Student Assessment Listserv

January 9, 2015

Illinois Assessment Updates

Critical Warning Flags in PearsonAccessNext Live Site

Every student record in PearsonAccessNext will display at least two critical warning messages to the right of the state student ID. This is because ISBE does not collect nor send information for the “Gifted and Talented” field nor for the EL Title III field. Neither of these fields are required, so these critical warnings will not affect testing and can be disregarded. Further, any student who has “two or more races” entered in SIS will display two additional critical warnings, for a total of four. Again, these critical warnings will not affect testing and can be disregarded.

Sensitive Data Role Removed from PearsonAccessNext Live Site

All student demographic updates and Personal Needs Profile (PNP) information must be entered via ISBE’s Student Information System (SIS). These data will be loaded into PearsonAccessNext by ISBE. Therefore, the Sensitive Data Role has been removed to ensure that all data updates occur via SIS. Please note, if you made any edits to student data directly in PearsonAccessNext using this role, these will be overridden the next time SIS imports student data.

PARCC Pre-ID File Transfers to PearsonAccessNext

The first PARCC Pre-ID file transfer to PearsonAccessNext for EOY is planned for Jan. 23. This EOY transfer will also update any PBA data changes.

PARCC Additional Orders

If deadlines have been met, all PARCC shipping orders are automatically generated. Additional orders for PBA materials need to be placed through PearsonAccessNext only if data were not captured in SIS by Dec. 19. Additional orders for EOY materials need to be placed through PearsonAccessNext only if data are not captured in SIS by Jan. 23. The additional order window for PBA opens Feb. 2. The additional order window for EOY opens March 30. For more information or help with additional orders, consult the contact Pearson’s PARCC Customer Service at (888) 493-9888 or parcc@support.pearson.com. Districts should continue to update data in SIS continuously.

Infrastructure Trial Debrief

Since many schools plan to conduct an infrastructure trial during the week of Jan. 12-16, we will be holding a webinar on Friday, Jan. 16 at 2pm for the purpose of gathering feedback and answering questions. It is most recommended for technology staff and test coordinators. To register, click here.
Upcoming Webinars

There are several upcoming webinars surrounding PARCC and other Illinois assessments. The next two Illinois Assessment Update webinars will be on Jan. 22 and Feb. 6. For more information and to register, click here. Additionally, we will be holding a webinar specifically for test administrators and proctors on Feb. 10 at 3:30pm. We’ll cover many topics in the test administration manual and answer questions from the field. The webinar will probably be most useful for those administering the online version of the test. For more information and to register, click here. All webinars will be recorded for later viewing.

PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual Training Webinar (pre-recorded)

Districts and schools looking for additional information related to the use of accessibility features and accommodations for PARCC testing can view the webinar located here.

ISBE-Funded ACT Plus Writing and/or ACT WorkKeys

The week of January 5, ACT sent an email to each Test Coordinator with directions for verifying enrollments. Test Coordinators have from January 6-13, 2015, to verify enrollment counts for the ACT Plus Writing and/or WorkKeys test materials.

Please refer to the Checklist of Dates for information about other important events for this ISBE-funded program.

PARCC Tools, Accessibility Features, and Accommodations Practice

Attached is a chart listing each of the tools, accessibility features, or accommodations along with the location of where they can be found to help students, teachers, and parents become familiar with the functionality. The sample items, tutorials, and non-secure practice tests can be found at http://parcc.pearson.com/. The Secure Practice Tests can be found in the PearsonAccessNext Training Site.