



TEST NOTES

April 21, 2008

... looking towards spring testing 2008

April showers bring May flowers, Cherry Blossoms, the new Nationals Park baseball stadium in Washington, D.C., and Standards of Learning (SOL) spring testing! “Coaches” from the Office of Student Testing (OST) met with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in February for their special training camp. Chip Deliee, Kendra Weber, and our newest coach, Jeremy Shughart, are ready to give it their all! Our spring training exceeded that of the NATs as we successfully completed the high school fall 2007 non-writing test administration with a total of **8,520** tests administered—**8,356** online and **164** paper/pencil. Great stats!

Limited English Proficient

Schools received approximately **9,100** Stanford English Language Proficiency (SELP) tests for Limited English Proficient (LEP) students not enrolled in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. About **29,000** LEP students enrolled in the ESOL program are being assessed with state-approved, locally-developed assessments of English language proficiency; and about **1,400** LEP students will also participate in a trial run of the WIDA (ACCESS for ELLS), a language assessment that will be administered to all LEP students next year, whether they are in or out of the ESOL program.

Spring Testing

Additional spring trainings included:

5 days/**10** sessions for over **400** people for the SOL Writing test administration

5 days/**10** sessions for over **100** people for the SOL Online test administration

5 days/**10** sessions for over **300** people for the SOL Non-Writing administration

On April 28, 2008, the Test Distribution Center (TDC) will receive the SOL spring 2008 non-writing secure materials. These will be delivered in **two 53-foot eighteen wheelers**, filling one completely and half of the other. This delivery will include approximately **31** skids (3.5 feet x 4 feet) with **64** boxes per skid, weighing in at over **51,000** pounds! The good news is that Pearson is packing this shipment in a way that will allow our Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) supply truck drivers to deliver the materials directly to all of our schools without TDC staff having to touch one box. HURRAY! GO TEAM!!!!

Statistics more incredible than the MBIs (Materials Batted In) include the **229,675** answer documents delivered to schools for the paper/pencil administration of the spring non-writing test.

Pearson has upgraded their system for the spring combined paper/pencil and online test administration. Folks at Information Technology (IT) have submitted about **413,000** student records so far for spring 2008 testing. This spring, the middle schools will be testing all mathematics, including EOC; grade 7 history—US History from 1877 to present; and grade 7 and grade 8 reading online. With the increased number of online tests at the middle school level we expect to pop one over the center field fence and bring in close to **165,000** online tests during the testing window this spring. Last year, we administered **152,479** online tests!

Alternative Assessments

Over **300** people were trained during a recent **3**-day window putting a team in place to score the **2,826** Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) collections of evidence being submitted for certain students with disabilities. Approximately **110** of these VAAP binders will be scored during a regional VDOE pilot being held in Warrenton with several other divisions. FCPS will provide **6** scorers and **2** data entry team members for the event, and TDC has arranged to have the VAAP binders delivered to and picked up from Warrenton for this pilot.

Virginia Grade Level Alternative (VGLA) training began the first week in April. In **10** days over **900** people will be trained and “on deck.” TDC is using their seventh inning stretch for a “merry-go-round” of distributing, receiving, and reissuing of VGLA and VAAP inserts and binders to schools. This has been a non-stop process for them with over **8,000** binders sent to schools just for the VGLA alone! VGLA check-in is scheduled for May 1st at the Test Distribution Center (TDC). We anticipate **6,700** VGLA binder submissions. The opening scoring event will take place at the Dulles Expo Center from May 5th through May 9th and will involve over **700** teachers and **50** office staff.

Test Security

Scouts will be in the neighborhood during the testing window assessing the level of commitment to test security and management out in the field. This will be accomplished during local site visits or reviews. Scouting reports will include evidence of adherence to policies and procedures addressing test security to ensure that all staff members understand and are committed to implementing and monitoring test security measures. The intent is to strengthen FCPS systems identified by Caveon Test Security as mentioned in the last edition of Test Notes. A small number of schools have volunteered to participate in these initial reviews. We appreciate and recognize their efforts to help us develop a system wide model.

Success

We want to thank all of the principals, assessment coaches, test coordinators, directors of student services, counselors, assistant principals, teachers and school staff for their efforts and hard work preparing for the upcoming testing season; it is recognized, appreciated and valued by all of us. The entire Department of Accountability and Office of Student Testing are ready to serve you from the Test Distribution Staff at Forte Center (Kathy Thacker, Jose Blanco, Andre Marshall, Carlos Rosas, Irene Sarris, and Maria Vasquez) to the staff members from OST at Leis Center (Kathy Oliver, Lenore Callahan, Margie Alston, Emmanuel Bonhomme, Chip Deliee, Catherine Dubas, Donna Everritt, Nancy Fuentes, Doan Huynh, Tina Lao, Gail Lowke, Hala Meiser, Ann Nelson, Jeremy Shughart, Kendra Weber and Pat Murphy). If you have a question, concern, and/or need support, please call or email us. We are always available via email! OST hours of operation will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the testing window and from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. when evening programs are testing. Let's make it another successful testing season for our students!

PLAY BALL! Hit a home run!



Pat Murphy