Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will all college programs, credit and noncredit alike, be required to use the common assessment tools to qualify for the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) assessment funding?
   a. At this point, colleges that use a test as a component of their assessment process will have to use the common test (whether English, Math, ESL, or all three) in order to qualify for SSSP funding. You can read the full legislation here: SB 1456 - [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_1451-1500/sb_1456_bill_20120927_chaptered.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/sen/sb_1451-1500/sb_1456_bill_20120927_chaptered.html) and AB 743 - [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_0701-0750/ab_743_bill_20111008_chaptered.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_0701-0750/ab_743_bill_20111008_chaptered.html)

2. Will the assessment tools cover the full range of the academic competencies in the basic skills discipline and be able to be used to place students in either credit or noncredit courses?
   a. That is the current intent, although the work groups will have final input over the next several months of meetings.

3. Will different colleges be assigned to different types of pilots? Will some pilot the technology platform and others focus on the content areas?
   a. No. The twelve selected Pilot Colleges will be committed to pilot all four components - the three content area tests and the platform - with interface to their Student Information System and IT department. Some additional colleges outside of the twelve will be tapped to assist with item testing and provide other types of feedback, based on their unique student populations (noncredit, ESL, etc.).

4. Which colleges have been selected as full pilot partners?
   a. Bakersfield College, Butte College, Chaffey College, DeAnza College, Delta College, Diablo Valley College, Fresno City College, Rio Hondo College, Sacramento City College, Saddleback College, Santa Monica College, and West Los Angeles College

5. Will there be financial incentives available to colleges and/or students to get students to take the pilot assessment?
   a. At this time there is no money for incentives built into the grant budget. We are looking into a variety of alternatives for reaching the target numbers of students required in the test validation process.

6. Will colleges still have local control over cut scores and placement?
   a. Yes. While the assessment itself will be common to the system, cut scores and placement will be the decision of the individual colleges, based on input from their faculty regarding local curricula.

7. Will staff involved with noncredit programs/courses be involved in examining the content areas?
   a. The project leadership team has tried to incorporate the appointment of faculty representatives from all academic levels within the work groups.

8. Will the common assessment tools include Adult Basic Education (ABE) courses?
   a. This is still to be determined by the work groups.
9. Is the CAI working with the California Department of Education (CDE) on developing a common assessment for all ABE programs?
   a. No, not at this time, though the project team is aware of CDE’s work on new assessments.

10. I thought this was a five-year grant? Why is the pilot process happening so quickly?
   a. While the grant was established for five years, the timeline established by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) and California Legislature requires rollout of the common assessment in a much shorter timeframe. The current goal is to have the common assessment available to the whole CCC System at the close of 2015. Full release and implementation will happen in 2016.