



PREVENTION AND PROACTIVE PLANNING STRATEGIES

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High-Stakes Testing Vendor Unprepared Yet Again

STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS SUFFER CONSEQUENCES

THE FRAMEWORK



- Important that we frame this conversation as “decreasing the likelihood of an event occurring” not preventing
- We need to bring security risks and testing irregularities further into the conversation when we are creating the initial design for our tests
- Understanding the differential impact or consequences of irregularities on the intended interpretations and uses of scores

SOME STRATEGIES

- “Bet you can’t break our system”
- Fire drills/rapid response plans for testing emergencies
- Testing models that might be simpler or easier to administer?
- Does every grade and content area require 2-3 sessions along with 2.5 to 3 hours of testing time?
- Value of the technology enhanced items?
- Enforcement activities to discourage motivation to attack the system?

PROACTIVE PLANNING FOR DISRUPTIONS

- *Quelle surprise?*
- Measurement error is a basic tenet of science
 - Random
 - Systematic
- Risk mitigation for programs and vendors
- Communication for programs and vendors

RISK MITIGATION FOR PROGRAMS



- Require vendors to have a plan
- Incorporate into RFP; pre- and post-administration
- Engage TAC to help evaluate
- Reasonableness of expectations; degrees of freedom
- Insurance is not free

RISK MITIGATION FOR VENDORS



- Redundant systems as part of the plan
- Systems that support external review
- Innovative approaches to evaluate risk
 - Go beyond simulation
- Look to other sectors of testing and industries for models

COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR PROGRAMS

- Setting expectations for the field and public
- Highlight the need for adaptability
- Transparency about backup plans
- Evaluation criteria for different levels of errors



COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES FOR VENDORS



- Designate contacts for different stakeholders
- *A priori* responses to anticipated challenges
- Coordination with program in the event of disruption
- Cover up is worse than the crime

SUMMARY

- Perfect systems do not exist
- Steps to improve the current systems
- Prioritize strategies for controlling systematic errors
- Communication plan for programs and vendors