

FALL 2026 TAC MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Facilitator: Ellen Forte, edCount, LLC (TAC Chair)	Date of Meeting: October 13, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. PDT October 14, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. PDT
Smarter Balanced Staff Liaison: Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer	

Day 1: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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. - 8:30 a.m. (30 mins) Longboard Studio	Welcome and Opening Remarks, Updates from Spring 2026 Meeting	Ellen Forte, TAC Chair and CEO & Chief Scientist at edCount, LLC Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer
8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. (30 mins) Longboard Studio	Update from Executive Director Tony Alpert will welcome TAC members, representatives from member states, and staff and provide an update on major Smarter Balanced initiatives.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. (45 mins) Longboard Studio	TAC Member Introductions & Big Idea Sharing In addition to introductions, TAC members will share one big idea, which may include: a) a research project on which they are working, b) an emerging topic being discussed within the TAC member's area of expertise, OR c) a possible topic for a future Smarter Balanced TAC meeting. Each TAC member will have approximately 2-3 minutes to share.	All TAC Members
9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (30 mins) Longboard Studio	Interim Assessment (Part 1) We will provide an overview of the current Smarter Balanced interim assessments, along with recent and planned enhancements to the interim assessment components.	Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer

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10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (15 mins) The Shallows	Break	
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (90 mins) Longboard Studio	Interim Assessment (Part 2) Building on discussions from the Spring 2026 TAC meeting, this session will focus on psychometric considerations (adaptive pool development/management, growth measure, reporting) following the operational rollout of the new Smarter Balanced adjusted (adaptive) interim assessment in Oregon. We will review results of supporting analyses and discuss opportunities for scaling this model across the consortium.	Catherine Francis, Director of Psychometrics and Research Hotaka Maeda, Senior Psychometrician
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (60 mins) Pacific Garden	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. (75 mins) Longboard Studio	Measuring Writing Competency in the Age of Generative AI This presentation explores ideas related to the meaning and measurement of writing competency in the age of Generative AI. The presentation offers a definition of Generative AI, identifies the leading tools, lists the major uses being made for work- and school-related tasks, and reviews two major concerns that appear to be top of mind among educators. Those concerns lead to a framing of Generative AI as a new literacy, with writing as a central component, including how Gen AI might be used meaningfully for writing purposes. The talk closes with a summary of key insights, two potential assessment designs, and recommendations for action.	Randy Bennett, TAC Member and Principal at Assessment Innovation Matters
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (45 mins) Longboard Studio	Project Signal – Multidisciplinary Accountability Assessment (Part 1) In this session, we will present an overview of Project Signal, the Competitive Grants for State Assessments (CGSA) submission (submitted in partnership with CT). We will detail the core vision, goals, and conceptual framework of this new multidisciplinary assessment. We will discuss how evidence-centered design will guide the project's design and potential implementation.	Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. (15 mins) The Shallows	Break	

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3:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (75 mins) Longboard Studio	Project Signal - Multidisciplinary Accountability Assessment (Part 2) In this part of the session, we will have an opportunity to discuss key considerations for Project Signal, including content coverage and learning progressions; the application of a multidimensional psychometric model; accessibility considerations given the intended domains to be measured; user-centered reporting; and building meaningful engagement loops for educators, students, and families.	Aneesha Badrinarayan, Principal Consultant, ABG Learning and Assessment
4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. (15 mins) Longboard Studio	Day 1 Meeting Wrap-Up	Ellen Forte, TAC Chair and CEO & Chief Scientist at edCount, LLC Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer
4:45 p.m.	Adjourn	
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (60 mins) The Shelter Club	Social Hour Please join us at The Seabird Ocean Resort and Spa (Mission Pacific Beach Resort's sister location on other side of Mission Avenue).	

FALL 2026 TAC MEETING AGENDA

Day 2: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

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. - 8:30 a.m. (30 mins) Longboard Studio	Welcome and Day 1 Recap	Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (90 mins) Longboard Studio	Theory of Action Development This session will focus on the ongoing revision of the Smarter Balanced Theory of Action (ToA). The ToA Working Group recently conducted a comprehensive review of the current 2010 ToA and our 2025-2030 Smarter Balanced Strategic Plan to identify gaps, align priorities, and recommend critical updates. We will get an update on the group's progress, examine a draft of the revised ToA, and provide feedback on the ToA.	Ellen Forte, TAC Chair and CEO & Chief Scientist at edCount, LLC
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (15 mins) The Shallows	Break	
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (90 mins) Longboard Studio	Grade 5 Learning Progressions In this session, the role of learning progressions in supporting Project Signal will be discussed. The session will include foundational concepts related to learning progressions, review common Grade 5 mathematics learning progression examples, weigh the benefits and risks of integration, and present recommendations for project inclusion.	Shelbi Cole, TAC Member and Managing Director of Math at Leading Educators
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (15 mins) Longboard Studio	Meeting Wrap-up/Next Meeting Dates	Rochelle Michel, Executive Research Officer Ellen Forte, TAC Chair and CEO & Chief Scientist at edCount, LLC
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (60 mins) Pacific Garden	Lunch	

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1:00 p.m. Longboard Studio	Collaboration Conference Begins	