

# Online Reporting

## Setting the Stage

The *No Child Left Behind Act* of 2001 (*NCLB*) requires that states, school districts and schools receive the results in a compressed reporting window. This has significant impact on the states and the assessment companies. *NCLB* requires states to aggregate and disaggregate test scores and then report them across dozens of categories. Assessment companies, with the use of technology, are poised to help states with online reporting.

## Discussion

States have websites to inform their constituency about education initiatives. Most states make available the required “report cards” for districts and schools on a public website. More and more states are using restricted websites to provide districts access to data. The restricted websites – where secure passwords and identification codes are needed – have been a huge benefit to districts.

States are exploring web-based reporting for schools and classrooms. However, confidentiality, security and capacity issues must be properly addressed and managed. Assessment companies, which already assist states with data preparation and analysis, can help districts and schools address the issues. Security and privacy issues can be handled by assessment companies by providing secure servers, secure websites, user authentication and encryption.

Information technology, networking, and hardware capacity issues continue to confront many schools and districts and must be properly addressed. Many do not have high-speed Internet connections that can handle the amount of data generated, nor do they have the staff needed to effectively implement technology solutions. These concerns can be resolved by partnering with assessment companies to implement a variety of strategies including; forming cooperatives and utilizing existing capacity, technologies and skill sets.

Web-based reporting has many benefits. The time to turn around results is much faster than with paper. Schools, districts and states can disaggregate the data to address specific issues or look at item analyses to help instruction. Classroom teachers can access results whenever and wherever they are. Multiple reports can be printed locally.

## Conclusion

Web-based and/or online data speeds up reporting, allows flexibility in analyzing results and provides useful information for instruction and planning. Many states are moving to static reports online, while many others are already moving to dynamic online reporting.