

Assessment and Accountability

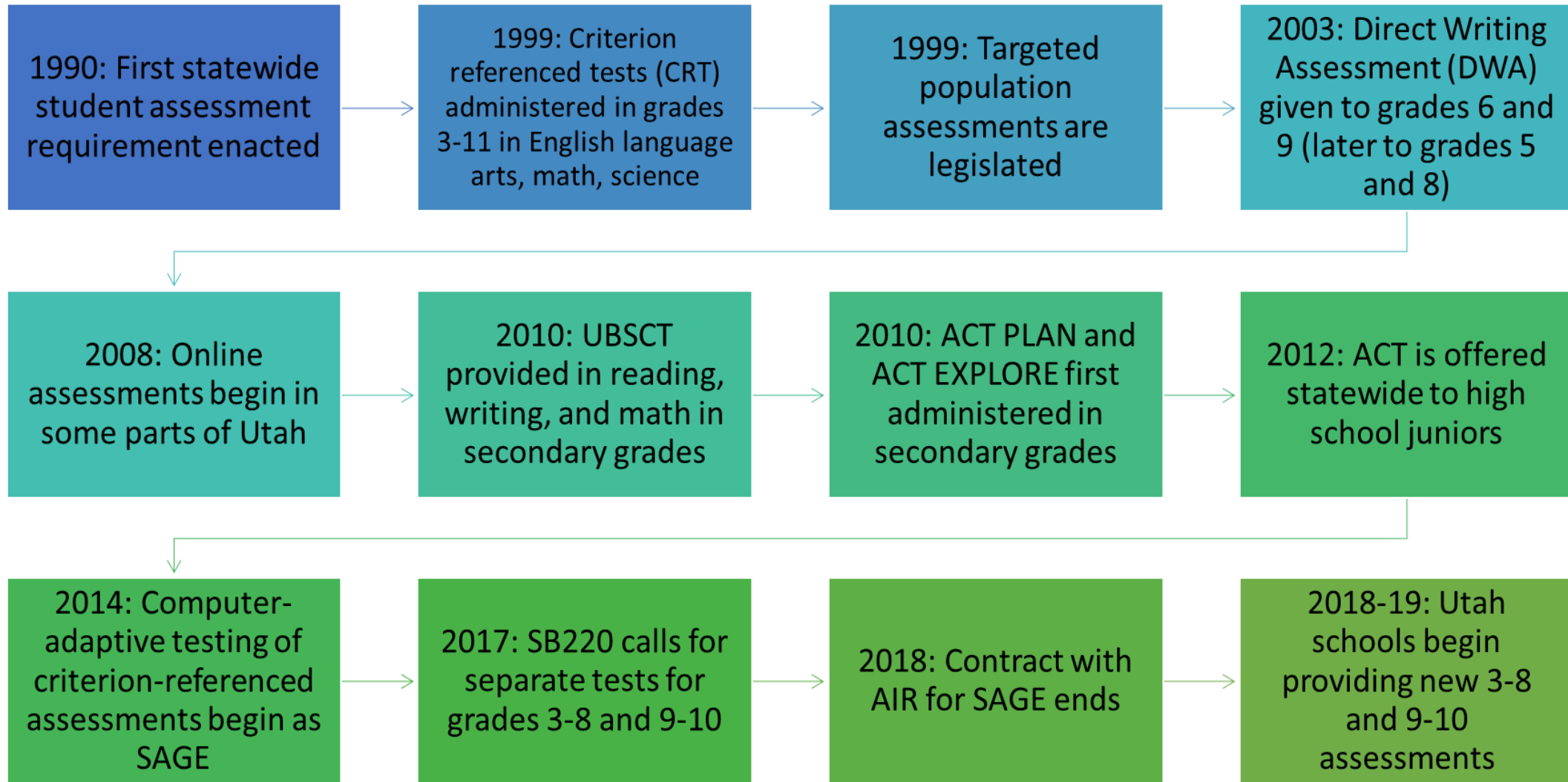
RISE Testing

Sydnee Dickson
State Superintendent

Darin Nielsen
*Assistant Superintendent
of Student Learning*



Testing in Utah: Historical Overview



Legislative context for grades 3-8:

53E-4-303 Utah Standards Assessments

The Board shall adopt a standards assessments that:

(i) measures a student's proficiency in:

(A) mathematics for students in each of grades 3-8;

(B) English language arts for students in each of grades 3-8;

(C) science for students in each of grades 4 through 8; and

(D) writing for students in at least grades 5 and 8;

(Criterion referenced, aligned with core standards, administered online, computer adaptive)



RISE is composed of two primary elements

The Assessments
(Benchmark, Interim, Summative)

- a. Utah written questions
- b. Aligned to Utah Core
- c. Utah proficiency thresholds
- d. 5 yrs of comparative data

The delivery platform
(Nextera)

- a. Interface
- b. Software
- c. Servers
- d. Reports

The acquisition of the state standards assessment consisted of three primary phases

1. Procurement

2. Contract Development

3. Implementation



Procurement

Date	Activity
March 3, 2017	RFP released, in accordance with procurement code
April 24, 2017	RFP Closed with four proposals received
October 13, 2017	USBE notified vendors of procurement award – Questar selected



Scoring Criteria

Minimum Mandatory Requirements		RFP Section	Evaluation (Pass/Fail)
I	Minimum Experience	MM	
II	Evidence of Alignment	MM	
III	Resumes	MM	
IV	Protection of Student Level Data	MM	
V	Functioning Product	MM	
VI	System Samples	MM	
VII	Disclosure	MM	
VIII	Travel Policy	MM	

The RFP scoring committee considered multiple elements in identifying the best solution for Utah.

Scoreable Technical Criteria (Technical Evaluation Points)		RFP Section	Evaluator Score (1-5)	Criteria Weight	% of Tech Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned	Minimum Required
I	Development	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
II	Delivery	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
III	Scoring	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
IV	Data Management and Exchanges	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
V	Reporting	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
VI	Technical Manual	TC		10	7.1%	50.0	0.0	
VII	Project Management	TC		20	14.3%	100.0	0.0	
VIII	References	TC		10	7.1%	50.0	0.0	
					100.0%	700.0	0.0	0.0

Required Technical Point Threshold	RFP Section	Min Percent	Min Points Required	Points Earned	Percent Earned	Evaluation
	EVAL	70%	490.0	0.0	0.0%	



American Institutes for Research (AIR)

- Disclosed five incidents

Performance Matters

- Was eliminated for not meeting the mandatory minimum requirements

Pearson

- Disclosed four incidents plus one with a partner company

Questar

- Disclosed zero incidents but three with their parent company.

The publicized incidents in other states all occurred after the disclosure period.



Contract Development

The contract provides the USBE the ability to:

1. Terminate for cause or convenience.
2. Assess liquidated damages (defined as a contractual provision that determines in advance the measure of damages if a party breaches the agreement).
3. Seek other remedies



Contract Development

Date	Activity
October 14, 2017	USBE staff begin working with Questar to finalize the SOW and develop the associated contract
February 8, 2018	USBE approved the final contract
February 9, 2018	USBE/Questar sign the approved \$41,565,145 contract
Subsequent months	Two contract amendments were signed, totaling \$3,193,176.50



Implementation Timeline

Transition Planning
meeting with USBE
and Questar staff
Dec 13, 2017

Two-day kickoff
meeting with USBE
and Questar staff
Jan 25-26, 2018

Jan 24, 2018
Vendor Handoff Planning
meeting between AIR and
Questar staff, facilitated
by USBE

Feb 13, 2018
Weekly calls begin
(content, technology,
data, reporting)



Item writing
workshop for ELA,
mathematics, and
science
Jun 11-13, 2018

Content & bias
review
**Sept 17-19,
2018**

RISE annual planning
meeting
Nov 27-28, 2018

Sept 12-13, 2018
Nextera training for
LEA representatives

Oct 22-25 2018
Parent review of
newly written items

**April 29-May 9
2018**
USBE and Questar
observe 50 testing
sessions in 32 schools



Implementation Problems

Questar experiences problems in Tennessee

– USBE requested response

April 27, 2018

Questar was unable to deliver formative tools

Oct 1, 2018

USBE staff provide Questar a list of identified concerns

Nov 8, 2018

Sept 18, 2018

USBE staff meet with Questar project leadership regarding various concerns

Nov 1, 2018

Questar was unable to deliver winter summative tests



Questar agrees to providing additional resource to resolve rostering issues
Nov 27, 2018

USBE provides Questar an assessment readiness checklist
DEC 21, 2018

DEC 17, 2018
Questar provides assurances they are taking the necessary steps to deliver a fully operational assessment system (response to USBE concerns)

Jan 9, 2019
USBE arrange for a call with Questar senior leadership to address ongoing issues with the Pre-ID files.

Continued Implementation Problems



The president of Questar visits Utah to resolve issues with pre-ID as well as other issues
Jan 29, 2019

Questar's system experiences a failure in New York – Questar provides incident report
April 2, 2019

March 22, 2019
USBE provides Questar a Notice of Default and Notice to Cure due to another missed deliverable and other concerns

April 25, 2019
Utah experiences the first of 5 interruptions of service. Questar provides an incident report for each event



Discrepancies in student test scores between on demand and reports are identified by USBE
April 30, 2019

USBE staff began extending LEA's assessment windows (more than 100 requests)
May 13, 2019

May 7, 2019
Pre-ID files failed to run and two days later the UT Form assignment process failed to run

May 16, 2019
USBE leadership meets with Questar senior leadership to consider termination of Questar contract



May 17, 2019

Questar notifies USBE that some students tests were inadvertently reset – number unknown

- Questar Identifies June 14, 2019 as date that fixes for various problems will be implemented.
- Inadvertent test reset corrections
- Math Grade 6 test resets completed
- Test participation code “bug” fixes
- Other outstanding issues include:
 - Individual student score reports not correct
 - Above grade level test administration not working



Assessment Data

Questar scheduled to provide USBE the final assessment data file
July 15, 2019

USBE and Questar complete ELA standards validation
July 29-30, 2019

July 2019

USBE conducts an analysis to determine the effects of assessment changes on calculating student growth

Aug 1, 2019

Questar provides USBE the results of their impact study (validated by independent third party)



USBE staff holds Technical
Advisory Committee to
review analysis results and
prepare recommendation
Aug 12, 2019

USBE considers data analysis
and makes any related decisions
Sept 5, 2019

Aug 2019
Assessment and Accountability Policy
Advisory Committee reviews the TAC
recommendations.

Dec 1, 2019
USBE publishes 2019 School
Report Card

Continued Assessment Data

UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Emergency Procurement

USBE begins communications
with AIR to “stand up” the state
standards assessment (RISE)
June 2019

USBE considers AIR contract
Aug 1, 2019



July 25, 2019

USBE staff finalizes 3-year contract with
AIR to provide the delivery system for the
RISE tests

Oct 1, 2019

AIR makes assessment
system available to Utah
educators/students



