As Michigan begins the trek towards “Next Generation” assessment, a group of teachers and leaders from across the state came together to ensure that Social Studies had the opportunity to give students practice, while still teaching the important skills and content of their discipline.

Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking (PASST) are a set of assessments centered around the Michigan Content Expectations for Social Studies. **They are classroom assessments that are freely available to every school district in the state of Michigan.**

The assessments have been carefully created using the latest research, and will assess every Michigan Content Expectation as well as the Common Core State Standards (and C3 Framework!) in new and exciting ways. Teachers from all over Michigan were brought together to assess Social Studies at higher levels of depth of knowledge beyond simple recall. It has been a three year process, but we’re finally ready to unveil what we’ve done.

The PASST official website has all of the details, and can be found at <http://passtmoodle.wmisd.org>. Here are the highlights:

1) The assessments are free of charge courtesy of the ISDs, RESAs, RESDs, and ESDs of Michigan that have partnered to create them. They are assessments for the classroom.

2) By the end of this school year, 5th grade, 8th Grade, and HS US History will be complete.

3) The assessments can be delivered online through Moodle, Data Director (available by fall) and the InQWizit systems.

4) Paper/pencil versions of the assessments can also be downloaded from the website.

5) During the 2014-15 school year, 6th grade, 7th grade, and HS World History will be completed.

6) During the 2015-16 school year, 3rd grade, 4th grade, and HS Civics/Economics will be completed, and leg work on formative assessments for grades K-2 will begin.

7) Professional development on the assessments, as well as everything used in the development process (including item rationales, specifications, templates, etc.) will also be freely available on the PASST website.

8) The assessments align to the GLCE, HSCE, and the Common Core State Standards and C3 Framework.

I invite you to give the website a try and forward this information to your Social Studies staff. We are going to do for assessment what MC3 has done for curriculum: Provide a freely available resource for educators that is 100% aligned to the Content Expectations that is both rigorous and relevant.

If you have any questions, feel free to “Ask me about the PASST”

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