

Pilot Testing Common Core Assessments by Alison DeNisco

District Administration – April 9, 2013

Over the past few years, approximately forty-five states have adopted the Common Core State Standards for students. By the 2014-2015 school year, the assessments in each state will be Common Core aligned and computer based. In preparation of the upcoming assessments, states have been adjusting their exams. Additionally, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has been tasked with creating the assessment system.

The consortium, which is composed of twenty-four states, is piloting its computer based exam. The pilot is aiming “to test the assessment features, rather than student learning.” Some of the students involved are voluntary, while other schools are utilizing full participation in the pilot. Neither the schools nor the students will receive grades for the assessment pilot. At this point of the pilot, the assessment is administered online and is not adaptive (adjusted by the computer based on student responses).

It’s a wonderful idea to pilot the tests, and to work it out so it adjusts based on the student’s level and need. However, I wonder and worry how schools will afford to purchase all of the computers as well as infrastructure needed to assess so many students at once online?