2018 ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
INFORMATION MEETING

Post-Training Report

December 2018

Sacramento County
Office of Education

CN180112
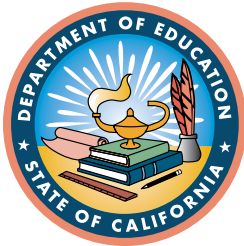
Introduction

The 2018 Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting was designed by the California Department of Education (CDE) to provide assessment and accountability coordinators in school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools with the most recent information pertaining to California's assessment and accountability systems. Topics covered during the meeting included updates on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) program and its component assessments, the English Language Proficiency Assessments of California (ELPAC) program, as well as the California School Dashboard and related accountability requirements. The meeting took place in Sacramento on September 20, 2018 and in Ontario on September 27, 2018. This report summarizes the feedback received from the meeting's in-person and virtual participants in response to a survey. It also provides the cost breakdown for the 2018 meeting compared to the 2017 meeting.

Summary of Participants

1,349 registered participants

Registered participants were offered the option to attend in-person or participate virtually in the live broadcast of the South meeting (Ontario). Out of the 1,349 registered participants, 253 registered to attend remotely via a webcast, 486 to attend in person in Sacramento, and 610 to attend in person in Ontario.

After the meetings, the Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) distributed a feedback survey to gather information from attendees. The survey asked questions about participants' experiences and suggestions for improving future meetings. Two hundred and fifty-one attendees responded to the survey, yielding a response rate of 18.6%.

The vast majority (86%) of respondents were directly responsible for assessment at their local educational agencies (LEAs), while 63% also were directly responsibility for accountability.

| **86%**	**63%**
of respondents were directly responsible for Assessment	of respondents were directly responsible for Accountability

Additional coordinator responsibility responses are listed in Appendix A.

Meeting participants represented unified school districs, elementary and high school districts, charter schools, county offices of education and other, with nearly 40% of particiants coming from unified school districts.

Additional information on the type of LEAs represented at the meeting is available in Appendix B, Figure 1.

Nearly half of the respondents have been in their current position for less than three years. Almost one out of five respondents have been in their position for less than one year.

Category	Percentage
Less than 1 year	16.4%
1–3 Years	29.2%
3–5 Years	22.4%
More than 5 Years	32.0%
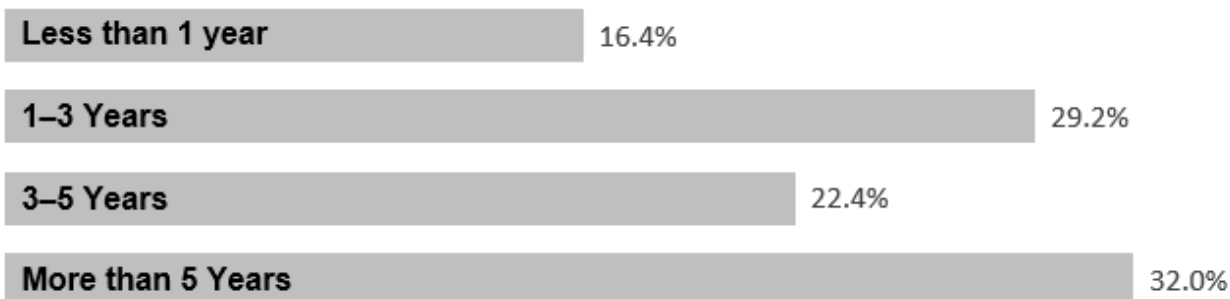
Findings

Overall Experience

The feedback survey asked a series of questions on three elements of the meeting: ease of registration, presentation schedule, and amount of information presented.


"I've come to this meeting for four years, and every time I leave feeling like I gained a ton of information in a fun and engaging way, which isn't an easy task when talking about assessment and accountability."
– Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting Participant

---

98%	**96%**	**92%**
Rated the ease of registration as Excellent or Good	Rated the presentation schedule as Excellent or Good	Rated the amount of information as Excellent or Good

The majority of respondents found the CAASPP/ELPAC and California School Dashboard updates to be extremely useful.
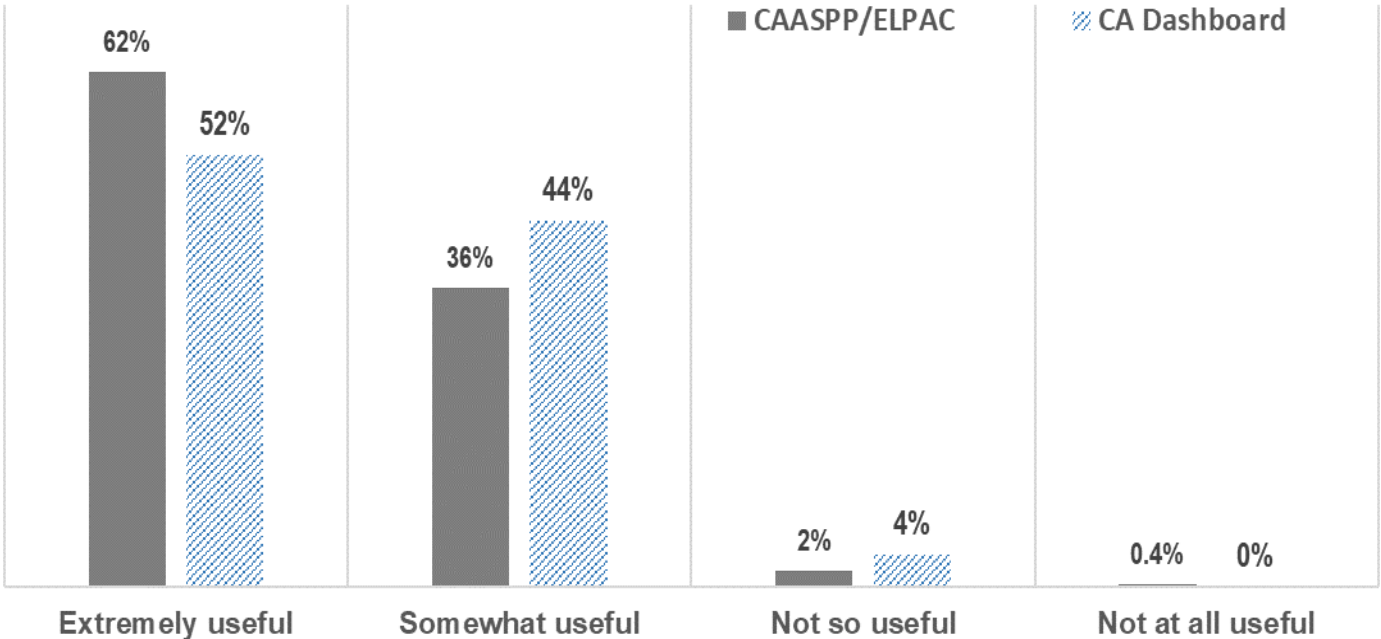
Information Dissemination

Respondents were asked about how often and how they would prefer to receive updates and information about assessment and accountability.

74% of respondents indicated a preference for

receiving assessment and accountability updates **monthly.**

When asked how information should be communicated, the most frequent responses indicated that:

- Email is the best method of information dissemination.
- Webinars with links to updated resources are preferred.
- On-line meetings are preferred.

Respondents were also asked a question about virtual meetings. While most respondents would choose to watch a virtual assessment update alone if given an opportunity, 40% would elect to watch with others.
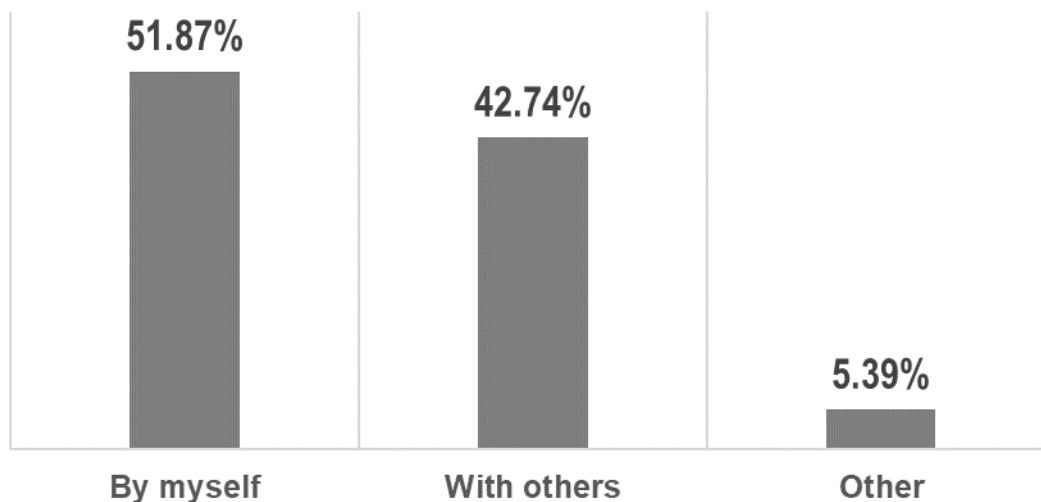
Responses about the preferred time of the day for receiving updates were largely inconclusive.

Additional information about the preferred frequency of updates, as well as a complete list of participant comments about watching virtual updates, are available in Appendix B.

A complete list of participant suggestions on how to facilitate/disseminate future communications about assessment and accountability are available in Appendix C.

Future Meetings

Participants were asked several questions that were designed to help inform future Assessment and Accountability Information Meetings. For the purposes of this report, the responses to these questions have been organized into two main categories: meeting format, timing and frequency, and meeting topics.

Meeting Format, Timing and Frequency

Respondents provided a number of thoughtful suggestions for the future in the category of the Future Meeting Format, Timing and Frequency. The short list below represents a sample of those responses:

- May be better suited for a webinar—lack of parking and distance to drive
- More frequent, but shorter online meetings would be appreciated.
- It would be helpful if the meeting was earlier in the year.
- A list of information was given in regards to ELPAC update, having this information in written form, not just read to us, would have been additionally helpful. I was trying to write down and listen at the same time.
- Honestly, I feel the information could be conveyed in a webinar and more condensed.

95% of respondents stated that it was somewhat or very important for them to be able to ask questions during the meeting. Respondents were also overwhelmingly interested in submitting questions in advance in order to receive answers during the meeting.

A complete list of participant comments and suggestions about future meetings is available in Appendix D.

Suggested Meeting Topics

Respondents were asked to provide suggestions for topics they would like to see covered during future Assessment and Accountability Information Meetings. The most frequently requested topics included:

- Dashboard updates and information
- CALPADS transition information
- ELPAC reclassification process
- CAST updates and information

A complete list of participant suggestions about future meeting topics is available in Appendix E.

Summary and Recommendations

In general, the Assessment and Accountability Information Meeting was well received and enjoyed by the LEA participants. While the majority of participants spoke highly of the current format and content of the meeting, several provided helpful suggestions for the future. Those suggestions included:

- Receiving monthly assessment and accountability updates throughout the year
- Having an option to receive information virtually, in addition to the in-person meeting
- Receiving pertinent assessment and accountability information early in the academic year

Based on the comments and suggestions provided by the meeting participants, the SCOE puts forth the following recommendations for future Assessment and Accountability meetings:

- Continue to offer an annual in-person Assessment and Accountability meeting and add additional opportunities for coordinators to receive timely and pertinent updates and information throughout the year
- Supplement the in-person meeting it with periodic WebEx meetings
- Move the in-person Assessment and Accountability meeting to earlier in the school year (August or September)

A complete list of all participant comments and suggestions is available in the appendix.

Appendix A

Figure 1. Participant roles and responsibilities
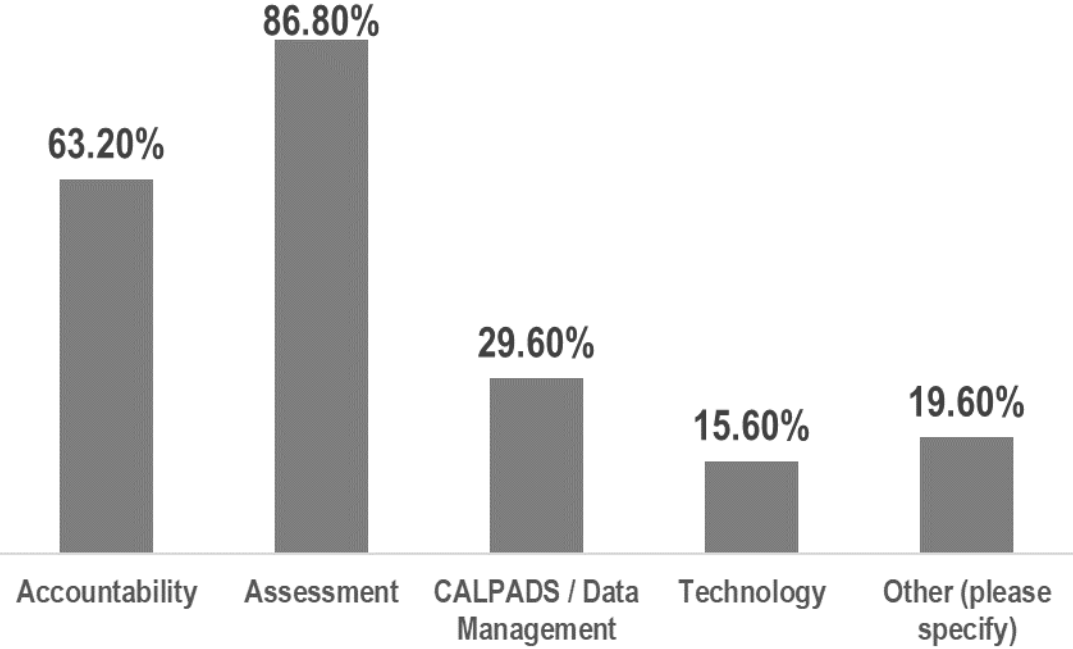
Responses to Question: Which of the following are you responsible for—Other (please specify)?

- ELD
- Curriculum
- ELD Instruction
- Support for CALPADS Admin
- ELPAC Coordinator
- Instructional Support
- College and Career Readiness
- Curriculum and Instruction
- ELPAC
- Director of ELD; responsible for ELPAC only
- ELPAC Coordinator
- ELs
- Curriculum
- Curriculum and Instruction
- ELPAC
- ELPAC
- Not specified yet.
- Data Integration

Responses to Question (cont'd): Which of the following are you responsible for—Other (please specify)?

- Director over the county programs. Responsibility for all of the above.
- Site Principal
- LCAP
- State and Federal
- I oversee the testing of EL students
- Student Services, Special Education
- ELPAC
- English Language Development
- WASC
- All state and federal programs
- RTI and English Language Development
- LCAP
- All categorical programs & elementary school principal
- Categorical programs
- Curriculum, Instruction, and LCAP
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Principal – everything ☺
- Library and Curriculum
- ELPAC coordinator
- Support to schools with their College and Career Readiness
- Some LCAP, other duties as assigned, elementary PE Specialist and Student Leadership – LOL!
- Federal Funding
- Oversee all as executive director
- English Learners
- Special Education, State/Federal Programs
- Professional Development, Custom Reporting
- Curriculum, Instruction
- Equity
- Student Services Department and Migrant Education Program
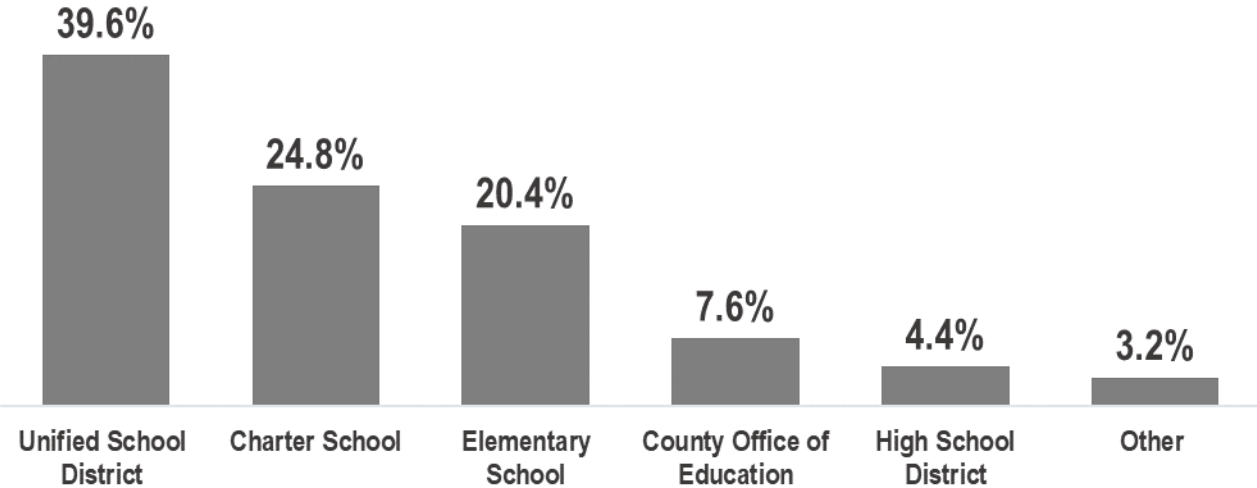
Appendix B

Figure 1. Meeting participation by LEA

Bar chart showing meeting participation by LEA:
- Unified School District: 39.6%
- Charter School: 24.8%
- Elementary School: 20.4%
- County Office of Education: 7.6%
- High School District: 4.4%
- Other: 3.2%

Figure 2. Preferred frequency of updates

Bar chart showing preferred frequency of updates (Assessment vs. Accountability):
- Monthly: Assessment 75.93%, Accountability 72.61%
- Quarterly: Assessment 17.84%, Accountability 20.75%
- Twice a Year: Assessment 3.73%, Accountability 4.56%
- Annually: Assessment 2.5%, Accountability 2.07%

Figure 3. Preferred time of day for updates
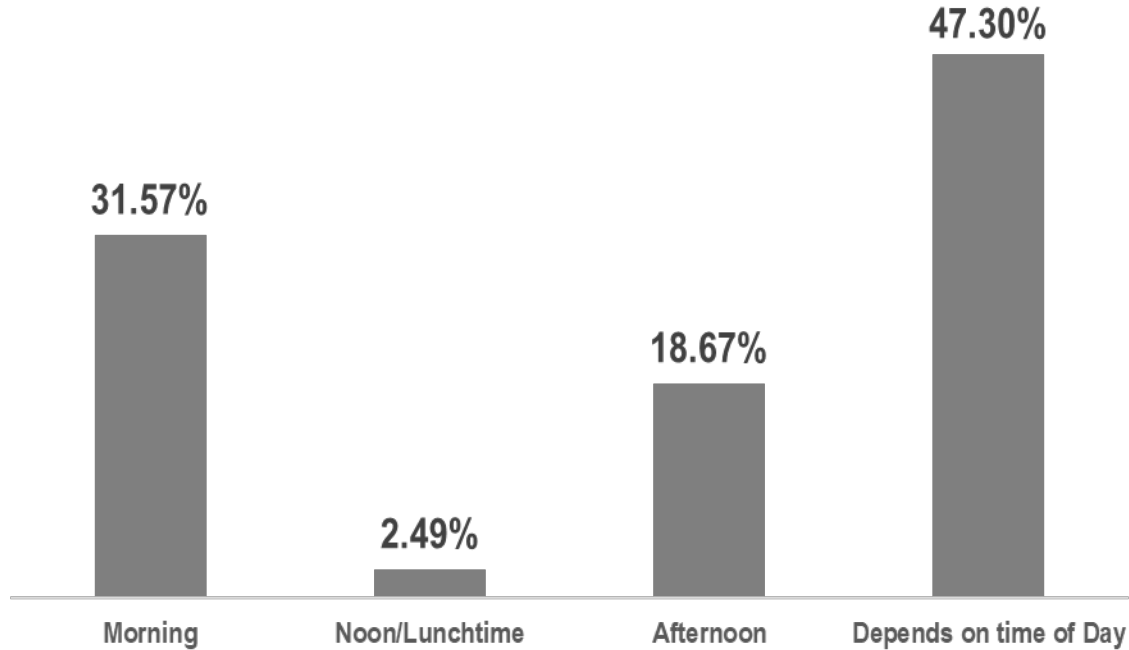
The comments listed below are verbatim feedback provided by the survey respondents. They have not been changed or edited in any way in order to maintain the integrity of the feedback.

Responses to Question: How would you watch a virtual assessment update—Other (please specify)?

- As a COE, we often convene a viewing for our districts at our site.
- I probably would not watch it: too many webinars and so little time.
- It depends on accessibility. Most of us have other duties besides those associated with testing.
- Please don't do virtual only. If virtual is necessary, I would prefer to gather with folks from my region to view together. This would provide opportunities to connects, clarify when needed in collaborate in the future.
- Maybe a group of peers
- I probably wouldn't; these are not effective for me.
- A combination of the two depending on other's availability.
- It would depend on topic.
- The collaboration with other districts is important. I would want to meet together away from distractions at my office with other districts.
- Maybe at Sac County Office of Ed with a group of esteemed colleagues so we have each other to interact and reflect with "in the moment".
- Both of the above. I'd love to collaborate with staff, but I'd watch alone if that didn't work.
- Both

Appendix C

The comments listed below are verbatim feedback provided by the survey respondents. They have not been changed or edited in any way in order to maintain the integrity of the feedback.

List any suggestions you have to facilitate/disseminate future communications about assessment and accountability.

- Email is the best way
- It would be helpful if all CAASPP updates came to both primary and secondary CAASPP coordinators and not just the primary
- Summary of key information.
- Again, slow down to reinforce major changes. Remember that you are the experts and most of us in the audience are hearing this for the first time. Perhaps this will reduce the number and repetitiveness of questions. Only one of my questions was addressed.
- Sharing the google folder was a good idea.
- I love the notetaking guide
- Recorded webinars are great - the powerpoints without the audio are not as helpful.
- Keep doing what you do.
- I love the assessment spotlight emails... thank you!
- I liked the way that the meeting was conducted. I would not change anything.
- Has the PowerPoint been shared yet?
- save the different presentations separately so we can view them online as needed
- Webinar with updates. Links to updated resources.
- Just as I stated above. Written out update brief with bullet points
- A "menu" style option of being able to select just the portions that we need.
- More time spent on ELPAC info.
- I like there idea of break out sessions for next year.
- Nothing comes to mind
- online meeting
- In the past, we used to have various webinars on specific topics. It seems that there are less of these types of webinars.
- Would love a lunch option again.
- CALPADS hands on training for supervisors and technicians. Online webinars are not enough.
- The last speaker was the best. She got us involved and thinking again after sitting and listening for so long.
- Keep the format you currently have in place.
- I love the webinars!!!
- Maybe, display the questions overhead projector, to make is easier for the facilitator.
- Continue to provide Internet access at future meetings.
- The online webcasts of these presentations are very useful
- No, just keep it going!
- Prefer the webinar to save time out of the district.

- In person meetings are still a great way to present.
- Many slides referenced handouts that are available. Please include them in the resources.
- "Look at the Q&A questions beforehand.
- Perhaps only answer 5-10 of the most important that we could get out of in that time. The rest could be directly emailed, saving time."
- None. You have done a great job in this regard.
- Continue with emails and updates
- Email is great.
- Provide links to SBE agendas on assessments in weekly updates
- One pathway of information. CDE is very confusing when trying to find and use information.
- I think it is going well. I really appreciate the update emails sent from assessment and accountability.
- Current system works fine for me
- Everything was excellent.
- A statewide listserv to allow assessment/accountability coordinators to share information and ask questions of each other
- SLOW DOWN
- "Love the ""less is more"" approach to PowerPoint content. Please share the PowerPoints ahead of time so that we can take notes in that document.
- The note taking guide was nice. I would have liked a few high level key takeaways pre-populated."
- Not enough plugs for devices.
- Keep full day meetings, making weekly webinars are difficult to block out time.
- Email and In-Person
- The answer and question periods directly following the session by topic is really helpful.
- For me personally, webinars are not the most effective way of disseminating information. I prefer the in-person training because it's easier to focus and get questions answered.
- Having virtual meetings sound great!
- I liked the format. Presentation then question and answer session.
- "Having the links to presentations available at the meeting would help so those of us who take notes electronically can copy/paste pieces and take screenshots. For brand new participants, having an additional 30 minutes maybe at the very end or during the lunch time would be appreciated to provide some orientation to available information sources.
- As opposed to the informational cards, a ""back channel"" online chat or Google Form could help collect all of the questions and provide space to disseminate answers to all of the questions in writing as well as verbally.
- Finally, a comment on the current Tuesdays at Two. The upload of the webinars seems to be slow, and most of the questions that are asked in the sidebar chat window just get listed as ""answered verbally"" - if you need to step out of the room or otherwise miss something, there is no record of what the answer was. PLEASE address this."
- So many emails...I don't know how, but maybe condense emails...
- I like the idea of transitioning to a webinar format.

- Please keep the North/South in person meetings days! WebExs are all too easy to skip, miss, tune out, etc.
- When we are out of office, the time is more respected and protected."
- Use EDI model of instruction; explicit, directive guidance for the Coordinator would be a better approach than the super-high-level approach taken at this training. Have the ability to model tasks, and give attendees the chance to practice. In the Coordinator Checklist add suggested completion dates for each task; before/during/after/ongoing is not specific enough to guide a very new coordinator.
- Webinars are helpful and then to have them posted for later access.
- Keep doing what you are doing.
- If there could be more on College and Career Readiness, how to help Alternative Schools (Continuation, Special needs, and Juvenile hall students)
- Communication is good.
- I prefer the "in-person" style of this meeting, especially as there are so many new and exciting things happening in Assessment & Accountability world. It allows the field to interacting with CDE staff in a very meaningful way. Something we will lose in the proposed virtual delivery.
- I am glad it will come over the to us again and be archived because it was a lot of information and a lot of acronyms.
- Suggest send link with slides beforehand
- I appreciate the emails.
- "More focused/specialized for different student populations.
- Also please include more information on your slides. I am much more of a visual learner and hearing the presenter share important information solely verbally was difficult. "
- Text and email
- Don't read the PPTs.
- If it is possible, present the information sooner.

Appendix D

The comments listed below are verbatim feedback provided by the survey respondents. They have not been changed or edited in any way in order to maintain the integrity of the feedback.

List any additional comments or suggestions regarding the meeting.

- A lot of content was covered with very little notes on the slides. It would be helpful to have more detail.
- Than you, it was a positive experience!
- No more songs, raps, or use of pop culture to explain professional topics
- When changes are being made, more time needs to be spend clarifying the changes. The presentations are so fast that new features are often missed.
- All good
- I really feel there should be some snacks, even if attendees have to pay, it would be beneficial.
- Screenshots on the PPT are nice, but time to actually go through the step on our own site would be helpful.
- I would appreciate more detailed slides in order to reference information at a later date
- It was an overwhelming amount of information to digest in one webinar. I will be looking over the presentations slides and hope to see the recorded information to get a second run through.
- We attended the first two day of training for ELPAC and CAASPP so this seemed like a repeat of all the information condensed into quick notes.
- Many of us where talking that is a very long meeting and breakfast and snack availability will be helpful even though we have to pay registration.
- More frequent, but shorter online meetings would be appreciated.
- Could have used some more detail about the updates to the process of registering teachers into the CAASPP system.
- It was the best North South event I have attended.
- I enjoy the humor the Keric and his team employ throughout the day ~ thank you!
- Keric Ashley – Hamilton!!!!!
- Love Keric Ashley's performance!
- I'm excited about the updates to TIDE AIR.
- Have any flyers (not the presentation info), if any, that are only at the in–person meeting available to those watching on line.
- Thank you for the leadership, information, and support
- Thanks so much for the live webinar version!
- Webcast all three dates.
- A list of information was given in regards to ELPAC update, having this information in written format, not just read to us, would have been additionally helpful. I was trying to write it all down and listen at the same time.
- Online registration would not allow for registering ONLY for the Assessment and Accountability portion. We had to call and wait on hold to so.
- Loved Hamilton – Go Keric!!!

- Great opening – very nice way to get things started
- The amount of time spend on ELPAC info, compared to CAASPP and SBAC was lacking
- Wish we could order box lunches and have breakfast and snacks like we use to have at these meetings.
- Too much time was given to how Interims play into the instructional day. That was 1 hours we could have delve more into SBAC.
- Should be online
- It seemed to be mostly assessment meetings?
- Less information needed about interim assessments
- It would be helpful if the meeting was earlier in the year.
- A few tears ago, there was a representative from the Cal St. system. Would also like an update from them.
- If some portions went a little slower that would help. I found it hard to keep up at times. As I was writing down the last thought, I missed the next one. Or…have a handout of "key items" we need to know (new information).
- I think the Dashboard info should have been earlier in the day
- TOMS system is very important to the testing process; it would help if you spent more time on how to use it.
- More interaction and audience involvement would be good.
- I think it would be beneficial to leave all the questions for the end.
- Appreciated the presentations. The only one that could have been more engaging was the Leveraging the full suite of Smarter Summative. This may have been due to my district's journey, but it seemed very low level.
- The first two days were fantastic! The third day was not worth my time and questions were not clearly answered.
- Thank you for providing access to the internet.
- Thank you, for providing the handouts/materials in advance. Very helpful!
- Thank you for providing the internet.
- Ease of registration was great.
- I've come to this meeting for 4 years and every time, I leave feeling like I gained a ton of information in a fun and engaging way, which isn't easy task when talking about assessments and accountability.
- Honestly, I feel the information could be conveyed in a webinar and more condensed.
- I really appreciated having the option of the webinar. The detailed information is what I needed as well as the compliance issues. I also loved the creativity of the staff.

Appendix E

The comments listed below are verbatim feedback provided by the survey respondents. They have not been changed or edited in any way in order to maintain the integrity of the feedback.

Which topics would you like to see covered at future meetings?

- Dashboard local indicators
- Changes in accountability requirements
- updates
- I am satisfied with the topics being covered
- Overall student performance information on CAASPP
- More specifics on CAST Testing for High School grade to be tested.
- Having all q & a at end of day, moving dashboard to earlier.
- It would be more helpful to go into more details on the newer part of the Dashboard.
- Essa and LCFF We know schools will be identified but there is so little information about what that will look like for schools.
- Keep it the same.
- None additional…this is very comprehensive
- I really needed all of the topics that were covered; however, the dashboard equation toward the end was confusing. Could you cover that topic earlier when people are fresh in the morning?
- The current topics made sense.
- CASEMIS to CALPADS transition
- It was very comprehensive
- Anything that has changed since the last meeting.
- You've covered all of the relevant topics.
- The topics cover in the meeting were good!
- Additional changes and updates as would move along
- Dashboard/IAB Prep
- Updates on any new policies regarding reclassification of English Learners using the ELPAC test scores.
- On technology compliance.
- Reclassification updates as they change with EL assessments rollout.
- Specific information on how to administer the IABs. Including ART – teacher/student rosters and DL – retrieving student scores. Beginning to end, step-by-step.
- Continue with same topics as well as potentially pulling it connections to the LCAP and CALPADS.
- CALPADS?
- More on CAST
- College placement, career readiness indicators
- I like the idea of the conference style meetings moving forward. I would like to continue to have in-person session option for networking purposes.

- CALPADS, SBAC digital system for interim assessments and TOM's system for CAASPP coordinator.
- All the information presented was needed and timely.
- Specifics on the Dashboard.
- The topics covered were sufficient.
- A little more on bill that either became law or may become law soon would be helpful.
- Mostly changes an updates only.
- The local indicator dashboard. More details or examples of best practices. I would like to hear what others are doing. Thank you.
- Dashboard local indicators before they are due for approval to our Board. Single sign on log in when it is a reality.
- The topics covered were very helpful.
- More about the schools who are in the red on the dashboard and what that will look like.
- Physical Fitness.
- Making interim assessments and digital library interactive. In break out groups to know more.
- The topics that were covered were exactly what I needed.
- More on supports and accommodation would be helpful.
- SBAC/CAST – updates, Accessibility Supports and Accommodations – specifically with discussion on assistive technology for speech to text.
- Systems
- Managing the ART system and setting up groups for the reporting system.
- ELPAC/Reclassification
- It would be great to include more information for DASS schools and how it applies to us.
- The basics. What's it means to be an LEA Coordinator. What steps do we need to me mindful to watch (ELPAC and CAASPP)
- We need some hands-on training working with the changes to components.
- New assessment and CALPADS updates.
- I would lie to hear more about alternative assessments for student with cognitive disabilities and if there is a timeline for when the state will create the alternative assessment.
- LCAP federal addendum requirements.
- More on DASS
- A little session with an overview of the State and Federal Programs requirements
- I liked the format for this meeting. Just enough info.
- All the current topics that are being covered
- Timelines of upcoming legislation, State Board items, and a place to share resources among job-alike individuals. When is Keri going on America's Go Talent?
- What to do with results and moving forward
- The usual topics is sufficient. It is a lot of information and not sure what else to really add at this point.
- CaLPADS. There is no in person/annual meeting for this. Just online trainings – and while useful, it would be great to learn in person and hear other LEAs what's working, especially now that CaLPADS is about to have a new look/feel, etc.

- Split topics into two groups: task associated with test administration, and task related to communicating results & supporting teachers.
- I'd like to have assessment items and accountability items on different days to allow more depth into each topic.
- Essa and ca dashboard alignment.
- I most appreciate the updates on the dashboard.
- More time and information about the dashboard.
- This year were spot on but not sure what the future will bring at this time.
- I think you can ditch the Q and A sessions that are long. Most can ask those questions that pertain only to their district with a phone call.
- Much more in-depth info and teaching of how to use/read the dashboard.
- Local indicators, self-reflection tool, EL regulations, continues Science Assessment
- 1) Best Practices from folks in the field. 2) Some sort of structured activity to share what's needed in future iterations of the systems we're using.
- How to use results from all assessments in a pivot type table.
- Needs by school/district size.
- Appreciate updates.
- Video demos of activates would be very helpful.
- More on SBAC Summative – Administration, Matrix 1, etc.