



# UCAS

Utah's Comprehensive Accountability System

# SAGE

Student Assessment for Growth and Excellence



An introduction  
to Utah's new  
comprehensive  
accountability  
system and the new  
computer adaptive  
assessment system



# UCAS

## Utah's Comprehensive Accountability System

**UCAS** provides a straightforward determination of school performance and supports the goals of public education in Utah by valuing performance on state tests, prioritizing individual student growth toward meaningful achievement targets, promoting equity for low-performing students, and incentivizing attainment of graduation and college/career readiness.

### What does UCAS do for Utah students and educators?

- ▶ Reports clear and understandable school assessment results to the public
- ▶ Creates strong incentives for schools to improve achievement for all students
- ▶ Provides an opportunity for all schools to demonstrate success
- ▶ Promotes progress toward college and career readiness

Find out more about UCAS, including specific reports, at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/data/Educational-Data/Accountability-School-Performance.aspx>.

### Access UCAS Through the PSD Gateway

The PSD Gateway empowers all Utahns to explore achievement levels at schools across the state. Parents, educators, and other stakeholders can generate side-by-side comparisons of school test results or drill down to individual school report cards on achievement, growth, and enrollment.

Link to the PSD Gateway at <http://schools.utah.gov/data/Educational-Data/Accountability-School-Performance.aspx> and click on "Utah School Reports 2012."



# SAGE

## Student Assessment for Growth and Excellence

**SAGE** is Utah's new computer adaptive assessment system, aligned to the state's English language arts, mathematics, and science standards. This comprehensive testing system includes summative, interim, and formative components.

### **What is computer adaptive testing?**

*More information with fewer test questions!*

- ▶ An adaptive assessment system will allow Utah educators to more accurately measure the full range and depth of content achievement for all students.
- ▶ Computer adaptive testing employs a software algorithm that adapts the test in real time, responding to the accuracy of a student's performance. Each question a student receives is dependent on his or her response to previous questions. This allows the algorithm to more accurately and efficiently determine a student's level of proficiency.

See the FAQs about computer adaptive assessment at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/Adaptive-Assessment-System/FAQTop-10Questions.aspx>.

### **Where did SAGE come from?**

- ▶ SAGE will be developed for Utah by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), a leading assessment provider with over 60 years of experience in proficiency testing and adaptive accountability testing.
- ▶ The development of SAGE, including testing blueprints, assessment questions, and online delivery, will result in an assessment system unique to Utah.

- ▶ Parent committees will have the option to review all assessment questions.

See a recorded presentation outlining AIR's role in assessment development in Utah at <http://connect.schools.utah.gov/p5vma0peno3/>.

## ASSESSMENT IS AT THE HEART OF GOOD INSTRUCTION!

**SAGE**, Utah's comprehensive computer adaptive assessment system, is specifically designed for educators, parents, and other stakeholders to measure the full breadth and depth of the new Utah Core Standards. To do so, the system integrates **summative, interim, and formative** testing in a way that helps teachers design meaningful, targeted instruction.

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### SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Spring 2014

Administered at the end of the school year, a summative assessment gives students the opportunity to display the depth and breadth of their proficiencies.

- ▶ This online adaptive assessment will replace the CRTs and be given during approximately the same spring window.
- ▶ SAGE will include writing, graphing, virtual labs, and other meaningful measures of student achievement.
- ▶ Individual student results will be available immediately.
- ▶ English language arts, mathematics, and science will be assessed.
- ▶ The assessment will support all students with the tools needed for an equal opportunity to effectively access and use the adaptive test without distraction.

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## **INTERIM ASSESSMENT**

Fall 2014

The optional interim assessments will help parents, teachers, and students themselves to know whether they are on the right trajectory for end-of-year success. These assessment results will help teachers adjust instruction to support student growth.

- ▶ This optional online adaptive assessment is designed to be administered in the fall and mid-year to evaluate student competence with the Utah Core Standards in English language arts, mathematics, and science.
- ▶ Interim assessments will provide immediate results for teachers, parents, and students.
- ▶ Interim assessments will be psychometrically predictive of the summative assessment and utilize the same student interface and reporting system.
- ▶ Use of this system will provide LEAs with accurate fall-to-spring growth data.

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## **FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

Fall 2013

Formative assessment guides teachers' day-to-day instruction. Each student's Formative SAGE results will link to instructional resources to help teachers target and individualize instruction.

- ▶ Teachers can access existing assessment items or create their own to develop formative assessments that align with their instruction.
- ▶ Assessment items will align with a rich bank of lesson plans and instructional resources that educators can use to reteach misunderstood concepts with struggling students, or to enrich instruction for advanced learners.
- ▶ Teachers and students can compile an online portfolio of work to show progress and development over time.
- ▶ The formative assessment system will present items in a manner that matches the interim and summative assessment systems.

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## WHAT ABOUT UTIPS?

The SAGE formative assessment system is designed to replace and expand what is currently provided by UTIPS (Utah Test Item Pool Service)—the current formative tool provided by the USOE.

- ▶ UTIPS will continue to be supported until Formative SAGE is online in the fall of 2013.
- ▶ The UTIPS CORE system will also be available and supported until the transition is complete.

See the Formative Assessment FAQs at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/Adaptive-Assessment-System/AIRFormativeFAQs.aspx>.

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## WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

Watch a live webinar on the first Wednesday of each month at <http://connect.schools.utah.gov/aau>.

All webinars will be archived at <http://www.schools.utah.gov/assessment/Adaptive-Assessment-System.aspx>.



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