Transitioning to Digital Assessments

Opportunities & Challenges

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Agenda

★ Agency Description
★ ADE Team Description
★ Assessment Programs in NYC
★ Visions of our digital future
★ Your thoughts on opportunities & challenges
★ Anticipating opportunities & challenges for NYC programs
The New York City school system is the largest in the United States, composed of approximately 1.1 million students and 75,000+ teachers in over 1,800+ schools.

- Latest Student Demographics
- DIIT Strategic Technology Plan 2015-2020
  - Integration of Technology
  - Upgrade Infrastructure, Bandwidth, & Devices
The Assessment Design & Evaluation (ADE) team, located in the Office of Assessment, a unit of the Division of Teaching & Learning, consists of assessment specialists, psychometricians, and educators who work closely with assessment program stakeholders to help ensure assessments are of the highest quality.

- The team serves as a valuable resource for assessment design, development, and scoring in the service of promoting and informing good teaching and learning in NYC public schools.
- Liaison between Office of Assessment, DIIT, & NYSED

**Design** -
- supports city, state, and national assessment programs through review of items, tasks, technical documentation, and supporting materials, providing rich feedback and informed recommendations to program sponsors and their partners.
- designs assessment specifications and blueprints to guide the creation and alignment of assessment, curriculum, and instruction within NYC public schools.

**Evaluation** -
- collaborates with colleagues on technical, policy, and programmatic decisions related to the assessment programs.
- collaborates on state and national assessment programs to support the district’s understanding and use and offers influence to ensure alignment to NYC school system needs.
- spearheads research and data analytic initiatives to introduce innovative practices to program stakeholders to ensure that the NYCDOE is at the forefront of educational assessment.
Supported Assessment Programs

★ National/Multi-state Assessments
  ○ NAEP TUDA
  ○ PARCC

★ New York State Assessments
  ○ NYS Alternate Assessment (NYSAA)
  ○ NYSED 3-8 Math and ELA

★ New York City Assessments
  ○ Periodic Assessments (PA)
  ○ Gifted & Talented Assessment Program (GTAP)
  ○ Languages Other Than English (LOTE)
  ○ NYC Comprehensive Arts Examinations (ARTS)
  ○ Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT)
Visions of our Digital Future: Utopian or Dystopian?

For a dystopian view of the future of digital testing in NY see "The Frightening Plans for New York: Competency Based Education, or Embedded Testing":

The “reformers” of education want to replace “teacher” with “individualized instruction” and/or “tablet”. They believe that quality teachers can be seamlessly replaced by a tablet, some headphones, and some wifi.
What are some potential benefits?

★ Cleaner collection of data, i.e., student responses & scores
★ Less costly delivery of assessments
★ Easier scoring, both for machine & human scored responses
★ Greater enhanced content leading to better measurement of knowledge & skills
★ Increased face validity w/ the growing use of tech in the classroom
★ More convenient, sophisticated delivery, i.e., adaptive
What are some potential challenges?

- School Bandwidth
- School Devices
- Administration Logistics
- Inconsistencies in technical expertise across schools
- School, Parent, Student Expectations & Perceptions
- Central staff knowledge & training
- Vendor learning curve
How IMS Interoperability Standards supports our transition

Source: https://www.imsglobal.org/activity/qtiapip
## Anticipating Opportunities & Challenges for NYC programs

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Administrative Constraints</th>
<th>Opportunities, Challenges &amp; Open Questions</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gifted &amp; Talented Assessment Program (GTAP)</strong></td>
<td>~36K PK-2 (4-8 yr. olds) students; Admin in ~850 schools in Jan. (3wk window; weekdays and weekends.)</td>
<td>+Piloted open src platform TAO on tablets; +audio instructions standardized; translations automated?; local device and/or local server?</td>
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<td><strong>Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT)</strong></td>
<td>~27K 8th graders &amp; ~2K 9th graders 2 weekends (Sat. &amp; Sun.) in 6 schools spread across 5 boroughs.</td>
<td>+interoperable digital content authoring, review, &amp; repository; digital delivery? - bandwidth; -Cost of devices &amp; tech support; - high stakes if errors;</td>
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<td><strong>Languages Other Than English (LOTE)</strong></td>
<td>~39K 8th graders &amp; high schoolers; 26 exams for 20 languages admin 1 day in schools in June (~30K 2 Spanish exams)</td>
<td>+Enhanced Speaking &amp; Listening; Special characters and formatting for non-latin based languages?</td>
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<td><strong>NYC Comprehensive Arts Examinations (ARTS)</strong></td>
<td>~1600 seniors who earn 10 credits in a single art form (Theater, Dance, Music, Visual Arts) &amp; pass the appropriate exam to earn Chancellor’s Arts Endorsed Diploma and official recognition of advanced achievement in the arts.</td>
<td>authoring, reviewing, storing, &amp; delivery; +video and audio; +standardize filmed student performances; content expert learning curve?</td>
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The Periodic Assessment portfolio includes pre-designed baseline, benchmark, and End-of-Year assessments, as well as banks of items that may be used to create customized assessments. Optional for schools but large volumes.

+IMS aQTI; +flexible/separate content procurement from technology platform procurement; +High quality content for less.
Your Thoughts & Experiences?

Share your thoughts and experiences transitioning to digital assessments and integrating technology...
Contact Us

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