



Our Team

The Center on Standards and Assessment Implementation (CSAI) is managed by WestEd and the Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, & Student Testing (CRESST). Combined, WestEd and CRESST have nearly 100 years of experience in conducting large-scale research, developing high-quality assessments, creating educational resources, and providing technical assistance to states.



Mission

CSAI is funded by the Office of School Support and Rural Programs, through the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, in the U.S. Department of Education (USED). CSAI is part of a network of seven content centers that provide research-based technical assistance and support to 15 Regional Comprehensive Centers (RCCs), and to the states that they serve, around each of the following areas: building state capacity and productivity; college and career readiness and success; enhancing early learning outcomes; great teachers and leaders; innovations in learning; school turnaround; and standards and assessment implementation.

As a content center, CSAI is committed to providing high-quality technical assistance, research support, tools, and other resources to RCCs and to state education agencies (SEAs) to help inform decisions about standards, assessment, and accountability.



Featured Projects and Services

EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA)

- ▶ CSAI provides technical assistance and research support, develops policy briefs, and serves as a thought partner to SEAs that are making decisions about their ongoing implementation of assessments, accountability systems, and standards under ESSA.
- ▶ CSAI provides technical assistance and resources on the newly updated aspects of ESSA, including opportunities for states to pilot innovative assessment tools through the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority.

SUPPORTS FOR ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

- ▶ CSAI provides SEAs with research support to understand the federal assessment peer review process, including the timeline for developing and submitting state submissions.

CSAI developed this [spotlight](#) to provide an overview of the peer review process, highlighting both CSAI-developed and USED-developed resources.

CSAI has also worked directly with states build capacity to review state evidence and develop a state submission that meets all requirements.

- ▶ CSAI collaborates with SEAs to conduct inventories of state and district assessments to better understand current assessment practices.

CSAI worked with the West Comprehensive Center and the Nevada Department of Education to conduct an inventory of Nevada's state and local assessments, to improve the quality of Nevada's testing system.

CSAI is working with the Oregon Department of Education to collect data on local assessment administration practices, including assessment data interpretation and use.

SUPPORT FOR STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

- ▶ CSAI provides expertise and resources for states regarding school accountability.

CSAI is working with the American Samoa Department of Education on different aspects of designing and implementing a new school accountability system.





CSAI conducts ongoing review of states' ESSA-aligned Consolidated State Plans, including any changes to states' school accountability measures.

▶ Interactive Tools for Assessment System Information

The [State of the States](#) tool presents information on states' standards and assessment systems, including assessment consortium membership. This tool also includes information on states' high school graduation requirements, identifying the assessments required for graduation.

The [Assessment System Visualizer](#) allows users to upload assessment system information and develop data visualizations for key assessment system variables.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES

▶ CSAI facilitates workshops and presentations, on formative assessment, assessment data use, and lesson planning, for districts, SEAs, and RCCs.

CSAI developed resources for states specifically interested in professional learning for implementing formative assessment practices that are culturally responsive to Native American students.

CSAI developed resources that introduce formative assessment practices and suggestions for their implementation in a variety of subjects and schooling contexts.



Featured Resources

- ▶ [Assessment Design Toolkit](#) —an online toolkit that includes videos and supplemental materials to help teachers write and select well-designed assessments.
- ▶ [Consolidated State Plans Spotlight](#) —a collection of consolidated state plans submitted for ESSA approval, including identification of when states received federal approval of their plans.
- ▶ [Formative Assessment in Action Spotlight](#) —a collection of resources (e.g., guidance, videos, and activities) to support educators in learning about the formative assessment process.
- ▶ [Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority Spotlight](#) —an overview of the Innovative Assessment Demonstration Authority (IADA), which allows states to establish, operate, and evaluate innovative assessment systems.
- ▶ [Measuring Social and Emotional Learning Collection](#) —a collection of resources that schools, districts, and states can use to understand social and emotional learning knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
- ▶ [Resources for ESSA Implementation](#) —a collection of resources to support state and local education agencies with developing and implementing ESSA-aligned plans.
- ▶ [Resources for Supporting American Indian/Alaska Native Students](#) —guidance documents to support states, districts, and schools in developing strategies to improve the academic achievement of American Indian/Alaska Native students.
- ▶ [Science Assessment Item Collaborative Spotlight](#) —guidance documents (Assessment Framework, Item Specifications Guidelines, and two Item Cluster Prototypes) to inform development of large-scale Next Generation Science Standards tests and items.
- ▶ [Standards Implementation Framework](#) —a model that guides states, districts, administrators, and teachers in implementing new or revised content standards.
- ▶ [STEAM Resources](#) —a collection of resources for curriculum and activities that emphasize science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM); these resources can be used to design and implement STEAM education programs.

