

Summary Report

MASA Technology Survey

On December 4, 2012, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) distributed a news release that said, "A new report shows that a majority of Missouri's public schools have the technology necessary to conduct computer-based achievement testing set to begin during the 2014-15 school year."

The report went on to say, "Missouri schools reported in a survey that about 95 percent of their computer devices provide the level of technology necessary to handle the testing."

This information seemed to contradict statements that were being made to MASA by our members regarding computer-based testing. MASA created and distributed a survey to all superintendents asking five questions related to computer-based testing. The survey began on December 5, 2012 and ended on December 13, 2012. During this period, 383 school districts responded to the survey. This survey was completed by districts of all sizes and representing all areas of the state.

The MASA survey indicates that only 42% of the school districts feel they have the technology needed to administer computer-based assessments and an additional 18% are unsure that they have the technology needed.

When asked what are the main obstacles related to computer-based assessments, 65% of the districts cited the time needed, 44% indicated that hardware was a problem, 37% cited bandwidth as an obstacle, and 18% were concerned about facility issues. Only 13% of the respondents indicated that they had no obstacles to conduct computer-based assessments of their students.

It appears that school districts do not have the information necessary to make decisions related to future technology needs for computer-based assessments. Only 14% of the districts had done a study to determine what it will cost to provide computer-based assessments.

A full list of concerns expressed by the respondents follows in this report.

After reviewing the data from the survey, it is apparent that there are major obstacles related to computer-based testing that need to be resolved prior to implementing this requirement.

MASA Computer-Based Testing Survey

	ALL	>500	<500	NE	NW	KC	SL	WC	SC	SW	SE
Total Number of Respondents	383										
Question 1: What is your districts' six-digit code?	278	166	112	41	36	12	15	51	18	70	35
Question 2: DESE recently sent out a news release that said a majority of Missouri's public schools have the technology necessary to conduct computer-based achievement testing set to begin during the 2014-15 school year. Does your district have this capability?											
Yes, we believe we have the technology needed to administer the tests.	42%	37%	49%	51%	25%	42%	43%	35%	33%	49%	49%
No, we do not have the technology needed to administer the tests.	39%	45%	34%	32%	50%	42%	36%	47%	39%	40%	34%
Not sure	18%	18%	16%	17%	22%	17%	29%	16%	28%	11%	17%
Question 3: What are you main obstacles?											
We do not have sufficient bandwidth	37%	34%	38%	24%	56%	25%	43%	39%	28%	36%	31%
We do not have the needed hardware.	44%	49%	39%	37%	53%	75%	50%	39%	56%	43%	46%
We do not have the facilities.	18%	17%	15%	17%	14%	17%	0%	18%	17%	19%	20%
We are concerned about the time needed to test all students.	65%	70%	63%	56%	78%	83%	64%	63%	83%	71%	60%
We have no obstacles	13%	11%	17%	22%	3%	8%	21%	12%	6%	14%	17%
Other obstacles for your district.	98	49	32	12	11	3	7	16	6	18	8
Question 3: Have you done a study to determine what it will cost your district?											
Yes	14%	19%	12%	12%	8%	33%	7%	18%	28%	14%	23%
No	85%	80%	88%	88%	92%	67%	93%	80%	72%	84%	77%
If yes, what is the cost?	55	32	14	5	3	4	1	9	5	10	9
Any other concerns that you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district.											
	131	64	42	16	15	3	9	17	9	24	13

Other obstacles identified by school districts

Not sure how DESE's requirements relate to our capabilities. With the number of technical issues that DESE tends to have my confidence level in what they tell us is fairly low. We probably won't find out for sure until we do it. The term 'unfunded mandate' comes to mind.

Bandwidth is huge. This will basically shut all computers down in the district so a few (10) can test at a time and hopefully not be timed out or shut down because of power surges or max. of bandwidth being used.

We currently do not have sufficient bandwidth. We are working at it but at significant increase in cost!

Funding to maintain all the technology requirements to sustain the needed Hardware and Software programs along with the bandwidth and filter.

Rotating all students through our computer labs during testing window. Impact to instructional program when all computers are used for testing for six weeks no access to equipment for instructional purposes.

We are a small rural district with little funds. Our shrinking REAP money and possible sequestration cuts will make future tech purchases more difficult.

May have hardware count throughout district counting all units, but not enough in specific locations to administer to groups as needed.

We believe we have the hardware, software, and bandwidth to administer the various tests, however, this is our best guess. We could easily not have enough bandwidth, inadequate software and hardware on the computers.

We are not sure what type of technology devices we will need to complete all of the online tests.

Funding for needed technology not available

While we have 3 small labs we cannot administer all students tests at the same time, which will cause scheduling issues during the testing window.

All of our computers now meet the requirements but none of our computers meet the recommended windows 7 and 1 gb ram. 90 percent are capable, but we would need to move to a windows server platform to do so.

We will need to make several upgrades to meet the requirements for the 14-15 testing

Our computer lab is limited to about 20 students, so larger classes may have to test in shifts

We contract with IT staff in the district 3 days a week, if we have an issue in testing on one of the days the tech is not in the district it could make things difficult. I am worried that students frustrations at technology issues could interfere with their test performance.

Simply not enough computers. What we have may fit the specifications, but we don't have enough to administer that many tests in a relatively short time period.

Depending on administration requirements bandwidth could be a problem.

Other obstacles identified by school districts

With our main limitation being bandwidth availability, we have no control over this.

We have one lab of 20 computers. Basically, one grade level at a time will be able to be tested, creating numerous testing sessions.

Wifi dependability.

Time! We have two testing locations for all of our students

We are extremely concerned that we think we have the bandwidth needed it may slow us down within the time frames.

Based upon all printed materials released to date, we do not believe there will be any obstacles; however, we are cautiously optimistic and will not be sure until having gone through the first administration.

With our current technology we would need a much larger testing window to give the test. We would need wiring harnesses for our laptops also to make sure we don't lose connection.

At our 3-5 campus the e-mints types of environments will not allow for the entire class to test at one time. We will have to utilize two grade levels of rooms in order to test one grade at a time.

Sufficient tech savvy staff.

We need to figure out how to include teaching of keyboarding into our already tight elementary school day.

We have been working to increase bandwidth for our district, but it is not available in this area.

We have been working to keep our technology up to date, but with limited or reduced funding from the state, it is more and more difficult. Concerned that our current bandwidth is insufficient to handle all students testing. We have made great improvements to our technology network, but it is difficult maintaining good, reliable equipment. Our teachers rely heavily on technology for daily instruction.

Scheduling of the library computers will make it so that about one class per day would be able to take the tests spread throughout the day. It would end up taking a month or more of solid testing to give the tests.

We have the correct equipment but do not know that we have enough equipment for the students we have.

We have the hardware technology to administer the tests, but are limited in number of hardware devices to administer the tests sufficiently.

We barely pull off the hardware needs now and just squeak by on bandwidth. We will need to buy more computers and bandwidth by 2014-15.

Having ENOUGH of the hardware to do all required testing in a reasonable time frame is the problem. Also, with the smarter balanced assessment personnel stating that 'touch screens' will be required. We have NOT even started down that path yet. With constructed response and performance events, the amount of TIME along with scheduling will be a nightmare.

Other obstacles identified by school districts

We have a business lab we could use for testing, but if we did then the students involved in typing, desktop publishing, etc. would not have a place to conduct their daily classes.

We do have bandwidth issues when our computer lab is full with students on-line, which will be our testing area. We are working with MOREnet and will hopefully have this issues resolved before testing will go on-line.

1. Keyboarding skills for elementary students. 2. Two years ago our hardware was too advanced for their software (how was this even possible to create a program that doesn't scale up?) 3. Compatibility with Windows environments.

Not sure if XP will be sufficient

Finances. With the loss of 11 to 13 percent of our foundation formula moneys over the past four years, our district still reels from budget cuts including staff reduction and delays in tech spending.

We have had to make costly additions (computers and bandwidth to get prepared and are limited to a small group of students at one time

We are currently implementing a computer-keyboard class for elementary so that all of our students are ready.

Need more computers (hardware)

Our technology complies with the requirements, but the number of computers to students in elementary buildings is insufficient.

While we do have adequate bandwidth for day to day use, we would need to increase our wireless throughput significantly in order to accommodate mobile labs.

We do not know what software requirements are needed for the online testing. Our elementary students do not have the access to the computers that the middle school students do. Our support hardware (e.g. routers, switches) may not be able to handle the amount of students that will be testing at one time.

We think we can do it but are not sure at this point.

We are questionable as to the amount of adequate bandwidth to conduct the tests. We recently increased to 100Mb but that is being consumed more daily as we implement more instructional technology which requires the bandwidth.

The need later for hardware that allows usage of a stylus will create a huge financial hardship for the district.

Maintaining technology as standards and requirements raise without any additional funding.

We have gone closer to the one to one initiative with the chrome books and we find out that the testing will not allow the mobile devices access to the tests.

The ability to simulate the load on our resources (staff, computers, network) makes it difficult to know how existing resources will handle the tests. Current plans call for moving 50% of the high school student body off campus on service learning projects to gain access to all labs in the building without supplanting the current curriculum.

Other obstacles identified by school districts

We do not currently have tablets with stylus/touch screens available for graphical input.

The system requirements have been a moving target. It is difficult for a district to be certain they are prepared when the requirements for bandwidth and workstations are not locked-in.

We will have to move our business classes as well as journalism during the testing window. Without moving them we only have 2 labs at the high school. At the middle school we will have to move our computer classroom. At elementary schools one computer lab for all the testing.

Financial resources to purchase necessary equipment.

We don't have the current electrical capacity to plug more devices in to electricity without adding more capability to our older facilities, There isn't enough funding to purchase more equipment to have more devices for students to test on because over the last 5 years our budget that is made up of Federal, State, & Local funds has been cut to a point that the only funds we have available for technology is being used to keep our current devices functioning. We've not had funds to add new equipment for the last 2 years.

We have the operating systems in place but not enough computers without moving classrooms around

We don't have enough access to provide all students ample exposure and practice on computers so that they will be able to test successfully on the computer -- will we be testing what they know or how proficient they are at using the computer??????

Our district is not certain exactly what DESE will require to administer the tests

Bandwidth is an issue. We will have to purchase additional bandwidth and this does not come cheap...

Our primary concern is having an adequate number of computers available to complete testing within the testing window.

We do not have any type of tablets to allow students to show calculations or draw diagrams, etc.

Concerns about the technology skills of the students taking the test (i.e., elementary students keyboarding skills)

We have plenty of computers but our bandwidth at 6 MPS will only allow so many to function online at the same time. So a longer window for testing would be beneficial.

Will our students be tech literate to a point that they can complete the assessment to the degree that student that are currently 1:1 can complete the assessment. This places rural districts like ours at a disadvantage because we are strapped for resources.

Exposure to online testing and incorporation of online testing into the curriculum.

We have been doing the pilot test and each time a student doesn't answer quickly enough the system shuts down and each individual admin. has to log back in to the testing. This is a major distraction for the testing center. The required bandwidth is enormous when testing a large group of students. Another issue is exposure to what is required of students when testing. Building of charts and graphs, etc. Is this what is best for kids?

My concern is I only have one lab and I am going to have several classes needing to test at the same time.

Other obstacles identified by school districts

Not enough computers at the High School or Middle school for students to complete the test without major class schedule modification. We have to purchase increased bandwidth during this three week period to prevent the connectivity from crashing.

Not applicable

Bandwidth could be an issue but we are not 100% sure at the moment. Once we have live testing we will have a better idea of what we will need to adjust.

We are concerned about the bandwidth and what will be required in the way of bandwidth.

One lab is OK, but the other is NOT ready. I do not have enough computer space for the whole school.

Bandwidth and the promise of the Show Me Power technology grant has never come through.

We should be fine, but we are always concerned by all of the above. If too many had to be tested at once, we would have a problem.

Funding to maintain the hardware and services for providing bandwidth and other internet services that will be needed to provide online testing

Lack of tablet computers.

Lack of tech staff to assist if there are problems during testing.

Most of our technology equipment is old and frequently breaks down.

Our computers are getting older and there are no funds to buy new ones as there was in the past.

Some surveys have determined that we do NOT have the necessary hardware, but others say that we do. confusing.

Scheduling Computer Labs!

We have been given no direction on what operating systems will be or won't be supported. We have SEVERAL Windows XP machines still and they will not be supported by Microsoft then but will they be able to handle the testing? Another thing is the "rumor" that all schools will need to provide tablets with stylus for Math tests? Any truth to this? If so, what OS will be supported?

We are not sure if we have enough computers that meet the requirements to give the test.

We have the physical equipment to do the testing. However, for example, in our Middle School we have computer labs that are in the open part of the classroom wing. Not ideal for testing. We will consequently not use this equipment, even though it would appear on paper that we have enough machines, they are not in conducive areas for testing.

We are one of the lucky districts with reserve funds. Therefore, my Board of Education has recently approved approximately an \$18,000 upgraded infrastructure focused on bandwidth, switches, server, and replacement of some desktop computers. This does not mean our concerns are any less. We have one computer lab to rotate grades 3-8 with multiple tests.

Other obstacles identified by school districts

We do not know how well our bandwidth will hold up to all students testing.

Our internet is very sketchy and hasn't been as reliable as it should be

We have computer labs in the elementary buildings but the time factor of scheduling will be arduous.

We will have to upgrade every system to windows 7 or 8 in order to test. Cost to upgrade all machines and ram will be very, very costly.

Based on prior history with DESE's testing window, this will be very difficult to cycle our kids through based on our current number of labs.

We will have to cancel our business classes during the testing window to provide access to computers.

We just increased our bandwidth, but we are unsure of how much bandwidth will be needed if all schools are testing in the same window.

Expanded wireless support.

We only have the facilities to do one class at a time. We have a computer lab, but with different grade levels we would not be testing them at same time. This would be a problem to get everyone in, in the allotted time.

Need to know the Bandwidth requirements

While the majority of our systems meet the specified minimum requirements of Smarter Balanced, there is concern that the assessment tool is still developing, and the specifications may change. In addition, we are not able to see our district results in the Technology Readiness Tool.

We are extremely concerned about the length of the testing window and getting all users through the computer labs in the allotted time period.

What is the cost to your district?

Unsure of the cost due to the uncertainty with what the actual test will consist of at each grade level

Not relevant, we cannot buy bandwidth. It is simply not available in our area.

We are in the process of attaining cost.

Preliminarily we believe we might have to add as many as 700 devices but we are in the process of conducting our study. Generally speaking, if the study confirms that need we would need to spend \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

800,000.00

\$3400 per year

\$15-\$20,000

Still gathering the information

\$5,000

0

\$45,000 minimum

We plan to in the future.

\$20,000 for one time and then \$2,000 annually for additional bandwidth

That estimated cost has been over 25000

\$17,000

\$500,000.00

\$1,005,840

It is in progress - minimal of \$25,000 to increase bandwidth.

\$300,000

\$60,000

\$100,000

Estimate at least \$8000-15,000

Approximately \$150,000

\$500,000+

We're currently working on it.

\$186,000 just for hardware; bandwidth has not been estimated.

\$2,000,000 million dollars

\$25,000 to completely overhaul student machines. \$5000-\$8000 to overhaul 10-15 machines.

\$25,000

In the neighborhood of \$250,000.00

\$20,500

\$50,000 plus

We are working on it.

What is the cost to your district?

Approximately \$6,000 to increase the bandwidth

We are in the process of implementing the needed changes to allow the testing. The total technology project cost for phase I is \$640,000 and phase II for wireless infrastructure is estimated to be \$125,000 (Phase II)

I would need another lab to test everyone at the time we want to test them.

To date we have spent \$35,000 for improved connectivity and fiber via wireless AUP's The District still has \$15,000 more work to do in this area for a total cost of more that \$45,000 dollars. None of this was e-rate eligible.

For sufficient ease it would cost approx. \$25,000

0

\$100.00

\$25,000.00

It depends on the regulation of the testing window, though as much as \$240,000.

0

60,000.00

50,000

\$40,000

50,000

Probably another \$15,000 in bandwidth and still waiting to see the results of what hardware / software will be and won't be supported.

\$50,000+

Approximately \$100,000

40,000

\$3,500,000.00

\$50,000

It has cost us \$2-3 million

\$20,000

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (01 Northwest)

Computer literacy at the lower grade levels.

We are concerned that our elementary school students' lack of computer operating skills will hinder their testing ability.

Cost of adding hardware is an issue, but adding any number of computers will not fix our bandwidth issues.

Young elementary students taking an online test, specifically a writing prompt, cannot be more efficient than completing it with handwriting.

We have already tripled the size of our bandwidth to get ready for the testing and we are going to need infrastructure improvements to handle the amount of students all at once.

We would like to test students in their natural learning environment on laptops or notebooks... thus buying the computers and access points presents a financial challenge.

Our concerns is that we are taking an assessment that is heavily dependent on district technology. All districts must have the same opportunities to keep equipment up to date and reliable in order for the assessment to be valid in all districts. Districts with stronger technology have an advantage. DESE seems to raise expectations and required resources without listening to the stakeholders. School funding has not been sufficient for all districts to maintain the required needs of students and teachers. DESE seems to fund and support self motivated initiatives without listening to concerns from administrators and school districts from across the state. Very disappointed with DESE leadership.

We are a small school and have the smallest bandwidth available through MORE Net. I think us having 40 kids on the internet at the same time will be an issue as far as bandwidth. I don't think we will be able to test everyone at the same time, therefore will have to stagger when different classes test. I think this will lead to an extended time spent testing for the school as a whole.

Since we don't know specifically what device will host this test, we don't know how bad of shape we are in at this time.

Things keep changing (for example, testing companies) with tech requirements of testing - we're never sure from year-to-year what's going to happen.

Of course, there is the concern of technology working correctly.

3rd Grade students skills at computer testing.

Bandwidth we need to ideally double our bandwidth for normal daily use, let alone during testing when reliability is paramount. Device compatibility it would be best if the test was browser and OS agnostic. i.e. able to run on Chromium or IOS devices.

Rural school districts may have difficulty due to lack of opportunity to upgrade Bandwidth. We requested an upgrade to 10mb last May and still waiting!

What if your computers go down during testing? Our tech guy is contracted and not always available to us on an on-call basis. We would have to wait until he could fit us into his schedule not ours.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (02 Greater Kansas City)

We are planning a one-to-one initiative for grades 9-12. If we can afford it we will also provide android tablets for Pre-K to 8th grade but students will not be able to take them home. My only concern is the browser packaged in some of the new Android and Windows OS systems, will they be compatible with the testing sites?

Technology support staff necessary to support the additional hardware and provide support during the assessment windows

At our Middle schools we will need to test 800-1000 students on 90 machines. The length of the testing window will be a severe restriction to us.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (03 West Central)

We are not sure what the requirements are to be able to administer the test. We believe we have the capability, but are not certain.

Ideally we would prefer to test a whole grade level concurrently. We lack the hardware to do so. Also scheduling concerns arise when dividing classes.

Technology is always great when it works. If we run in to problems during the testing window, then what?

This only covers the cost of computer hardware. We think we may have to add some FTE's to cover new technology teachers at the elementary level.

We are concerned that by increasing the testing window to complete the testing would also cause the following two scenarios: First it would increase the disruption that testing creates, such as the labs would be unavailable for a longer period of time for what would typically be normal classroom use. Secondly we do not allow any video streaming or network usage that may create added bandwidth usage during testing times, so increasing the window would hinder normal classroom teaching activities for a longer period of time.

To some degree this will also test their technology skills and that can, especially with younger poor students, skew test results.

I was looking on Smarter Balance web site yesterday and it looked like we will need about 3 hours for ELA and about the same for math. I am hoping I read that wrong but if that is the case this will be a nightmare.

Another one of our biggest concerns right now is the amount of bandwidth being available and having the network structure in place to even support that many new devices to test on. Right now most of our buildings have a single lab of about 30 computers. This isn't enough to test every student without the window being open most of the year to get them all tested. With more devices comes bigger issues with bandwidth to the internet and Network structure to support all of them via wireless or wired connections. With more devices added another concern is the amount of technology staff to support them. Currently there are two of us to take care of the network, hardware issues, software issues, and to train all of the faculty to use their equipment properly in their classrooms.

Keyboarding skills of our elementary students. The testing window needs to be increased. We are not against moving the tests to computer base.

We are being told that we cannot increase our bandwidth as much as will be needed to accommodate the new tests.

We usually test our students first hour because statistically that is when they students perform their best. If I only have 20 computers I can only test one class at a time. We use to test everyone first hour but with the new way. Each class will have to wait their turn for a computer.

If teachers don't use the same technology in the classroom the students will not be ready on test day.

Student performance especially of younger students on computer based test as opposed to paper/pencil.

Concern that this matter is being fairly represented by the state. We are in need of continued funding for advancements in computer technology to meet the testing mandates.

We have been told that the Chromebooks will be able to handle the tests by that date. We hope so because we have purchased 150 of them but they do not at this point.

Microsoft needs to provide an inexpensive upgrade option for small schools.

I am concerned that by the time we do everything necessary to be ready for testing in 2014-2015, the plan will change and the we will be doubling the technology changes as we get closer to the testing dates

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (04 Southwest)

We are currently 1:1 at our HS and are moving towards 1:1 at our MS. In grades 3-6, we feel that we have enough technology to begin testing with students now.

Elementary students, grades 3-6, keyboarding skills to complete the test accurately and in the allotted time schedule. Special education students with keyboarding skills and time allotted time schedules. Incomplete testing because of frequent flux or power surges. Frustration of students not having sufficient keyboarding skills in lower grade levels and special ed. classrooms. Inaccurate results from lack of skills in computers at lower levels and special education students. Students ability to track when reading on a monitor and test accurately. Rural area and computers in the home are few because of internet availability. Students are at a disadvantage for scores when compared to schools in city or urban surroundings. Stress factors increased 10 times to educators and students because of this new assessment technique on computers. Use of computers will not accurately access students because of lack of skills needed in lower elementary. Third graders barely have hands wide enough to attain home row on the keyboard-this will impact ability to type or check answers accurately.

I am hearing mixed messages about Smarter Balanced and whether we, Missouri, will be staying in the consortium. According to smarter balanced they will have performance events requiring computers/tablets with abilities for students to show work. I am concerned as to what technology to invest in with what little \$ I have. I would like to invest in tablets because that is the way technology is going but if we pull out of the consortium will they work with the other online assessments?

If schools and students have trouble (computer problems) administering the online assessments, then how reliable/valid will the results be and what will be the impact on MSIP 5?

Bandwidth has not been an issue thus far. However, we have never tested all students. The concern is when we actually do this - what happens if the bandwidth is an issue.

Technological problems

Our bandwidth and connectivity is not stable. Some of the instability is due to the telephone company's lines that carry data between and to buildings.

Student technology awareness. We do not have technology instructors in every building nor do we have access to allow all classrooms to utilize these services.

Training of staff to administer tests

We use online testing for Acuity and SRI so our students are fairly familiar with this format. However, we would hope there would be some kind of online practice test that could be used to better prepare students to use the online tools, format, etc.

We have the capacity to test(with wireless improvements) now. However, this would result in affecting classroom instruction in existing labs.

We have been making progress toward adding technology in an attempt to meet this deadline but reduced state funding and local funding challenges have impeded those efforts. Time and money toward daily educational efforts trumps the adding of additional technology resources to administer a single assessment.

Finding the funds required to upgrade infrastructure & tablets/workstations

I strongly believe DESE should provide financial assistance to smaller, rural schools for technology upgrades. Typical unfunded mandates...

Somewhat concerned about the students ability to use computers successfully-especially in the lower grades. We will need to make sure that all students get hands on training with computer based assessments before we start testing so that they are comfortable with the format.

What happens if internet connection is lost during the test?

Adequate equipment Cost Stylus based for math?? We are not sure what the actual requirements will be?

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (04 Southwest)

It is typically a matter of numbers. If all our students had to test at once, we would have a problem. If everything could be staggered, as I expect we can, it would work. We would always welcome more technology funds to add labs and upgrade existing equipment.

It's hard to plan for this without knowing how the testing is to be presented. For example, if all Algebra I students have to test at exactly the same time, that isn't a possibility now. Though if they may take it in sessions it most certainly is.

Other than tablets, which I hope will not be a requirement, an increase in bandwidth would get us the ability to administer MAP with technology.

Our primary obstacle is the absolute lack of bandwidth available to Clever, MO!

As most things, it comes down to having the funds available to use for it and not have to take them away from something else.

Disruptions of the school day create distractions.

Having enough devices to test all grade spans in the same testing window.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (05 South Central)

We believe we can comply with the testing demands. Until we actually test all subjects and experience the process it will remain uncertain what our success level will be. We do have reserve fund allocations identified for expanding hardware. Space remains to be an issue and the uncertainty of functionality of equipment if we blend a wireless environment with a hardwired lab environment. Definitely more questions than answers at this point.

Yes, as the testing requirement escalate where is this money going to come from? It is not just the bandwidth, or the CPU's it is the server and numbers of computers and SPACE in order to have sufficient testing locations and time to rotate students.

Honestly, while we have added another computer lab at the high school and a mobile lab at the elementary we still are concerned over the ability to get students in front of computers.

If the window is large enough where we can utilize all the computer labs within the District, we will be able to meet the need. If the window is too small where we won't be able to utilize all the labs it will be a problem. We plan on using the middle school and elementary labs for when the high school takes their tests, the high school and elementary when the middle school tests, and the high school and middle school when the elementary tests.

We are concerned with reoccurring costs for technology as online assessments become mandatory and more frequent, meanwhile we continue to receive less than full funding in our state formula.

Time restraints, means of administering by the state (if that changes) Making sure that the test is saved after each question in case a computer freezes. The type of assessment(since it is computerized) will be different than daily assignments. We are trying to incorporate more format assessments utilizing the computer.

Very concerned about DESE capability to deal with tech failures/delays. Unsure that there are adequate plans to deal with tech failures while test is in progress, slow connections, bandwidth issues, etc.

Our bandwidth is not sufficient for testing. Upgrades to our operating system and memory for our machines is a must before testing online begins.

We are very concerned at our elementary level with only a single lab in each building and the additional bandwidth requirements.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (06 Southeast)

Our district is close to being able to administer the tests effectively. However, until we know exactly the format for the tests, it is difficult to predict exactly the needs of the district and the cost to the district. We are trying to update technology based on what our students' learning needs are and this will cover the needs for DESE testing. We don't want to waste money patching our technology together to meet the testing needs of DESE. We are trying to buy quality technology to meet the full needs of our students a little at a time. This takes time and money. Further, how is DESE going to maintain consistency in data during the first year or two of going to all electronic tests as districts figure out how to adapt to the technology changes needed in their district?

Biggest obstacle will be getting the necessary equipment and computers as well as training staff to administer.

The ability of our lower elementary students to have the capability and computer knowledge to take the test. We don't want that to be an obstacle to their sharing what they know.

At this point in time I am not sure of the specific specs needed for testing. In looking at the smarterbalance link of <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Hardware-Operating-Systems-Infographic.pdf> it states that testing can be done with Windows XP, however based on the smarterbalance Tech Readiness survey the results for my school show that 0% of the district devices meet testing requirements. WE are left in a quandary as to which information is accurate. The powers that be need to get on the same page and produce accurate information. Also the specs for future purchases state that Windows 7 can be ran on 1GB of ram. Those of us in the tech world know running Windows 7 with that amount of ram would produce an environment that runs so slowly that even everyday use is problematic not to mention testing environments. It is also not realistic to expect district to also purchase tablets for specific testing that would require wireless access along with physical keyboards or mice as is mentioned in the SmarterBalanced literature. Another confusing issue is the pilot testing. Apparently a release was to be made on Dec. 4 indicating the specs on legacy machines. Where is that release? Our district responded that we would not be able to administer the pilot based on the Tech Readiness tool. Instead we then find out a release will be made on Dec. 4 regarding legacy machines. Again, we feel as if we are running in circles trying to obtain correct information for one source but instead are trying to guess if we should use DESE information or Smartbalance info which often contradict each other. I would like to know which informational sources were used to gather the information used in the news release.

We marked yes to the 2nd questions because we have the hardware. Our two obstacles are bigger issues than the hardware for us. Cost of increased bandwidth would be our immediate issue.

More computers require more tech support including personnel, bandwidth, security, etc.

We have no options for a student to input data using a stylus.

Wireless capabilities in our area.

I believe that students will rush through the tests. If a computer goes down - what happens to the test: does the student start over, will it allow a student to log-in multiple times?

Students will not look over the tests thoroughly. Computers will elicit quicker responses from students. Bad idea.

We have to set up a 50-student computer lab at the elementary to provide for the testing

With the expansion of online testing and learning, bandwidth requirements are ever-expanding, but the Internet Service Providers' infrastructure isn't there to support future growth. Our infrastructure is

We are considered about the keyboarding readiness of 3rd and 4th grade students.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (07 Greater St Louis)

Not sure of the testing window requirements...this could significantly alter the needed technology

DESE must have all their ducks in a row when the tidal wave of downloads/uploads happen in 2014-15. This will work only if all schools and DESE (or their vendor) have the needed technology.

Amount of Time!! Not enough devices.

Grades 3-8 do not have access to 1 computer for every 5 students. We are continuing to expand our technology resources but we don't have means to accelerate enough to meet 2014-2015 requirements.

We would like more information regarding whether tablets will be an option for test taking.

Having to modify the entire class schedule for a three week period to administer the test because we do not have enough computers for all the students to complete the EOC's within the Jefferson High School and the Danby Middle School.

How will the MAP interface with different devices? We want to make sure our future technology purchases will be able to support the MAP.

This will tie up a majority of our technology resources for long periods of time so there is a huge opportunity cost.

The logistics involved with logging young students in to the test. In past experience, this can be a challenge.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (08 Northeast)

This assessment is on the fast track and leaving us behind. We are working to meet the challenge but it means spending a lot more for bandwidth, increasing hardware and we have no where else to go so we have to also look at putting in wireless access points and buying notebooks. These are all expenditures that are significant in our budget.

Not really sure exactly what it takes to do this and how our current capabilities stack up. Frankly, I don't believe that DESE knows this until we all try it. Boondoggle is the word that comes to mind for all of this.

What happens when a test is interrupted and who will pay for the additional cost?

Cost to provide enough hardware needed.

Our bandwidth was low during normal usage and needed an upgrade. We have recently done this but the cost is about \$3400 annually to go from the current 1.5 Mb to 5.0 Mb

As stated previously, we are cautiously optimistic. No sense crying wolf until we have had an opportunity to administer the test and deal with real problems as opposed to the current discussion of potential or imagined problems.

If there are writing segments, the students may be hampered by not having the typing skills needed to express themselves. We have been teaching keyboarding to 7th-8th grade students but not to students in 3rd-5th grade. How much farther are we going to push skills down in the elementary? We have enough to do already.

Will the provider have enough capacity to handle the peak periods of test taking statewide?

We are assuming that we will be able to handle the tests online, but until we are in the situation with 100 students testing at the same time, we won't know for sure.

Instead of doing the worthless technology updates every 6 months, why not just tell us that by 2016 we must have the following technology to be able to give the test online. Doing the Technology survey and updates is a waste of time!

As mentioned before, the proficiency of students on the computer. We only have 1-2 computer labs per building and a handful of student computers in each classroom. Students (especially the youngest) don't have enough consistent access to be proficient with computer use. Also, in order to rotate all test takers through the labs, we would likely have to start testing at the earliest point of the testing window allowing less time for students to become prepared for the test. Districts with more technology will obviously have an advantage because they will have the ability to test all of their students during the last part of the testing window.

That everything works as designed and when needed.(Reliability)

My concerns are that wireless devices are not being excluded from the list of computers that are to be counted for testing purposes. The wireless infrastructure is not capable of handling this type of testing.

We need to know if iPads are usable. The information we are receiving from multiple sources is confusing.

We will likely need additional staff or substitutes in order to test all of the students within the testing window given our limited number of computers.

Our main concern is not knowing the exact testing windows, and the number of students needing to be tested within each window.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (None Listed)

In the SE Superintendents meeting yesterday the Commissioner made this statement: 96% of the school in MO have the tech. necessary for testing. I'm not sure where she got the figure, but at least in my area, I strongly disagree...

The lack of bandwidth is our primary concern. We have upgraded with MOREnet, but we still experience significant slowdowns when we have high usage.

Insufficient funding in particular from state and feds. Will be forced to ask for tax rate increase if things do not improve.

We utilize a great deal of our bandwidth for I-TV classes. I am afraid there will be a disruption to our I-TV classes during the weeks that students are taking on-line assessments.

I'm bothered that we're asking kids who haven't mastered keyboarding skills to compose at a computer. This will lengthen the time it takes to administer a test and will frustrate kids.

As long as our technology is working fine and DESE has its technology in place with no glitches, I think we will be okay. Thanks for survey...I think it is a good idea.

I am concerned with the logistics of trying to schedule on line testing using student labs. We do not have 1 to 1 capabilities as it relates to computers.

The preparation for MAP testing is highly coordinated. Activities building up to the test are as specific as sleep, diet, and of course academic review. Relying on technology is concerning as if we have a "glitch", the balance of all of our preparation can be thrown off and negatively effect MAP scores. The glitch could originate on the local or DESE side. DESE has had tech difficulty in opening our Draft APR repeatedly.

The bandwidth issue is the biggest concern for our district.

My district is in good shape regarding our technology. The problem is I know of several neighboring districts that do not have this capability. It would take thousands of dollars to bring them up to speed.

Concern is bandwidth. We are very limited in number of students who can take the test at the same time.

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While we have attempted to anticipate the costs and logistics associated with the MAP test exclusively through technology, we feel that we are without all of the information need to determine exactly what will be required.

To prepare for testing in 2014-15, we really need to know for certain what the requirements for systems and bandwidth will be. Right now, it is estimated that the bandwidth requirements could be between 10 kbps and 20 kbps per student. With the size of our district, this range could be a massive difference in the requirements for bandwidth.

This is kind of surprising to me since districts have known this was coming for years and many just didn't want to make the shift. We are a very small district and made plans years ago to be ready. The other districts could have been prepared with some foresight.

Concerns about students being able to navigate the software system.

We are attempting to increase bandwidth, but our local provider is dragging feet

Largest concern is that we have mobile laptop carts, etc... We will be able to move them around to locations, but we are going to have some obstacles. The largest concern is getting our 5-8 Middle School students who combined will be taking 10 assessments completed in the allotted window. We have previously been able to designate a 3-4 day window in the building and everyone was testing at the same time. Made for a great environment. With the need for computers for testing we will have to stretch this time frame out significantly and therefore have groups of students testing in a building while larger groups of students are having a normal day.

Screen resolution size using notebook devices.

Other concerns you may have related to using technology to administer the MAP tests in your district. (None Listed)

We are working to implement technology and be compliant with computer based assessments.

DESE's technology readiness survey is long and tedious and I haven't had time to deal with that. I already did one of them. Then we have since replaced a bunch of computers over the summer, and DESE wants it done again. We will be ready. Why does DESE want these surveys. Tell us what we have to have by the 2014-15 school year and we'll be ready. Don't keep checking in on it taking away time and resources from people who need to do other things.