

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mastery Examination Committee Meeting

April 28, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Present: Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, Chairperson
Mary Anne Butler, Connecticut State Department of Education
Patti Fusco, AFT-CT
Ajit Gopalakrishnan, Connecticut State Department of Education
Kathleen Kennedy, CT PTA
Abe Krisst, Connecticut State Department of Education
Patrice McCarthy, CABE
Dr. Karissa Niehoff, CAS-CIAC
Allan Taylor, Connecticut State Board of Education, Chair
Jeffrey Villar, CCER
Don E. Williams Jr., CEA
Stephen Wright, Connecticut State Board of Education

Absent: Jim Accomando, CT PTA
Dr. Joseph Cirusuolo, CAPS
Kathy Greider, CAPSS
Dr. Stephen Hegedus, SCSU
Cathy Hill, CAS
Ed Leavy, AFT-CT
Richard Murray, Killingly, CABE
Arthur Poole, Higher Education
Don Romoser, CT PTA

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Dianna R. Wentzell, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

II. Approval of the Minutes from March 24, 2016, Meeting and Other Business

Minutes from the March 24, 2016, Mastery Examination Committee meeting were approved.

III. Presentation by Members of the CSDE Technical Advisory Committee

- Commissioner Wentzell introduced the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Two members were present at the meeting: Dr. H Swaminathan and Dr. Jane Rogers from the University of Connecticut, and Joe Ryan from Arizona State University joined via telephone. The members of the TAC answered questions that were submitted by the committee members during their presentation.
- Ajit Gopalakrishnan reviewed what was covered at the last meeting.

Below are the questions submitted from the committee members. This is what was partially addressed in the presentation.

- What is test validity? Is SBAC valid, if so, why and why not?
- What is test reliability? Is SBAC reliable, if so, why and why not?
- Can students be compared as to whether or not they made progress in light of the fact test forms are different across years?

- If a student scores in the below standard category in third grade, isn't it possible that the student might still score in the below standard category in fourth grade even if he made a year's worth of growth?

In order to answer these questions, the following topics were covered in a presentation. (See the presentation posted on the Mastery Examination website from Dr. Swaminathan and Dr. Rogers for more detailed information.)

- Test Score Validity
- Validity Evidence
- Validity Evidence for Smarter Balanced
- Measurement Error in Test Scores
- Test Score Reliability Problems with the Classical Test Framework
- Item Response Theory Framework
- One Parameter Model Item Response Functions
- Advantages of Item Response Theory
- Test Construction
- Computer Adaptive Testing
- Advantages of Computer Adaptive Testing
- Reliability Evidence for SBAC Proficiency Scores
- Growth Assessment and Vertical Scales

IV. Discussion of Next Steps and Summer Meeting Dates

Commissioner Wentzell suggested that the committee revisit the above topics in subsequent meetings.

Commissioner Wentzell also distributed the *Mastery Examination Committee Summary of Charges and Deadlines* and asked committee member to review this document prior to the next meeting.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on May 17, 2016.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.