New York State’s 2014 High School Equivalency Test
Regents ACCES committee is formed and Commissioner John King appoints Deputy Commissioner Kevin Smith
Without the sustained commitment of Chancellor Tisch, Commissioner King, and Deputy Commissioner Smith, New York’s efforts to lead the nation in this critical area of adult education would not have been possible.
*NYS has a new, subsidized test leading to a NYS High School Equivalency Diploma for January 2, 2014!

TASC replaces 2002 GED® as the only free, state subsidized assessment leading to a NYS HSE diploma.

TASC will serve as a gateway to postsecondary, training, and employment opportunities for over 24,000 out-of-school youth and adults in NY each year.

43,000 adults and youth seek the high school equivalency diploma each year.
Why?

- Current 2002 GED® test ends December 31, 2013
- NYS concerns with 2014 GED® test:

Cost

$120 (plus SED administration) vs. $60 —— double the appropriation or serve half as many?

Fully Computer Based in 2014

269 existing test centers would have to convert to Pearson centers before implementing the new computer based GED® test. Half of the approved test centers are in incarcerated/institutionalized settings.

Academic Rigor in 2014

Not expected of P-12 system until 2016: without adequate time or funding to prepare teachers or test-takers. This includes content questions on social studies and science where common core standards for these content areas are not out yet.
New York was not alone in raising concerns (MA, NH, WY, MO for starters) BUT:

- U.S. Education Department was hands off because of procurement issues
- Window for action was short and closing quickly
- There were no other test vendors offering viable options for January 2, 2014
- 18 states had “GED” in statute or administrative code as the single pathway to a state-issued credential, state scholarships, etc.
- The “GED” brand was ingrained including the misnomer that students “get your GED” when they pass the test

Bottom-line Regents/Commissioner concern:
Single for-profit vendor had an assessment monopoly for the 2014 exam.
* Key Strategy:

Create a national market for alternative exams and empower New York and other states to drive test development through competitive procurement

- Partner with other states to make the potential demand for options visible:
  - Not sufficient for New York to go it alone (ETS for example wouldn’t enter the market without estimated 100,000 test administrations; CTB McGraw-Hill an early supporter)
  - January 2012, NY and MA created a national HSE Options Workgroup under national state directors of adult education (Bob Purga, NYSED and Anne Serino, MSED co-chair)
  - Total now of 42 states, D.C., USDOL
* Cont’d Strategy:

- Release RFI and share information with other states (March 2012)

- First state to release RFP(s) in time to inform state appropriation and legislation (March 2013 became the real deadline)
  - Other states following in various stages: MO, MT, NH, MA, NH, ME, IA, TN, CA, Florida
  - Number of states going with GED® in 2014 and assess options, buying time to change statute/code and create procurement or approval processes
March 2013: CTB/McGraw-Hill’s TASC Selected for 2014

- English and Spanish tests

- Aligned to Common Core standards for ELA and math with gradual introduction of science next generation standards and social studies as appropriate over the three year contract

- New test each of three years with raised academic common core rigor and more complex test items each year

- Based on technology survey of 269 testing centers and 251 preparation programs, gradual ramp up in Computer Based Testing (CBT)
  - Up to 20% CBT in 2014
  - Up to 40% CBT in 2015
  - Up to 60% CBT in 2016
March 2013: CTB/McGraw-Hill’s TASC Selected for 2014

- Scoring by CTB McGraw-Hill
- National accommodations process by CTB McGraw-Hill
- Testing at all 269 approved test centers
- Comprehensive and timely communication plan to allow for effective professional development that results in success on the TASC
Three-Part Plan Based on Regents September 17, 2012 Directions

1. Create an assessment that will measure fully Common Core ELA and Math standards by January 2017 (a year after P-12 implementation)
   - Gradually ramp up each year
   - Providing a graduated glide path that provides time to prepare test centers, preparation programs, and test takers for success

2. Ramp up adult education common core instruction that measures skills at New York State rigor

3. Foster multiple pathways to Regents HSE diploma by creating an independent blue ribbon panel to evaluate and approve alternative pathways, including National External Diploma Program
   - Section 100.2f provides precedent; similar to ACT/SAT difference
• Full service, large scale assessment publisher, founded in 1926

• Over 45 years experience serving adult education community with high quality, nationally researched assessment (paper, online, adaptive)

• Strong content development capabilities, authoritative Common Core expertise, universal design/accessibility leadership, engaging and rigorous content

• Highly accomplished research and psychometric staff and practices ensure validity, reliability, professional support

• Well engineered, robust systems from content management through test delivery & reporting

• Trusted provider of secure, summative tests, including high school and end-of-course testing programs
TASC Overview

- Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) measures core content areas equivalent to that of graduating high school students.

- Secure
- Reliable
- Valid
Key Features

– Newly created content, aligned to Common Core State Standards

– Normed passing score and College and Career Readiness cut score

– Measures Reading/Language Arts, Writing, Math, Science & Social Studies

– Available in English, Spanish and special formats (large print, Braille, and audio)

– Available in paper/pencil and online formats
**TASC Overview**

**Details**

- Includes materials, scoring and data transfer to NYSED
- 2 free re-takes per student
- Official Readiness test - paper based or online

- Adopted by the State of New York
TASC Constructs

- English Language Arts
  - Common Core State Standards

- Mathematics
  - Traditional pathway of the Common Core State Standards

- Science
  - Next Generation Science Standards

- Social Studies
  - CTB Social Studies Standards based on national frameworks in the areas of US history, world history, civics and government, and economics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Domain / Reporting Category</th>
<th>Domain % (Predicted)</th>
<th>Est. Time to Complete (min)</th>
<th>Item Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts - Reading</td>
<td>Reading--Informational</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>MC, Prompt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading--Literature</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts - Writing</td>
<td>Language Arts/Writing</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>MC, Essay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Number and Quantity</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Algebra</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>MC, GR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Functions</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>U.S. History</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>MC, Stim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>World History</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Civics and Government</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>MC, Stim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Life Sciences</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earth and Space Sciences</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Operational test includes

- Multiple-choice items
- 3 Forms each for English and Spanish
- Writing prompt (evidence-based writing)
- Gridded-response items (Mathematics)
- Stimulus-based science and social studies item sets
- 3 new test forms each year
Operational test (and years beyond) includes an increased coverage of the CCSS through inclusion of additional item types and increased rigor

- Constructed-response items
- Technology-enhanced items
## Webb’s Depth of Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Recall of a fact, information or procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Use information or conceptual knowledge, two or more steps, etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Requires reasoning, developing a plan or sequence of steps, some complexity, more than one possible answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Requires an investigation, time to think and process multiple conditions of the problem or task</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Webb’s Depth of Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level One Activities</th>
<th>Level Two Activities</th>
<th>Level Three Activities</th>
<th>Level Four Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recall elements and details of story structure, such as sequence of events, character, plot and setting.</td>
<td>Identify and summarize the major events in a narrative.</td>
<td>Support ideas with details and examples.</td>
<td>Conduct a project that requires specifying a problem, designing and conducting an experiment, analyzing its data, and reporting results/solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct basic mathematical calculations.</td>
<td>Use context cues to identify the meaning of unfamiliar words.</td>
<td>Use voice appropriate to the purpose and audience.</td>
<td>Apply mathematical model to illuminate a problem or situation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Label locations on a map.</td>
<td>Solve routine multiple-step problems.</td>
<td>Identify research questions and design investigations for a scientific problem.</td>
<td>Analyze and synthesize information from multiple sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Represent in words or diagrams a scientific concept or relationship.</td>
<td>Describe the cause/effect of a particular event.</td>
<td>Develop a scientific model for a complex situation.</td>
<td>Describe and illustrate how common themes are found across texts from different cultures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform routine procedures like measuring length or using punctuation marks correctly.</td>
<td>Identify patterns in events or behavior.</td>
<td>Determine the author’s purpose and describe how it affects the interpretation of a reading selection.</td>
<td>Design a mathematical model to inform and solve a practical or abstract situation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe the features of a place or people.</td>
<td>Formulate a routine problem given data and conditions.</td>
<td>Apply a concept in other contexts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CTB’s Capacity

- CTB/McGraw-Hill has item development contracts with both PARCC and Smarter Balanced supporting P-12 alignment

- CTB/McGraw-Hill’s test development experts familiar with Tri-State Rubric which aligns instruction and identifies best practice in NYS

- Over 10,000 test sites nationally for OAS delivering over 4 million tests online annually

- OAS already in place in about 50 programs in New York State to administer TABE Online

- 4 million scan sheets processed per day at peak

- 2 shifts of 700 human scorers at our Primary Scoring Center
*Working with the State and Test Centers*

CTB capabilities include:

- Relationship Management based in Albany
- Accommodation Guidance
- Scoring and Reporting
- Data Transfer
- Program Financials and Contract Management
- Communication and Awareness
A Distinguished History in Assessment

CTB/McGraw-Hill | A History of Firsts

1926 - CTB founded
1934 - First edition of Progressive Achievement Test released
1936 - First electronic scoring services
1939 - First edition of California Test of Personality (CTP) released
1950 - First edition of California Achievement Tests (CAT) released
1957 - Univariate Anticipated Achievement introduced
1965 - CTB purchased by McGraw-Hill
1967 - First edition of Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE) released
1968 - Multivariate Anticipated Achievement introduced. Scale Score Scaling used for the first time
1971 - First criterion-referenced test
1973 - First to apply empirical methods to detect item bias

1977 - First to offer criterion-and norm-referenced information from a single test
1981 - First to apply Item Response Theory to improve accuracy of student information
1996 - First in industry development of Bookmark Standard Setting Procedure for establishment of cut scores
2000 - First in industry to offer Inclusive Norms on norm-referenced tests
2006 - First to offer measurement-based formative assessment—Acuity diagnostic and predictive tests
2008 - Introduced Acuity UnWired: Real-time capture of student responses using “clicker” devices allows for immediate review of results
2009 - First statewide summative writing test using AI scoring
2010 - Introduced EOS test of English using speech recognition
2010 - First K-12 test publisher to build automated test assembly
2011 - LAS Links Online for English learners
2012 - Acuity Common Core Diagnostic Tests

LA5 Links
TABE
Acuity
Common Core
Adaptive
EOS
English Online System
Benchmark Tracker
TABE Complete Language Assessment System—English
Yearly Progress Pro
Writing Roadmap
TERRANOVA
Acuity
Test and Research Design

- Spring 2013 Field Test
  - Item analysis, DIF, norming, scaling, operational forms construction

- Fall 2013 Special Studies
  - Comparability of CBT and PBT; Spanish-English

- Ongoing Embedded Field Testing/Pool Replenishment
  - New form development
Norming TASC

- Alignment studies will link to the current GED® test and New York’s primary adult literacy test, the TABE.

- May/June 2013 field testing will establish a national high school equivalency cut-score for passing the test.

- Fall 2013/Spring 2014: “Aspirational” college readiness cut score will be set; intent to use CUNY and SUNY data to assess ability of TASC passers to succeed in credit-bearing community college classes with little or no remediation.

  - This timeline depends upon having sufficient data.
  - Intent is a NYS specific College and Career Readiness score.
**TASC Communication Plan**

- CTB has dedicated website for test:  [www.ctb.com/tasc](http://www.ctb.com/tasc)
- NY contract calls for webinars and in-person training sessions (OAS overview and overview of TASC).
- Sample questions for 2014 test released this May/June (annotated items with common core measurement information)—for 2014 test only
- 2014 Readiness Test (CBT and PBT) released in November 2013
- Test taker informational brochure out this fall (areas to focus on; general information)
- Sample questions for 2015 test in fall 2013 (8-10 questions per content item)
- CTB will work with publishers to ensure that they have accurate information on TASC so that they can produce high-quality instructional materials.
NYSED website for common core will be expanded to include adult education: www.EngageNY.org  Single point for everything common core in NYS. Everyone encouraged to view site.

- NYSED working with NYSDOL to get information out to employers and workforce boards (NYC WIB has dedicated workgroup)

- Joint workshops with key state associations (NYACCE; May 16 NYS incarcerated; June 6 staff development day for NYCDOE Alternative Education teachers, staff; more opportunities being sought)

- October 1-4: four full day SED regional meetings for funded adult education and approved alternative education programs

This is just the beginning!
* By January 2017, Regents want Adult Education assessment and instruction to measure CCSS skills in ways that parallel P-12

* Statewide Adult Education CCSS workgroup and NYC workgroup formed

* HSE staff at SED being expanded including Common Core content experts

* Tri-state rubric training for adult education PD experts May 29

* Peer review process to be established based on rubric
CCSS Rigor: The Big Challenge

* Curriculum specialist advisory council being explored

* Regents Research Fund fellow proposal completed

* Multi-year action plan for October regional meetings

* Comprehensive guidance for preparation for TASC helps define core of the core

* Materials from OVAE and other states may also help but need to measure skills according to NY directions and TASC
Contact Information

NYSED ACCES Adult Education

Robert Purga
rpurga@mail.nysed.gov

CTB/McGraw-Hill

Mike Johnson
michaeld_johnson@ctb.com