

The main point of this feedback is to request that **educational assessment technology** be added to the short list of technologies generally deserving of intensive federal participation in standards setting activities, and specifically deserving of being included as a special focus of the public roundtable on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

It should go without saying that education is as much of a national priority as the Smart Grid, electronic health records, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and emergency communications. The special urgency of this request however stems from the current federally funded Race to the Top Assessment Program which has provided funding to two Consortia of states “to develop a new generation of assessments intended to yield timely data to enhance instruction, accelerate learning, and provide accurate information on how our students and schools are performing.”

([http://www.k12center.org/rsc/pdf/Assessments\\_for\\_the\\_Common\\_Core\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.k12center.org/rsc/pdf/Assessments_for_the_Common_Core_Standards.pdf)).

The importance of establishing new assessment technology standards in relation to this effort has already been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education through an RFI published in the Federal Register on 12/20/2010 (<http://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2010/12/20/2010-31881/assessment-technology-standards-request-for-information-rfi>).

The fact that this is a high priority concern of the private sector and one in which the private sector is prepared to take the initiative is well represented in a recent white paper issued by Pearson on Next Generation Assessment Interoperability Standards

(<http://psychcorp.pearsonassessments.com/pai/ai/about/news/NewsItem/newsrelease111510.htm>).

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Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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