



## Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking

In an effort to both build assessment literacy in social studies, as well as provide a meaningful classroom assessment that targets both skills AND content, the PASST project began during the 2012-13 school year with teacher trainings. PASST Project assessments are summative in nature and designed to be given frequently throughout the school year to measure social studies at higher levels of cognitive rigor than basic recall of factual information.

During the 2013-14 school year, teachers throughout the State developed assessments for 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and HS US History which are designed to look and feel like a next generation assessment such as Smarter Balanced. Using freely available plugins on Moodle unlocked new quiz functions thus allowing for greater variety and effectiveness of items designed by classroom teachers. Piloting will occur during the 2014-15 school year and updates will be made as pilot data is analyzed.

Although summative in nature, the philosophy of assessment utilization essential to the PASST Project is that it is better to give a meaningful assessment of integrated skills and knowledge as part of a regular classroom experience when most pertinent to student learning of concepts, as opposed to waiting until the end of a semester, trimester, or school year. Therefore, assessments are designed to be used in proper context within a smaller scope of time in order to provide timely feedback that can effectively drive instruction. Assessment development will continue during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years targeting currently assessed grade levels in the State of Michigan. We will follow this work in 2016-17, with the development of assessments for K-2 that are designed to be more formative in nature.

Currently, as there are no “Next Gen” assessments for social studies elsewhere in the country, the PASST Project is proud to be leading the way in providing teachers and students a rigorous and comprehensive 21<sup>st</sup> Century assessment experience that mirrors instruction of both content and skills in the social studies classroom.

Access to the website is: <http://passtmoodle.wmisd.org>

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