

Assessment Task Force Vendor Q&A

This document contains answers to questions posed by vendors as they prepare the information requested by the Assessment Task Force during the review of assessments. All questions and answers are compiled in this document. This document will be updated as needed during the review process and maintained across all requests for further/new information.

Date	Question	Response
5/20/14	The Request for Additional Information language includes directions for both emailing responses and mailing physical materials. Are vendors required to submit both electronic and print copies of their responses? Or are email only submissions acceptable?	We encourage (prefer) electronic versions of materials, but leave the door open for physical materials if the vendor wishes to include them. We may have times where task force members must review materials from separate locations.
6/18/14	...We would like to request feedback and/or evaluation or scoring materials to help us better understand why [our submission] was not chosen to move forward...	<p>The task force spent several months developing a scoring rubric based on the legislation that commissioned the task force and the review of assessments. The rubric is posted on the Department of Education web site on the task force page (https://www.educateiowa.gov/resources/boards-commissions-committees-councils-and-task-forces/assessment-task-force).</p> <p>From this rubric, specific information was requested from the providers that had submitted for the initial request for information (RFI). Task force members worked in small groups to gain understanding of the submissions and produce preliminary review results. The task force members determined that some of the basic requirements set forth in the legislation were absolutes that would make proposed assessment(s) difficult to recommend. Specifically, the assessment needed to be available at all grades 3-11, must have been piloted and tested in Iowa, and must be available to administer during the last quarter of the school year (spring administration).</p> <p>Each proposed assessment was given a preliminary review separately using the task force-developed rubric, as represented by the information supplied by the assessment providers. Where multiple assessments were proposed in combination the individual named measures were evaluated separately to allow for an accurate evaluation of the qualities of each measure. The task force was not comfortable inferring how a combination of measures might meet the needs for a unified assessment for grades 3-11, especially when the assessments varied significantly in scope, structure and content. Based on those preliminary reviews, the task force determined that the following assessments did not meet the basic requirements:</p>

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		<table border="1" data-bbox="704 233 1479 667"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="704 233 927 300">Assessment</th> <th data-bbox="927 233 1122 300">Available grades 3-11</th> <th data-bbox="1122 233 1295 300">Piloted and tested</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 233 1479 300">Last Quarter</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="704 300 927 338">ACT</td> <td data-bbox="927 300 1122 338">No</td> <td data-bbox="1122 300 1295 338"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 300 1479 338"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="704 338 927 411">ACT Aspire (ACT)</td> <td data-bbox="927 338 1122 411">No</td> <td data-bbox="1122 338 1295 411"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 338 1479 411"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="704 411 927 449">ACT Engage</td> <td data-bbox="927 411 1122 449">No</td> <td data-bbox="1122 411 1295 449"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 411 1479 449"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="704 449 927 487">ACT Work Keys</td> <td data-bbox="927 449 1122 487">No</td> <td data-bbox="1122 449 1295 487"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 449 1479 487"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="704 487 927 560">ACT Aspire Pearson</td> <td data-bbox="927 487 1122 560">No</td> <td data-bbox="1122 487 1295 560"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 487 1479 560"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="704 560 927 598">CTB</td> <td data-bbox="927 560 1122 598">No</td> <td data-bbox="1122 560 1295 598">No</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 560 1479 598"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="704 598 927 667">Next Generation</td> <td data-bbox="927 598 1122 667"></td> <td data-bbox="1122 598 1295 667"></td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="1295 598 1479 667"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="704 709 1479 1060">This determination does not reflect on any of the other merits or benefits of the assessments, simply on the inability of the proposed assessment to meet the specified basic requirements. In the case where assessments might meet the grade availability guidelines <i>in combination</i>, an assessment provider would need to provide clarity on the effectiveness of the combined package in meeting each of the requested data elements. An assessment provider may choose to resubmit with clarifications and the task force will be pleased to review the new submission as a part of the upcoming RFI.</p>				Assessment	Available grades 3-11	Piloted and tested	Last Quarter		ACT	No				ACT Aspire (ACT)	No				ACT Engage	No				ACT Work Keys	No				ACT Aspire Pearson	No				CTB	No	No			Next Generation				
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6/25/14	(paraphrased) ...we have a PK-3 reading screening test to offer. How would I go about getting it reviewed?	This RFI is seeking information for a reading and mathematics accountability test to use in all of grades 3-11 (and other criteria mentioned in the question above). Unless the submitted assessment meets these requirements it will likely not be reviewed in any detail by this task force. Other measures are outside of the scope of the task force's charge.																																											
7/1/14	Can the State please clarify whether you are interested in assessments that would measure acquisition of early literacy skills in Grades 3-6 in a way that could be used for accountability purposes?	This RFI is seeking information for a reading and mathematics accountability test to use in all of grades 3-11 (and other criteria mentioned in the question above). Unless the submitted assessment meets these requirements it will likely not be reviewed in any detail by this task force. Other measures are outside of the scope of the task force's charge.																																											
7/2/14	Can vendors just email their responses by the deadline or are we required to submit a hard copy response as well?	The task force is comfortable with electronic documents only. Responses may be submitted completely as email/electronic documents. No physical copy is required.																																											
7/2/14	I'd like to request clarification on the following: Section 1.3 "Vendors may mail or hand-deliver their written responses. We request that you also provide an electronic copy on	The task force is comfortable with electronic documents only. Responses may be submitted completely as email/electronic documents. No physical copy is required.																																											

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	electronic media (email submission acceptable).” Question: Are mail or hand-delivered <u>required</u> in addition to an electronic copy? Or can vendors submit their response via email only?	