



*Report on HEPC Smarter Balanced Higher Education Advisory Council June 27, 2012 Meeting,  
HEPC Office, Charleston*

*What is the Smarter Balanced Consortium?*

This is a nationwide consortium of states committed to national standards in public education and to interfacing public with higher education in an effort to reduce the need for remediation at the post-secondary level. **Dianne Bazell** represented the Smarter Balanced Consortium at the meeting (see <http://www.corestandards.org/>) and reported the award of funding from the US Department of Education to develop an assessment system based on the national **Common Core Standards** (see English LA, Social Studies, Science, and Math standards at <http://www.corestandards.org/>).

These new national standards have been adopted by the State of WV, along with most other states in the country (see <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>). This common core will now be a focus of WV public education, and the assessment tools and measures that will be designed will be adopted in WV in lieu of the WESTEST, the 11<sup>th</sup> grade assessment that now determines whether students go into literacy remediation courses in Math and English in their senior year of high school. In theory, the new system will reduce the need for post-secondary developmental courses and increase college readiness among graduating high school seniors. By 2014-15, the Smarter Balanced National Assessments will be completed and used across the country. See the *Ed. Week* article "Testing Group Wrestles with 'College Readiness,'" by Catherine Gewertz, at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/06/22/36collegeready.h31.html?print=1>.

*What is the WV Smarter Balanced Higher Education Advisory Council?*

The WV Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) has created a state advisory council to help disseminate information and explore the interfacing of public and higher education regarding the new standards and college readiness. **Carla Williamson** represents the WV Department of Education in the project, and **Sarah Beasley**, who has worked with development of Adult Education in the state, is the point person for the HEPC. The following represents goals for the Council and next steps:

**West Virginia Smarter Balanced Higher Education Advisory Council**

**Objective 1: Generate higher education support and buy-in for the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)**

**Objective 2: Strengthen and expand partnerships between higher education and K-12, including working with and supporting K-12 to advance the work of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC).**

**Objective 3: Provide expertise, advice, and feedback to HEPC, CTCS, and the national SBAC in the development, implementation, and promotion of SBA.**

**Objective 4: Take SBA information back to campuses and to various higher education advisory groups/councils.**

**Next Steps...**

- HEPC/CTCS will create a WV Smarter Balanced higher education strategic plan and send to council for feedback and suggestions. This plan will also include some concrete action items for the council.
- A summary of the June 27, 2012 meeting will be sent to the council, including resources and articles discussed during the meeting.
- We will provide you with updates from the larger multi-state consortium meetings.