

Update #5 – New Features and Improvements Added to Testonline.ca

April 12th, 2008

Summative Session

Districts are preparing for the summative assessments, assembling their databases of student data to upload. Those districts that used our service during the formative session in the Fall need not upload 'new' data because the student data is already in the database.

We are working on some new reports, which will be available in mid-May. Note that the new reports can be run retroactively, so as new reports and databases are added, you can mine more information from your student data. The reports we have added and the modifications to the existing reports were all done as a result of suggestions and input from our clients, so if there is a particular report that you would like to see, please feel free to contact us to discuss it.

The Green Benefit

The average-size district in BC would use about 188,000 sheets (about 40 boxes) of paper to administer the DMA tests to all its students twice per year. Using our online service, the total number of sheets of paper used is 0.

Prices now per student

Effective immediately, our prices are on a per-student basis, where a district pays by the number of students who take the test. There is no charge for reports. Districts can run as many reports as wanted, for no additional cost.

These reports include:

- Division Aggregate Report
- School Aggregate Report
- District Aggregate Report
- Division Students Report
- Division Answer Frequency Report
- School, Database
- District Database
- Division Students by Strand database.

There are several benefits to the districts using this price model:

- 1) Smaller districts with multiple-grade splits can access our system in a more equitable way.
- 2) Larger districts with many split classes do not incur the cost of multiple reports for a class.
- 3) Districts can more easily and precisely budget for our service.
- 4) Districts have access to a broader range of reports at no additional charge, thereby getting much more information.

The cost per student is \$1.09 per session (i.e. up to June 27th, 2008).

Revised WNCN Tests

We recently updated the WNCN versions of the Grades 3 through 9 tests,

End-of-Grade 9 - Beginning-of-Grade 10 test added:

Recently, the Island Numeracy Consortium completed the E9B10 WNCN version, which we have put online.

French versions of WNCN tests

The French versions of the WNCN tests are in the final stages of editing, and we anticipate that they will be available online in the next few months. Those districts which have French Immersion programs will be able to participate in the online tests.

New Reports

Division Students by Strand Database reports all students by strand (number and percent) in a .CSV file. Districts are adding data to this database from other sources to produce a comprehensive profile of each student's progress.

Division Answer Frequency Report reports the frequency of responses to all questions, with the correct response in bold. Educators can spot anomalies - for example the frequency of a particular incorrect answer - and address those issues in the curriculum.

"Show your work" ...

There has been some discussion about the idea that teachers want to see the students' work - something that is not available online. One very good practice by one District is to distribute the paper version of the test, have the students show their work on the paper version, and select their answers in the online version. Using this method, teachers gain the inherent advantages of the online system - the elimination of marking the multiple-choice questions and access to the reports - while retaining the ability to examine the students' work.

Remove a Student

We have added a new feature that enables coordinators to delete students from their online database. This will be useful in the following cases:

1. if a student leaves the class or school, and therefore will not be taking the test. or
2. if a student will not be taking the test for any other reason (e.g. extended absence from school).

Student Count by School:

Some districts need to know student counts by school (typically for cost allocation). We have added that feature to the Administration Zone interface. Coordinators can enter a Start Date and End Date to determine how many students by school have completed the tests within the specified period.

View Testing Status

View Testing Status enables coordinators to track which divisions have been uploaded for testing, which divisions have completed the tests, and which reports have been run (and which reports are pending).

We have refined **View Testing Status** in two ways:

1. We have reorganized Division, School and District reports and databases into three sections by name. Our rationale is that, in general, division-level reports are run first and more frequently. School- and district-level reports are run at the end of the testing period.
2. We have created columns for each of the reports so that it is easier for you to determine which reports have been run (and not run).

District Coordinator Orientation sessions

In preparation for the Summative (Spring) session, we are offering, free of charge, orientation sessions for District Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators. All topics of interest to the coordinators will be covered, with particular emphasis on uploading student data and generating reports. We offer these sessions individually to each school district, and they are conducted by telephone. To set up an appointment, simply phone us at 604 420-7379.

Suggestions for reports and databases

Our reporting capability is quite powerful and extensive, so if you would like to see the DMA test data presented in a certain format, please feel free to contact us to discuss your idea. Many of the current reports now available were created as a result of suggestions by our users.