Enhanced the system; secured $17.3M in additional funding.
✓ We have built a solid foundation.
✓ Experts are supporting our work.
✓ We are on track.

Project Snapshot

Accomplishments

- Launched ten work groups involving 90 Consortium members
- Solidified state-led governance structure
- Implemented multiple communication vehicles including weekly emails, bi-weekly calls, and regular webinars
- Connected with chiefs

Priorities for Next Six Months

- Hire a Communications Service Provider and Communications Director
- Enhance the external website
- Expand collaboration capabilities
- Establish schedule of regular member state meetings
- Engage chiefs in critical policy discussions

Engage Our Members

- Established policy and procedures to manage travel, expense reimbursement, and consultant contracts
- Executed standard status reporting processes to manage schedules, issues, risks, and financials
- Conducted monthly meetings with USED
- Defined vendor procurement and management procedures with the State of Washington

Establish Rigorous Processes and Organization Structure

- Drafted critical RFPs
  - IT Readiness Tool
  - IT Systems Architect
- Investigated existing technology platforms
  - Michigan Item Bank
  - Dynamic Learning Map Assessment

Develop the IT Backbone

- Organized the Content
  - Documented Eligible Content for Summative Assessment
  - Researched options to develop the Assessment Framework
- Supported Transition to Common Core activities
  - Gathered existing state plans
  - Sponsored states to attend ICCS SCASS
- Created sample performance tasks
- Examined APIP standards as potential SBAC standard
- Convened the Technical Advisory Committee

Design the System

- Expand engagement of technology consultants
- Develop detailed approach to test delivery

- Hire additional leadership positions
- Continue rigorous management of schedule, vendors, issues, risks, and financials

- Organize the Content
  - Confirm Assessment Framework
  - Develop CCSS-specific Content Specifications
- Support Transition to Common Core activities
  - Build library of “best of the best” tools and resources
- Select accessibility and accommodations standard
- Engage vendors to develop content specifications, test design, test specifications, item specifications, and accessibility guidelines and accommodations study
- Solidify understanding of Career and College Readiness
Project Management

Budget
Accomplishments
• Awarded additional $15.8M from the USED to expand efforts in technology and formative development
• Awarded $1.5M from the Hewlett Foundation and the Gates Foundation to develop Content Specifications for CCSS, expand engagement with IHE, and fund key experts

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Develop vendor procurement plan based upon work group schedules and scope
• Finalize distribution of Assessment Development Budget to individual work groups

Governance and Project Management
Accomplishments
• Approved Governance Structure
• Hired Executive Director and received funding for key roles: Deputy Executive Director, Communications Director, IHE Lead, and Content Specialists
• Formalized structures for schedule and financial reporting

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Hire newly funded roles
• Revise master plan and integrate all work group activities
• Engage and manage vendors and consultants

Communications
Accomplishments
• Created suite of communication tools
• Began procurement of Communications Service Provider
• Distributed weekly updates
• Webcast the TAC meeting, content presentations, and Consortium meetings
• Presented externally at over 50 events/meetings

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Engage Communications Service Provider
• Hire Communications Director
• Launch collaboration website
• Integrate with internal member state communication departments

Work Group Status

Accessibility and Accommodations
Accomplishments
• Confirmed goals: short-term—accessibility guidance for item development; long-term—accommodations analysis
• Collecting and reviewing resources, e.g., digital test developer reports, accommodation studies, and APIP presentations

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Development of RFP for accessibility guidelines and accommodations study
• Development of definitions and guidelines for accessibility and accommodations

Performance Tasks
Accomplishments
• Developed Performance Task features list
• Developed annotated model performance tasks

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Expand sample performance tasks
• Determine scoring rubrics guidelines
• Contribute to Assessment Framework

Research and Evaluation
Accomplishments
• Prioritized work and subtasks

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Provide technical assistance
• Determination of measurement model
• Requirements for RFPs
• Research resource library

Technology Approach
Accomplishments
• Created two key RFPs: IT Readiness Tool and IT Systems Architect
• Reviewed Michigan Item Bank
• Collaborated with PARCC on IT Readiness Tool RFP
• Analyzed collaboration opportunities

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Collaboration decisions
• RFP development and posting

Test Administration
Accomplishments
• Began editing work plans

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Determine goals for each administration
• Determine support materials and policy needs for pilots
• Develop test administration best practices survey

Transition to the Common Core
Accomplishments
• Gathered existing state plans
• Building library of “best of the best” tools and resources
• Coordinated with CCSSO to support ICCS

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Continue gathering state implementation information
• Finalize “best of the best” CCSS implementation tools and resources
• Coordinate with Communications vendor on transition planning

Item Development
Accomplishments
• Completed document on Developing the Assessment Framework
• Completed Eligible Content Report
• Initiated content specifications
• Began Item Development Guidelines

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Item Development Manual
• Item Specifications RFP
• Assessment Framework

Formative Processes and Tools / Professional Development
Accomplishments
• Shared state expertise in using web-based instructional resources and formative tools

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Identify examples and quality indicators for the digital library
• Determine key features and review/approval process of the digital library
• Determine the most effective practices in delivering professional development

Reporting
Accomplishments
• Collected sample reports
• Began identifying reporting and data system tasks

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Reporting requirements
• Report development and review/input plan

Test Design
Accomplishments
• Provided written feedback on the Eligible Content Report draft

Priorities for Next Six Months
• Evaluate the impact of Evidence Centered Design, Learning Progressions, and CAT
• Comprehensive Assessment Framework
• Test specifications and test blueprints RFPs

Quarterly Report
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Balanced Assessment Consortium