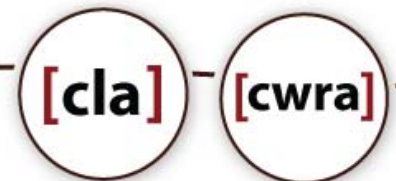




Council for Aid to Education  
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teach *learn* assess

**CAE (COUNCIL FOR AID TO EDUCATION) – PROVIDERS OF THE COLLEGIATE LEARNING ASSESSMENT (CLA) AND COLLEGE & WORK READINESS ASSESSMENT (CWRA) – TAPPED TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT GENERATION PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS**

*CAE named part of a collaborative—headed by CTB/McGraw-Hill—developing the first set of assessment items for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium*

**New York, NY, April 17, 2012** – CAE (The Council for Aid to Education) is among a collaborative of partnering organizations—headed by CTB/McGraw-Hill—selected by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) to develop the first set of test items for the new Common Core Assessments, which states will be able to use to evaluate the progress of elementary, middle, and high school students toward meeting the new Common Core State Standards.

Smarter Balanced is one of two state-led consortia, comprised of 27 states, appointed by the U.S. Department of Education to develop assessment tools to help states gauge student progress toward meeting the new Common Core State Standards. Adopted at the state level beginning in 2010, the Common Core State Standards align K-12 instruction across the country to better prepare students for success in college and in their careers. The standards are being adopted this school year in 45 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, with many states working on transition strategies to migrate instruction, curriculum and assessment to new standards.

CAE will develop the first set of performance tasks that will be used as part of new assessments, which will be implemented in the 2014-2015 school year. CAE is well positioned to undertake the task development effort, as it has been implementing national standardized performance assessments via the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) and College & Work Readiness Assessment (CWRA) since 2003. To date, over 640 institutions of higher and secondary education have adopted CAE's performance assessments, assessing over 325,000 students.

“We are exceptionally proud to be working with this collaborative to bring innovative and authentic assessments to a classroom more focused on preparing students to succeed in today’s knowledge economy,” said Roger Benjamin, CAE President. “We at CAE—through the CLA and CWRA—have always stressed the importance of ensuring that schools have useful tools, assessment and otherwise, that more authentically resemble effective classroom teaching and learning practices.”

Other partners in the collaborative include:

- CTB/McGraw-Hill, which will oversee the entire collaborative, whose collective goal is to develop nearly 10,000 test items.

- The American Institutes for Research, which will be involved in the development of technology-enabled test items, scoring engines, and small scale studies.
- The Data Recognition Corporation, which will also assist in item development and scoring.
- HumRRO, which will focus on evaluation of item procurement options.
- The College Board, which will provide validity work focused on college and career readiness.

CAE is not new to the world of measuring Common Core success. In October 2010, thanks to support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CAE began a two-year project to examine the relationship between mastery of the Common Core State Standards and actual results in the first-year of college. At the completion of this project, CAE aims to illustrate the effective use of performance assessments on a large scale and provide a clearer picture of what it means to be college ready.

For more information on the CAE, and its existing performance assessments, CLA and CWRA, please visit [www.cae.org](http://www.cae.org).

### **About CAE**

CAE is a non-profit organization founded in 1952 to advance corporate support of education and conduct policy research on higher education. Currently, CAE is best known for its work focusing on measuring and improving the quality of secondary and postsecondary education. CAE has two nationwide assessment programs—the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) and the College and Work Readiness Assessment (CWRA)—through which they provide members schools will tools to improve critical thinking and writing skills through the connection of effective teaching, learning, and assessment efforts framed through authentic performance-based practices.

### **About CTB/McGraw-Hill**

CTB/McGraw-Hill has an 85-year record of innovation and excellence in assessment, and serves more than 18 million students in all 50 states and in 49 countries. One of the first American publishers to introduce objective, standardized achievement tests to schools, today CTB/McGraw-Hill is a leader in testing with recognized products for online interim and formative, adult, and language proficiency assessment. Dedicated to advancing the use of student performance data to inform instructional decision making, CTB/McGraw-Hill's innovation continues today with technologies that include Web-based assessment and reporting, student response device software, and artificial intelligence for automated scoring of student essays. CTB/McGraw-Hill is part of McGraw-Hill Education, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies (NYSE: MHP). McGraw-Hill Education is a leading global provider of instructional, assessment and reference solutions that empower professionals and students of all ages.

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With questions regarding CAE's involvement, please contact Chris Jackson at 212.217.0845 or [cjackson@cae.org](mailto:cjackson@cae.org).