



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. 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 assessments, accountability systems, and standards.
- ▶ CSAI participates in conferences, presentations, and webinars to discuss the provisions of ESSA and their implications for assessment and accountability systems.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS

- ▶ 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 audit of Nevada's state and local assessments, to improve the quality of Nevada's testing system.

- ▶ CSAI assists states in building comprehensive and coherent assessment systems that support student learning.

In partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, CSAI developed Colorado's Comprehensive Standards-Based Assessment Framework, which outlines the components and processes included in a comprehensive and coherent assessment system. CSAI is currently adapting the Framework for other interested states and districts.

NATIONAL SCANS OF STATE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

- ▶ CSAI conducts comprehensive reviews of state education initiatives and policies (e.g., assessments, accountability systems, standards implementation, test opt-out policies) and produces reports and briefs for dissemination.

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- ▶ CSAI facilitates workshops and presentations, on formative assessment, assessment data use, and lesson planning, for districts, SEAs, and RCCs.
- ▶ CSAI creates instructional resources and supports for educators and school leaders to improve learning opportunities for all students.





Featured Resources

- ▶ **Assessment Design Toolkit**
An online toolkit that includes videos and supplemental materials to help teachers write and select well-designed assessments.
- ▶ **Curriculum and Instruction Resources**
A series of resources that assist teachers and those who support teachers in integrating college and career readiness standards into instruction.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **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.
- ▶ **State of the States**
An online tool that provides state-level data about the progress of states and territories in implementing rigorous standards and associated assessments as well as accountability systems.



Our Focus for the Future

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed ESSA, which reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, into law. CSAI intends to work in partnership with RCCs to assist SEAs in the implementation of ESSA. Services that CSAI can provide to SEAs include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Guidance in planning for and implementation of ESSA;
- ▶ Assistance in the development of state plans;
- ▶ Assistance in identifying, contextualizing, and disseminating high-quality resources to support the implementation of college and career readiness standards;
- ▶ Reviews of the status of states' academic standards, assessments, and accountability systems;
- ▶ Technical assistance and supporting resources to help states with standards review and alignment;
- ▶ Guidance and resources on state assessments, including connecting high school assessments with college and career pathways;
- ▶ Serving as a thought partner to states as they consider innovative assessment systems;
- ▶ Guidance and technical assistance on the testing audit process and peer review; and
- ▶ Support in identifying valid and reliable indicators of school quality or school success, and guidance on how to operationalize and measure state indicators for accountability purposes.

