



## **NYSED BEST Plus 2.0 Webinar Questions & Answers May 11 & 20, 2016**

- Q** I heard you say that in ASISTS, we will now be able to record which *print* form of the Best Plus 2.0 was administered. Is there a way to record which *Best Literacy Test* we use?
- A** **Currently, there is not a way but we can submit the request to ASISTS for future iterations of the software.**
- Q** You made it clear that we can't use the BEST Plus 2.0 as a post test, but do you think that will change at some point in the future?
- A** **As we stated in the webinar, the BEST Plus 2.0 cannot be used as a post test in FY15/16. However, it CAN be used as a post test in FY16/17 and all years forward when appropriate.**
- Q** When will we be able to record the BEST Plus 2.0 score in ASISTS?
- A** **You may record the BEST Plus 2.0 scores in ASISTS from this point forward. The interface and scoring screen is already on the ASISTS Assessment tab.**
- Q** If the Best Plus 2.0 is available before June 30th, can we give *that* test as a pre-test if students won't be matched or starting a class before July 1st?
- A** **Yes, you may give the BEST Plus 2.0 as soon as you receive the tests. However, be aware that the score, while it can be recorded in ASISTS, will not begin counting until July 1, 2016.**
- Q** For returning students, can we administer the Best Plus 2.0 at the same time as we post-test them on the original Best Plus?
- A** **Yes, however, it may be in the best interest of the student to schedule them at different times. That is left up to the program to decide.**
- Q** I know you said that we can't use the original BEST Plus as a pre-test and the 2.0 as a post-test but can we pre-test on the BEST Plus and post on the BEST Literacy?
- A** **No, you cannot.**
- Q** I have a new computer to install this afternoon and there are about 80 tests on the old computer. Is there any way to transfer those tests, since they were paid for, to our new computer or do I lose them and have to activate more tests?

**A Yes, you can transfer tests from one computer to another. For the original BEST Plus, the test transfer files are located on the red BEST Plus Test CD in the February 2005 version of the Test Administrator Guide. If you need assistance on the transfer process, contact CAL at 1-866-845-2378. For the BEST Plus 2.0 software, CAL has made the process easier by placing a Test Transfer Program button directly on the BEST 2.0 welcome screen (see slide 24 in the PowerPoint.)**

**Q I have a question about the strategy moving a student from Best Plus to Best Literacy. If the student post-tests over 541 and you move it over to a pre-test, does the Best Literacy pre-test need to be given by June 30th?**

**A It would be advisable to give the BEST Literacy as soon as possible but it can be given after June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Q Most importantly, we need to know the date when we will have the new test in hand because at this point we are already setting up summer testing appointments for people who are arriving now. We are concerned because it may take our I.T. department a little time to get things set up and as you can imagine, we want to make sure we will have the test available when people come back for it!**

**A All final orders and payment were sent to CAL by May 20, 2016, provided they were received by NYSED by that date. It shouldn't take more than 5 to 7 business days from receipt of the order to it arriving at the customer's location. Print materials and USBs are shipped via FedEx. Any shipping or invoice questions should be directed to the CAL Store at (855) 543-9461.**

**Q Is there going to be new training for the new BEST Plus 2.0 and how often will we need to be trained?**

**A No new training will be required for the new BEST Plus 2.0; programs should continue to follow the current NYSED training policy for assessments.**

**Q We are buying new computer laptops, is there specific technology criteria that they need to have to support the new test?**

**A No, the system requirements have not changed from the original BEST Plus software. The BEST Plus 2.0 software will run on Windows XP or higher.**

**Q When will we receive the key for answer on the print based tests for 2.0?**

- A** There is no answer key for the print based test. The students' answers are entered into the score management software just as they were for the original BEST Plus print based tests.
- Q Can we use the new 2.0 on our Apple computers and devices like iPads?
- A** No, the BEST 2.0 is currently compatible with the Windows operating system and is not designed to work on a Mac or iPad.
- Q Do we have to use the computer? Our students are very nervous around computers. We heard that they are doing away with the paper test.
- A** At this time, there is no plan to eliminate the print based version.
- Q Is the BEST Plus 2.0 longer than the old BEST Plus?
- A** The BEST Plus 2.0 is the same length as the original BEST Plus.
- Q Do we have to print out the score reports or can we keep them electronically? Also, how long do we have to keep them?
- A** The new BEST Plus 2.0 scores must be retained by the program for a period of 7 years. If a program would prefer to keep the scores electronically, they must request that exemption from their Regional Liaison at NYSED.
- Q How long do we need to keep the original BEST Plus tests?
- A** After July 1, 2016, the ORIGINAL print based BEST Plus tests must be destroyed. The ORIGINAL computer adaptive tests will convert to the new BEST Plus 2.0 computer adaptive tests using the new 2.0 software sent to programs on the USB.
- Q Will there be a new BEST Literacy test, like a 2.0? If so, when?
- A** Yes, CAL is beginning a process to update the BEST Literacy test. More information will be shared when it becomes available.
- Q Do all the new BEST Plus 2.0 pre-tests have to be done before July 1<sup>st</sup>?
- A** No, pre-testing before July 1, 2016 was offered to those programs that operate summer programming and wanted to assess their students before the program began. All others will pre-test on or after July 1, 2016 as needed.

Q Does this webinar count for PD in ASISTS? How many hours do we get for it?  
Will you be putting it into ASISTS?

A **No, webinars are currently not recognized as RAEN PD in ASISTS.**

Q If a student is pre-tested on the computer BEST Plus, can they be post-tested on the print test?

A **Yes, that can be done.**