

## REAL Science Pilot Details

### Proposed Timeline

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Activity	Time Frame
Divisions identified	July 22, 2011
Schools identified	September 1, 2011
Classes identified	September 15, 2011
Training for schools, test and IT administrators	November 2011 –January 2012
Sample application available for test and IT administrators	November 2011
Test administration	Late January – Early February 2012 (after Standards of Learning (SOL) testing)
Incentives sent to schools	March 2012

### Test Administration Details

- The REAL Science test items will be administered via the computer's internet browser.
- Schools will schedule this testing after students complete their SOL tests for chemistry and/or biology. To the extent possible, the pilot should be scheduled before the end of the semester so that students are still grouped in those classes.
- The testing window will be open for 3 to 4 weeks in late January to early February so that schools may schedule the test administration at their convenience.
- The test will include a 10 minute tutorial to orient students to the screen layout.
- There will likely be one extended item and 10-15 shorter items on each test form.
- Testing sessions will require approximately 90 minutes. The test is not a timed test, so students may take more time if desired, but it is predicted that students likely will be able to complete the test in 90 minutes.
- The test includes interactive language supports and read aloud options for all students; no additional accommodations are provided. Students will need headphones to allow for the audio option.
- On-site assistance will be available from the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) if requested.

### Student Sample

- Testing will include entire classrooms of biology and/or chemistry students in schools with semester block scheduling where students will have received all instruction in the content area by the end of January 2012.
- The student sample will include biology and/or chemistry students who are native English speakers, English language learners, students with reading disabilities and any other students enrolled in the classes.

### Training/Support

- Training will include live and prerecorded online training webinars with demonstrations and an online manual.
- A help desk will be available by phone and e-mail beginning in November 2011.

- A sample software application will be made available for school personnel, teachers and technology coordinators to verify computer and network connections required for testing.
- A technology checklist will be made available to school divisions in November 2011 to assist in preparing schools for the REAL Science pilot.

### **Teacher commitment**

- Students who are taking the test will need to be monitored during testing at the school, but the science teacher is not required to be present.
- Teachers of participating students will be asked to complete a short questionnaire to rate student content knowledge and exposure to material (time to complete the questionnaire is estimated at less than 5 minutes per student).

### **Incentives**

- To show their appreciation, CAL will send a check to participating schools in the amount of \$5 for each student who completed a test and has a questionnaire completed by their teacher.

### **Optimal System Requirements for the REAL Science Pilot**

- High-speed internet connection
- PC (laptop or desktop) running Windows 2000 Service Pack 4, XP SP3, 2003 Server SP3, Vista SP1, or a more recent Windows Operating System
- MAC (laptop or desktop) running OS Version 10.4.11 or a more recent MAC operating system
- Microsoft Explorer Internet Browser 6.0 or a more recent version
- MAC Safari Browser 3.0.4 or a more recent version
- Recommended screen resolution at 1280 x 1024
- JavaScript setting enabled in the IE browser
- Adobe Flash Player version 9 (or more recent)
  - Click [here](#) to download and install the most recent version of the FREE Flash Player.
- Adobe Acrobat Reader version 6.0 or later
  - Click [here](#) to download and install the most recent version of the FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader.
- Pop-up blockers must be turned off to view certain links on the system

### **For More Information, Contact:**

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