

FALL 2026 COLLABORATION CONFERENCE AGENDA

DATE OF MEETING:

October 14, 2026, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. PDT

October 15, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. PDT

Day 1: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Time & Location Pacific Time (PDT)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. (15 mins) Longboard Studio	Opening Remarks The Executive Director will provide opening remarks and welcome participants to the Collaboration Conference.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (60 mins) Longboard Studio	Member Share-out Members will share insights on the latest political and governmental educational developments within their jurisdictions. This is a prime opportunity to discuss how these dynamics are shaping the implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System.	California, Connecticut, Delaware, Department of War Education Activity, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. (60 mins) Longboard Studio	Assessment Landscape The Executive Director will provide an assessment landscape influencing the opportunities for innovations, prioritization, and risks.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (15 mins) The Shallows	Break	
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (30 mins) Longboard Studio	FY2027 Budget Amendment (First Read) This session will present the proposed FY27 Budget Amendment and timeline for member vote.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (60 mins) Longboard Studio	Supporting State-Specific Assessment Needs This session will provide an overview of Smarter Balanced's approach to supporting member-specific assessment customization needs, including how we balance capacity, cost, and measures of success.	Nirupa Mathew, Executive Content Officer
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

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Day 2: Thursday, October 15, 2026

Please remember to check out of the hotel before the day's sessions begin as this is our last day together.

Time & Location Pacific Time (PDT)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. (60 mins) The Shallows/ Longboard Studio	Breakfast	
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. (15 mins) Longboard Studio	Welcome and Recap Provide Day 1 recap and plans for the second day of the Collaboration Conference program.	Ashley McGrath, Senior Advisor, Government Relations
8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. (60 mins) Longboard Studio	Expanding Interim Assessment Offerings Smarter Balanced is working on two new Interim Assessment offerings: the Adjusted Interim Comprehensive Assessment (ICA) and additional forms for Focused Interim Assessment Blocks (FIABs). Participants will review and provide input on proposed development plans.	Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer
9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. (30 mins) Longboard Studio	Turning Needs Assessment Data into Action: A Collaborative Look at Communication and PD Priorities Idaho partnered with the Center for Assessment to conduct a statewide needs assessment on educators' understanding and implementation of balanced assessment systems. Findings revealed key priorities in communication and professional development, prompting initiatives such as regional workshops and targeted training connecting interim assessment use, curricular alignment, and ISAT purpose.	Amber Van Vooren and Austin Ambrose (ID)
9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (30 mins) Longboard Studio	Connecticut's Test Observation Evaluation Study During the 2025-26 school year, researchers evaluated test administration practices for Smarter Balanced and NGSS assessments (grades 3-8) across Connecticut to address U.S. Department of Education monitoring requirements and to improve local practices. Drawing on observations across 26 schools, proctor feedback, and district administrator interviews, this multi-year project continues into 2026-27. Connecticut will share key findings from the 2025-26 evaluation and offer practical takeaways for district assessment administration.	Abe Krisst (CT)
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (15 mins) The Shallows	Break	

Time & Location Pacific Time (PDT)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (60 mins) Longboard Studio	From Listening to Action: How States Turn Feedback into Better Test Administration Resources District, school, and student feedback can reveal where test administration practices, materials, and supports are unclear, inaccessible, or no longer responsive to local needs. In this panel, we will share distinct feedback-loop models — including site visits, focus groups, student interviews, and continuous improvement processes. Panelists will explain how they gather and prioritize input, including emerging LEA concerns and opportunities for shared Consortium resources. Attendees will leave with practical approaches they can adapt within their own jurisdictions.	Ashley McGrath, Senior Advisor, Government Relations Panel discussion with: • South Dakota • Delaware • California • Hawaii
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. (45 mins) Longboard Studio	Test Administration Resources: Member Discussion on Future Feedback, Cadence, and Priorities Discussion following the panel to gather member input on the proposed future approach for Smarter Balanced test administration resources. Staff will seek feedback on a more streamlined review cadence to support valid administration.	Ashley McGrath, Senior Advisor, Government Relations
12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. (60 mins) Pacific Garden	Lunch	
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (60 mins) Longboard Studio	Member Reactions for Project Signal Members will discuss what they heard in the TAC meeting regarding Project Signal and voice their questions, excitement, and concerns.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (45 mins) Longboard Studio	Update on K-2 Resource and Partnerships This session provides an update and discussion on K-2 resource development and partnerships to date.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	