



HSA Update

Report to the State Board of
Education

March 24, 2009



March Data Collection

- Board Request

- Data to come directly from schools
- Data should be reported by school and subgroup



March Data Collection

- Data should include:
 - January HSA results
 - Bridge results as of March 1
 - Senior enrollment as of March 13



March Data Collection

- Schools report a total of 4,660 students likely to graduate in May 2009 who are still working to meet the HSA graduation requirements.
 - 14 systems are working with 50 or fewer total
 - Average of 23 students per school
 - 139 schools have 25 or fewer, 25 have more than 50



March Data Collection

- Data are already out of date
- We have about 4500 students signed up to participate in each content area in April
- Students taking the courses for the first time in senior year have not yet taken the HSA
- Some of these students will be eligible for waivers



HSA Update – May 2009

Follow- Up Report to the State
Board of Education

March 24, 2009



Background

- MSDE commitment to:
 - continual improvement,
 - high quality assessments,
 - responsiveness to the needs of schools and students
- Intersection of issues occurred spring 2007:
 - Findings of PreK-16 English Composition Task Force
 - Superintendents' request to have scores returned more quickly



Background

- Original design of HSAs included constructed response items as an extension of MSPAP and alignment with MSA.
- Constructed response were thought of as the best way to assess problem solving and higher order thinking.
- Scoring time and costs were not an issue.



Myths about CRs

- CRs make an assessment easier
- CRs make an assessment more difficult
- CRs ensure students learn to write
- Only CRs can assess higher level skills



Response

- Over a two-year period, replace constructed response items with selected response assessing higher order thinking.
- Maintain content coverage of assessments.
- Maintain original difficulty of the assessment.
- Maintain original standard for passing.



Process

- Maintain number of score points
- Adjust number of items
- One to one replacement of CR points with SR items

Process - Example

Original CR Item

Replacement SR Item

Score point 1	→	Easy SR (simple recall)
Score point 2	→	Moderate SR
Score point 3	→	Difficult SR

Process - Example

Noontime Temperatures in Hilo, Hawaii

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
66	78	75	69	78	77	70

The table shows Fahrenheit temperatures in a city over a one-week period. If m represents the median temperature, f represents the temperature that occurs most often, and a represents the average, or arithmetic mean temperature, which of the following is the correct order of m , f , and a ?

Process - Example

Noontime Temperatures in Hilo, Hawaii

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
66	78	75	69	78	77	70

- (A) $a < m < f$
- (B) $a < f < m$
- (C) $m < a < f$
- (D) $m < f < a$
- (E) $a = m < f$



Timeline for Implementation

- Blueprint adjustment-summer 2007
- Item writing training fall 2007
- Additional item writing 2007-2008
- Field testing of new SR items (removal of CR field test items)- May 2008
- Form construction and pre-equating for May 2009-Fall 2008
- Implementation- May 2009



Impact

- Same number of score points
- More items
- Same to slightly reduced testing time
- Shorter scoring time (2 weeks)
 - better course selection and placement
 - summer school opportunities
- Same difficulty and passing standard



Quality Control

- Regular item development cycle (edits and reviews)
- Field testing of items (item parameters)
- Pre-equating of tests
- Post-equating of tests
- Verification by contractor's psychometricians and NPC



Availability of On-Line Version

Advantages

- Format students engage with and relate to
- Faster turn-around time
- Environmentally and tax-payer friendly
- Improved test security
- Reduced processing of materials for school staff
- Future availability of creative item types



Availability of On-Line Version

Challenges

- Availability of technology in schools
- Scheduling
- Students must have previous experience on-line



Summary

- Two improvements to HSA program
 - Same standards assessed with faster turn around time for receipt of scores
 - Availability of on-line versions
 - Student engagement
 - More cost effective and efficient

