

**RACE TO THE TOP ASSESSMENT (RTTA) PROGRAM**  
**Technology Infrastructure Needs in States, Districts and Schools**  
Public Meeting, April 15, 2011

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

#1

Since I work in an urban school district with a high poverty level, having enough computers for all students to use is a constant problem. I very much like the idea of online common assessments but being able to have all students complete them will be a very valid struggle for many schools.

Bonnie Branch

#2

As a Math Consultant in many different schools in NYC for the last 8 years, I am amazed to hear that the future assessments will be online.

The number of computers available and working in many schools I have been in range from zero to about 80.

The number of operational computers at any one time is anywhere from zero to 80%.

The number of schools I have been in that have all computers up to date and working is zero.

To address the computer needs in schools to be able to have a robust system viable to conduct online assessments is going to be a very expensive task.

Current laptops and desktops are not dependable enough or secured enough to ensure that they would work on any given day. School wireless systems do not deliver and drop off.

Schools need on-site Computer Technicians to maintain the hardware and software in working mode. No school I have been in has had a dedicated Computer technician. (Not a teacher trying to keep them running on a part-time basis)

No school that I have visited in 8 years would have the capacity for any one grade level all to participate in online assessment at the same time.

Maybe if all students had iPads and the system was facilitated by Verizon or AT&T, you may have a chance. This way you are not restricted to computer labs and unwieldy computers and wires.

There would be security issues and formatting issues to deal with, but I believe these could be overcome in the timeframe you have left.

Sincerely

Ken Ellis  
AUSSIE Math Consultant