing model;
- HSPA Science test will be replaced by Biology end-of-course test in May 2008;
- NJDOE piloting Achieve-developed Algebra II end-of-course test May 2008;
- HSPA tests for math and LAL to continue until new High School redesign and assessment policy completed.



QUESTIONS?

- Thank you!