

The 2010 National Conference for Student Assessment: Impressions, Highlights, and Lessons Learned



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Impressions, Highlights, and Lessons Learned

- Impressions
 - These are unprecedented times
- Highlights
 - NCSA's "Ruby" Anniversary
 - Plenary Sessions: Common Core & Using Student Assessment Results in Teacher Evaluation
 - "40 Years of NCSA" session
 - State Assessment "Best Practices" presented
- Lessons Learned
 - Race To The Top could change everything
 - Teacher Evaluation based on Student Assessment poses a major security challenge

“May you live in interesting times...”



Forty Years of NCSA

- Four Veteran Attendees Look Back
- Some Themes:
 - Growth
 - Changes in focus across the decades
 - CBT
 - Focus on use of results with all students
- Email us if you'd like a copy of the presentation



“Best Assessment Practices” Released & Adopted

- Culmination of years of work
 - Collaboration between states, vendors, CCSSO, & ATP
- Exhaustive guide toward ensuring fair & valid testing
- Standardized policies, procedures, & nomenclature ensure greater consistency & accuracy
- Visit Amazon.com to get a copy



Race To The Top Will Bring Changes

- Common Core Standards
- Assessment Consortia
- Teacher Evaluations based on Student Assessments



Common Core Standards

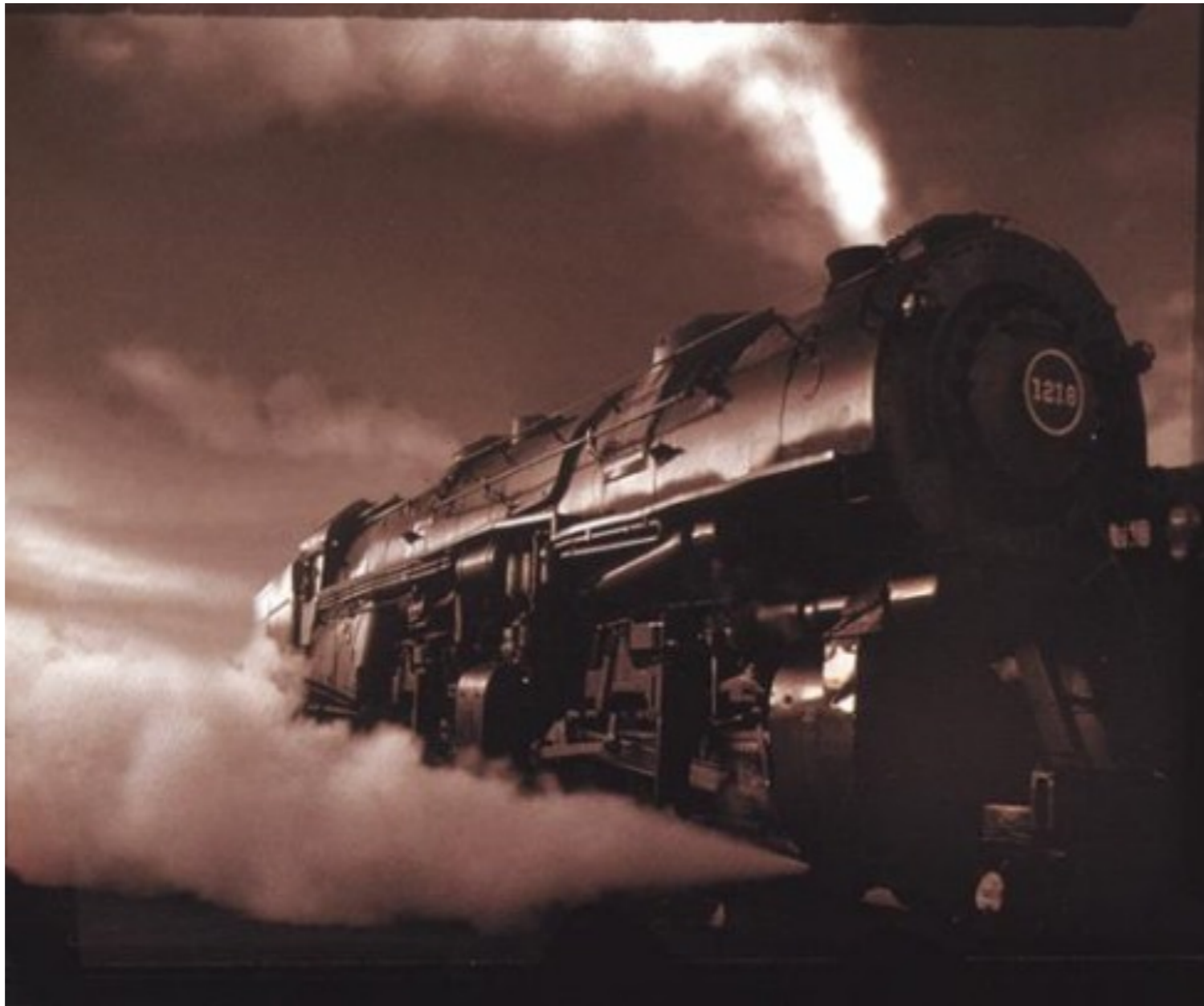
- “Fewer, Clearer, Higher”
- “Standards don’t create learning, teachers do...”
 - Better standards = better teacher training
- How to apply standards universally?
 - “Nuts” to expect all kids to be taught the same way; or
 - necessary for college and career preparation?
- Who “owns” the CCS moving forward?
 - Fed? States? Districts?

Assessment Consortia

- \$350mm at stake!
- Two Major Groups (with overlap)
 - SMARTER Balance Assessment Consortium, 31 states
 - Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College & Careers (PARCC), 26 states
- Many similarities
 - CBT
 - Tie year-end assessments with performance-based tasks throughout the school year
 - Explore use of “technology enhanced” test items



Teacher Evaluations based on Student Assessments



Teacher Evaluations

- Uncharted territory--State Legislatures are passing mandates
- “This is hot. This is contentious”*
- How do you tie student assessment back to the classroom?
 - Who is the teacher of record? Team teaching?
 - Does the data even exist?
 - Fraught with challenges
- Teacher Evaluation infrastructure broken?
 - Most states have poor systems and processes for evaluating teachers
- Broader criteria for Teacher Evaluations

* *Gene Without, Executive Director CCSSO*



Teacher Evaluations, con't

- Teachers & administrators operating in a crucible
- As the stakes in Student Assessments increase, so do incidents of inappropriate test taking



High Stakes = High Pressure

Teacher Helps Students with TAKS Test

Updated: Thursday, 01 Jul 2010, 7:47 PM CDT
Published : Thursday, 01 Jul 2010, 7:46 PM CDT

CHEAT SHEET

Under Pressure, Teachers Tamper With Tests

Merit pay can tempt teachers to cheat

JUNE 14, 2010

ATLANTA NEWS 4:38 a.m. Friday, June 18, 2010

Text size:

100 Atlanta school employees implicated in test cheating scandal

AJC exclusive: Respect earned by APS, superintendent in jeopardy



How are other States tackling the issue?

- Erasure analysis at local level
- Policy & Procedure training and reviews
- Caveon Security Audit and Caveon Data Forensics
- Continuous monitoring & vigilance

Warning: Expect the unexpected!



What should we do if we discover an instance of cheating?

- Leverage Greg Cizek's "Five Fs of Effective Follow Up":
 - Fast
 - Firm
 - Fair
 - Frequent
 - Famous

What can we learn from media coverage of other states and districts?

- Testing issues are very newsworthy
- “Cultivate” your news sources—reach out to them before they reach out to you
 - Practice sessions regarding test taking
 - Special Briefings
 - Cast the story the way you see it.
- Identify credible experts, e.g. university professors

*Recommendation: Know that the media is lurking.
Proactive outreach is better than waiting.*

How can Caveon help?

Caveon Data Forensics™ will:

- Identify and measure test fraud threat
- Support objective decision making
 - Test results don't lie
 - Test item performance
- Focus your attention on real problem areas
- Maximize your test's "shelf life"

Recommendation: Consult with Caveon. We're eager to help!



Q & A



- Any questions?

Give us a call...

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