



Translating Standards into Assessments:

The Opportunities and Challenges of a Common Core

Brookings Institution

**“Race to the Top Assessments: Common Core
Standards and Their Impact on Student Testing”**

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Overview

- I. Good News:
Some Promising Aspects (4)
- II. Bad News:
Some Testing Challenges (7)
- III. Conclusions



Some Promising Aspects (4)

1. Sustained national policy focus
on educational achievement;
new focus on college and
career readiness



Some Promising Aspects

2. Increased public attention to education



Some Promising Aspects

3. Standardization/homogeneity of students' educational experiences.



Some Promising Aspects

4. Stimulation of increased efforts to incorporate benefits of computer-based assessment in K-12 education.



Some Testing Challenges (7)

1. **Stability of content standards**



Some Testing Challenges (7)

1. Stability of content standards
2. Performance standards



Some Testing Challenges (7)

1. Stability of content standards
2. Performance standards
3. Inclusion




Some Testing Challenges (7)

1. Stability of content standards
2. Performance standards
3. Inclusion
4. Assessment Innovation



Some Testing Challenges (7)

5. Validation



"The Common Core State Standards represent what American students need to know and do to be successful in college and careers." (CCSSO & NGA, 2010c, p.1)

"The overarching goal of the SBAC is to ensure that all students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success in college or career..." (SBAC, 2010, p. 5)



Some Testing Challenges (7)

5. Validation

6. Accountability



Some Testing Challenges (7)

5. Validation

6. Accountability

7. Use of Testing to Stimulate Gains
in Educational Achievement



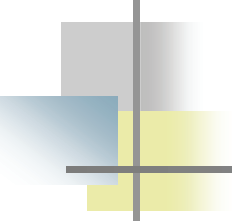
Conclusions

- * Some promising aspects
- * Many psychometric challenges
- * Testing may not be the best tool for stimulating greater gains in educational achievement
- * Need for more realistic expectations



Expectations

- * allow monitoring of student progress
- * support inferences regarding whether a student is “on track”
- * inform instructional decisions
- * signal interventions for individual students
- * permit aggregation to assess teacher effectiveness



1-2 minutes of light exercise per quarter will...

- * lower LDL
- * elevate mood
- * prevent aging
- * boost IQ
- * reverse hair loss
- * increase social desirability



Conclusions

Thank you.