

FALL 2026 COLLABORATION CONFERENCE PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meeting Facilitator: Ashley McGrath Senior Advisor, Government Relations	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
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Day 1: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Time & Location Pacific Time (PDT)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (60 mins)	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. (15 mins)	Opening Remarks The Executive Director will provide opening remarks and welcome participants to the Collaboration Conference.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
1:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (15 mins)	FY2027 Budget Amendment: Discussion & Vote This session will present the proposed FY27 Budget Amendment timeline. Members will vote on the proposed FY27 Budget Amendment.	Justyna Canning, Director of Finance and Contract Administration
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (60 mins)	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, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Washington
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (60 mins)	Assessment Landscape The Executive Director will provide an assessment landscape influencing the opportunities for innovations, prioritization, and risks.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. (15 mins)	Break	
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. (60 mins)	Member-Specific State Implementation Model The Content Teaching and Learning Team will share Smarter Balanced's service model for prioritizing and road mapping member state-specific development and needs.	Nirupa Mathew, Executive Content Officer

4:45 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)	Breakfast	
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. (15 mins)	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)	Adaptive Interim Assessment Development Describe and receive input on a proposed roll-out plan for the adaptive interim assessment.	Michelle McAdams, Assesment Designer
9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. (30 mins)	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 (ID)
9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. (30 mins)	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)	Break	

Time & Location Pacific Time (PDT)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (60 mins)	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 member participation pending confirmation: • South Dakota • Delaware • California • Hawaii
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (30 mins)	Test Administration Resource Survey and Breakout Activity on Future Needs Breakout session to gather key member intel and input following the panel discussion on test administration resources and test security needs. This discovery session pinpoints where to adjust annual feedback cycles, escalate urgent member priorities, and inform short- and long-term strategic road mapping for member guides.	Ashley McGrath, Senior Advisor, Government Relations
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (60 mins)	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. (60 mins)	Safeguarding Consortium IP in the Age of AI Protecting Consortium intellectual property while supporting innovation and efficiency requires scalable solutions. This session explores emerging AI use cases, copyright challenges, and risk-mitigation strategies surrounding assessment assets.	Tony Alpert, Executive Director
2:00 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. (45 mins)	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
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (15 mins)	Closing Remarks Provide a summary of the Collaboration Conference program and plans for the Spring 2026 virtual Collaboration Conference.	Ashley McGrath, Senior Advisor, Government Relations
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn	