The new aimsweb

Frequently Asked Questions
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**BENCHMARK OR UNIVERSAL SCREENING**

**Q:** Can a student be benchmarked outside of a benchmark period? Can benchmark scores be added to the system outside of a benchmark period?

**A:** No, benchmark scores cannot be entered into the system outside of a benchmark period. However, in the new aimsweb, users can customize benchmark periods to better match their school or district calendar. So users could create benchmark periods to accommodate more flexible testing dates if needed.

**Q:** Are the probabilities for passing the state test considering common core and new assessments? How can this be predicted since the tests are not available yet?

**A:** The “xx% likely to pass the state test” statement in the individual student benchmark hover is generated from the success probability targets data described in the state test prediction guide. This technical guide, named the “aimsweb State Prediction User’s Guide”, is located in the Downloads tab of your current aimsweb system, and the probabilities come from aimsweb users who entered 2010 state-test scores for reading or mathematics into the aimsweb system, as well as from all aimsweb benchmark scores in 2009-2010. While these probabilities do not consider common core and new assessments in the initial spring 2014 release, there are plans to update these values as more states move to PARCC and Smarter Balance.

**Q:** Does the "Comparison Selector" drop-down allow for switching to Criterion-reference/cut score or local norm display?

**A:** Yes, the dropdown selection on the Benchmark view does allow the user to switch to Criterion-reference/cut score or local norm display. The selections are norms (national, district or school) or cut scores.

**Q:** Do the measures still have the same names? For example R-CBM and M-CAP?

**A:** Most of the measures have the same names. The exception is R-CBM, which has been renamed to OR (for Oral Reading) the new aimsweb.

**Q:** Have the colors changed from red, yellow, green to yellow, green, blue?

**A:** Yes, users will notice a different color palette in the new aimsweb. This is a direct result of customer feedback. The new colors are orange, yellow, green and blue. All alerts are in hot pink. This color immediately lets the customer know there is something to be done with the student.

**Q:** Can the benchmark student names be alphabetized?

**A:** Yes. While the default view of the benchmark area displays the students by score (lowest to highest) to bring the students scoring the lowest to the top, the student name column is sortable. Click the column header to view the students alphabetically.

**Q:** When you benchmark a student on multiple measures, are you able to assess the student from the same view/screen all at once?

**A:** In the new aimsweb, the Assess and Score screens are where the student assessment data collection and score entry occurs. The Assess screen gives users the ability to assess those measures that can be individually administered through browser-based scoring (e.g. R-CBM or Oral Reading). The Score screen gives users the ability to enter in those assessments that are group- or class-administered (e.g. M-CAP).
Q: Will you still be able to see a list of numerical benchmark scores for a class?
A: The Benchmark view displays the overall performance of the class, using colored horizontal bar graph representations of the scores. The graphs show where the student score falls within the tiers. Individual scores for a student appear when you hover over that student’s horizontal bar graph, and then click on the hand icon.

The printed Benchmark view report displays the list of numerical benchmark scores for a class, including the errors and percentiles.

SETTING PROGRESS MONITOR GOALS, SCHEDULES AND INTERVENTIONS

Q: How does the goal setting in the new aimsweb support SLA?
A: The Survey Level Assessment process takes place manually, or outside of the system in the new aimsweb. Users can check a box to designate a student is being monitored off grade level. After checking the box, the user can select the desired grade. This information will display in the Monitor view. If the student is being monitored on-grade, the benchmark score will be pulled in and displayed along with the monitor scores on both the Monitor view and the Individual Monitor report. If the student is being monitored off-grade level, the benchmark score is not displayed on the Individual Monitor report.

Q: When setting a progress monitoring goal, if a student is at a lower grade, can you then stop that level and set a new goal at the next grade level?
A: Just like in the current system, when changing a goal to require a different grade level of material, you must start a new progress monitor schedule.

Q: When setting a goal using the new data-based slider tool, what do the progress labels mean?
A: The data-based slider tool uses the data and information from the Student ROI Growth Percentiles. This information can be found in the aimsweb ROI Growth Norm Guide, which is available on our website at http://www.aimsweb.com/wp-content/uploads/ROI_Growth_Norms_Guide.pdf

“The new version of the AIMSweb software, ..., uses the ROI growth norms to provide feedback during dynamic goal setting for progress monitoring. If the user proposes a goal whose goal ROI is below the median ROI, then the interactive screen will indicate that the goal is Insufficient to help the student catch up. Any ROI below the median (50th percentile) will tend to result in a lower score-level percentile at the end of the interval than at the beginning, meaning that the student would be falling behind.

A goal ROI between the 50th and 85th percentiles will be labeled Closes the Gap because it will raise the student’s score-level percentile. Finally, a goal ROI above the 85th percentile will be labeled Ambitious to signal to the user that such a rate of improvement is relatively rare.”

AIMSweb Growth Norm Guide ©2012 (p. 7).

Q: If your baseline is based on a benchmark that is on grade level, can you still select to monitor off grade level or would you need to have a different baseline?
A: Yes, you will be able to progress monitor off-level, but you will use a baseline score from the same grade as the off-level probe you've administered.
Q: Can students who are set up with a progress monitoring schedule automatically be set up on that teacher’s benchmarking list?
A: The student can be set up on a teacher’s assessment list in the Manage Monitor area, where the goal setting and progress monitoring actions occur. At the bottom of the screen there is an area where you can assign a teacher by inputting the teacher’s email address.

Q: Is there biweekly monitoring?
A: There is not a specific bi-weekly monitoring selection in the initial release of the new aimsweb. There is a weekly and a monthly option for monitoring. For bi-weekly, users can set up a weekly monitoring schedule and enter scores every other week. A bi-weekly option has been identified to be added in a future release.

Q: In the current system it is hard to determine what the student’s actual percentile is unless it is during a benchmark time. Will we get a percentile every time the student is progress monitored in the new aimsweb?
A: No, a percentile is not provided every time the student is progress monitored. The student's number correct, errors, goal ROI and trend ROI, along with the goal statement, appear in a table underneath the graph in the printed individual Student Monitor report.

Q: If I miss a progress monitoring date, will I be able to go back and make it up?
A: Yes.

Q: How many scores do there need to be in order to project a trend line?
A: Four scores over a six week period are the minimum needed to project a trend line in the new aimsweb.

Q: Are expired schedules the same as inactive schedules?
A: Yes, expired schedules function the same way as inactive schedules in the new aimsweb.

Q: Can multiple students be added to progress monitoring at once in the new aimsweb like they can in the current version?
A: The ability to add multiple students to progress monitoring at once will be added in a future release. This feature is not available in the initial release. Until it is available, users will set up individual schedules for individual students.

Q: When you go to the progress monitor screen does it automatically go to the next measure for Progress monitoring or do you have to choose and go through the drop downs each time?
A: If the user is setting up multiple progress monitor schedules for a student, the user does not have to leave the Manage Monitor screen. Simply select the assessment, grade and desired performance, frequency and duration of schedule, and hit “save”. Then select a different assessment from the “Select Schedule” dropdown.

Q: If you conduct an assessment for progress monitoring within the week but not on the day will it show as a missed assessment?
A: No, it will not show up as a missed assessment as long as it is given within the week that it was scheduled.
Q: Can you progress monitor for OR (R-CBM) using browser-based functionality rather than paper copies?
A: Users can use BBS (Browser-based Scoring) for progress monitoring with OR (R-CBM). With browser-based scoring, the student reads a passage from a tablet or from a paper copy. The teacher marks the responses on a laptop or a tablet device. You can launch browser-based scoring from the Assess view.

Q: When you progress monitor on the computer, is there any way to print out the student's answers and errors to do an error analysis?
A: Yes. You can print the student's answers and errors from the Score view for that student. In the Score view, click the Results report link, which is displayed for students who have been assessed through browser-based scoring.

Q: Will strategic Monitoring be done manually? Will the data from strategic monitoring show up on the progress monitoring/ benchmarking graphs?
A: The action of setting up progress monitor schedules - whether weekly, or monthly (Strategic monitoring) – is through the Manage Monitor area of the new aimsweb. To create a strategic monitor schedule, simply set the monitor frequency to “monthly”. A new feature is that users will also be able to select a goal for the strategic monitor schedule.

INTERVENTIONS
Q: Are there predetermined/set/recommended interventions, or are they up to us to determine?
A: Customers provide the interventions. Customers can preload intervention labels and documentation in the Manage – Accounts area of the new aimsweb.

Q: Can reports be created for interventions that show the effectiveness of the intervention?
A: In the new aimsweb, you can create custom groups for this purpose. You can assign students who were given the same intervention to a custom group, and then track and report on that custom group.

Q: Are interventions saved at a user level?
A: Interventions that are pre-loaded as part of the account set-up will appear for all users within that account. However, users can create custom interventions which are saved at a user level.

Q: Can some interventions be set up at a district level and other interventions at a school level?
A: Users can set up an intervention library at the district level, and customize further at the school and individual level per student, if permitted by the Account Manager.

Q: What if you have two interventions? Can you assign two interventions to a student? For example, Read Naturally once a week and Wilson Language 4 days a week?
A: In the new aimsweb, typically one intervention is assigned to the student. If you have two interventions, you would create a custom intervention that combined the two interventions by creating a new label and description.
**ASSESSMENTS OR PROBES**

Q: In the current aimsweb, we have the students listed by grade and class for the assessments. Will we have that same list in the new aimsweb?
A: In the new aimsweb, the Benchmark screen will be the home screen for teachers. In that area, teachers will have the option to list the students by 1) assessment; 2) grade or class; 3) benchmark period and 4) comparison group (e.g. national or local). Users will quickly be able to see who has and has not been assessed.

Q: Are there name changes for the assessments in the new aimsweb? Also, will MAZE be having a name change?
A: R-CBM is called Oral Reading (OR) in the new aimsweb. The other assessments, including MAZE do not have a name change.

Q: Have the probes changed?
A: No, the probes or assessments have not changed.

Q: Are the Calendar settings different in the new aimsweb?
A: The calendar settings in the new aimsweb are created and set up by the customer or Account. Customers will be able to customize the Fall, Winter and Spring benchmark periods and add non-school days to a customized calendar. These dates are all user-defined, and set up in the Manage-Account area of the new system.

Q: Are teachers given access to print their own benchmark probes? Can’t districts restrict teacher access to benchmark probes?
A: In the initial release of the new aimsweb, teachers have access to print their own benchmark probes. A future release feature will incorporate functionality that will allow the aimsweb “manager” user type to assign or restrict access for the ability to print benchmark probes.

Q: Can you still print out the probes to administer?
A: Yes, the probes or measures can be printed out. Go to the Score area and select the “Print Supporting Materials” button.

Q: Are we able to benchmark MAZE online?
A: No, MAZE is not given online.

**REPORTING**

Q: What are the Group distribution reports?
A: The Group distribution reports are ways to generate onscreen views and printed reports of aggregate data. District, School, Class, Teacher, Custom group and demographics filtering options are available. Measures and time period selections are also available. The ability to view and filter custom group information is also available. The watermark that appears in the background of the report or onscreen graph represents the national norms.
Q: Will the progress monitor graphs show a time period more than 12 months? Will it show the current Rate of Improvement (ROI)?
A: The maximum viewable time period is 12 months on the Monitor report. The current Rate of Improvement (ROI) is shown in the Student view under the Performance area, and in the printed report in a table underneath the graph. It can also be viewed in the Student Profile area of the Benchmark view.

Q: Can the reports or data views in the Groups area be printed?
A: Yes, when the print button is selected, the reports are generated as a .pdf that can be printed or saved.

Q: Will there be individual student line graphs that show the aimline?
A: Yes, different display options are available. The individual student benchmark reports provide an option to display the target. The individual progress monitor reports provide options to display the aimline, projection, errors, intervention change, and goal change.

Q: Is there an option for an individual student progress monitor report showing growth of multiple measures on one graph?
A: No. There is not an option for an individual student progress monitor report to show growth of multiple measures on one graph. However, a picture of overall student performance can be seen on the Student profile view, which shows both monitoring and benchmark performance, listed by assessment (Last score, ROI and projection towards goal) on one view.

Q: Do the monitor graphs still include the expected ROI and actual ROI?
A: Yes. The onscreen view offers a visual display of the student’s progress. The printed progress monitor graphs offer a visual display of the student’s progress as well as a table below the graph that includes the corrects, errors, goal ROI and trend ROI for the assessments given. In addition, intervention changes and the goal statement also appear.

Q: Is there a new Progress Monitor graph for out of level monitoring?
A: The student progress monitor graph will indicate whether the student is being monitored on grade or off grade. Benchmark scores are incorporated if the student is being monitored on grade level.

Q: Will there still be tier reports for grade levels?
A: With the initial release, there is not a specific tier report for grade levels, similar to a “tier transition” report in the current system. A report like the Tier Transition report is on the roadmap to be included in a future release, currently targeted for Fall 2014. The benchmark view can provide an interactive onscreen view of students by tier (lowest to highest) and can be printed.

**GENERAL**

Q: In the new aimsweb, can a teacher have one user ID/password but have access to 2 schools assigned by a manager?
A: It depends on the user role. If the teacher has a district teacher user role, the teacher can have one user ID/password but have access to multiple schools assigned by a manager. If the teacher has the class teacher role, the teacher would be limited to the one school that has that class.
Q: How well does the new aimsweb work on a tablet?
A: With the release of the new aimsweb, we are also introducing new mobile apps designed for use on tablets. aimsweb Mobile, an app that will be available for both android and apple tablet devices, will allow users to test and enter data easily.

Q: Where do we edit teacher rosters?
A: Teacher rosters are edited in the Manage-School Systems-Class area of the new aimsweb.

Q: What about materials that were on the Downloads tab in the current system? Where do I find those in the new aimsweb?
A: The assessments or probes, answer sheets and score sheets in the new aimsweb can be accessed in the Score area via the “Print Supporting Materials” button at the bottom right of the screen. Both the Print Supporting Materials dialog box and Help provide links to Other Supporting Materials.

Q: What is the best way to get historical information about the student in the new aimsweb?
A: For the new aimsweb during the migration process, the current year and previous year of data will migrate to the new aimsweb. Users will also be able to view and print student historical data in the old/prior aimsweb system.

Q: Will I still be able to enter data from Get it, Got it, Go and Dibels/Dibels Next?
A: Yes.

Q: Will there be a cost increase with the new aimsweb?
A: No, there is not a subscription cost increase for the 2014-15 school year with the new aimsweb.

Q: Do the Custom Groups allow multiple teachers to be able to view student data - such as EIP teacher, ESOL teacher, and intervention teacher in addition to the student's homeroom teacher?
A: The data stays with the student in the new aimsweb. Any teacher that is assigned to that student will be able to see that student’s data.

Q: In the new aimsweb, does the student data follow the student when the student transfers from school to school in a larger district?
A: Student data remains with the student record. As long as the schools are part of the same aimsweb account, the data will follow the student.

Q: Will we have to change our passwords as often as we have to in the current system?
A: The password policy is the same in the new aimsweb as it is in the current aimsweb. The Pearson security rules are followed in the new aimsweb, which require a password change every 60 days, and cannot be reused within the same calendar year. A Third party authentication (TPA) module is available. TPA bypasses the password security rules and uses credentials your school or district already have in place for the primary network.

Q: We have developed our own local benchmark and progress-monitoring assessments. Is aimsweb able to handle data from our local assessments?
A: No. There is not a place to store data from local or custom assessments.
Q: When you set someone up with multiple roles, that is within one building, correct? Or does that mean they can have the same username and password if they are in two different buildings?
A: If the two buildings are under one aimsweb account, a user with multiple roles can have one username and password. It also depends on the user role. If the teacher has a district teacher user role, the teacher can have one user ID/password but have access to multiple schools assigned by a manager.

Q: Are the user roles the same in the new aimsweb as they are in the current aimsweb?
A: The following user types are available in the new aimsweb:

- Account, District or School Manager
- Administrator
- District or Class Teacher
- Account, District or School Reporter

When accounts are migrated to the new aimsweb, here is how the user types are migrated:

- Managers who are associated with students via PM, and District PM Users will be migrated over as Teacher_District user types.
- Applicable school managers, Regular and Progress Monitor Teachers, Regular Teachers, Progress Monitor Teachers, and RTI Users that are associated with students via PM or ClassUID will be migrated over as Teacher_Class user types.

Q: How is aimsweb aligned to the Common Core?
A: aimsweb provides common core reporting in the current system. More information can be found at this link: [http://www.aimsweb.com/common%20core](http://www.aimsweb.com/common%20core). Additionally, Pearson is actively developing the next generation of aimsweb assessments for grades K-12. The new assessments will preserve the unique benefits of aimsweb measures—brief, valid, reliable, predictive and sensitive to growth, but will also include new content development specifically for screening/benchmarking relative to the Common Core and will provide strengths/weaknesses by Common Core domain in reading and math. The new assessments will also predict the probability of success on the new CCSS high stakes tests, and will be online for grades 2 and up.

**MOBILE**

Q: Is the scoring section (entering scores) iPad compatible?
A: New aimsweb mobile apps will be launched in conjunction with the new aimsweb. These apps, which can be downloaded from the Apple iTunes and Google Play stores, are designed for entering and viewing aimsweb scores and related information. Reporting is not initially available through the mobile apps.

Q: Are the aimsweb mobile apps in the iTunes and Google Play store free?
A: Yes, the apps are free and designed to be used in conjunction with an aimsweb subscription.

Q: Do you need a separate subscription for the aimsweb mobile?
A: No. The apps are provided as part of your aimsweb subscription.
ACCOUNT MIGRATION
Q: What is the target date for switching over to the new aimsweb?
A: Customers can switch over to the new aimsweb at the time it is most convenient for them, starting March 2014. Customers will not be automatically migrated to the new aimsweb but will need to schedule their account migration with Pearson. Logical time periods for account migration might include summer (after school year ends or before the next school year starts) or between benchmark periods during a school year.

Q: When is the latest date that a migration can occur? How long can we use the existing system?
A: Pearson will maintain the current aimsweb system at a minimum through the next (2014-15) school year.

Q: Will customers be able to migrate all historical benchmark and progress monitoring data?
A: Data is being migrated on a school year by school year basis. The migration process automatically migrates the current year of data and the previous year of data. Users will receive “read only” access to the “old” aimsweb system as part of the account migration process. Data that will be migrated over to the new aimsweb includes:
- Customer accounts
- Subscriptions
- Rosters
- Scores
- Progress Monitor (active weekly or monthly schedules)
- Current year and previous year of data

Q: Migrating our account data. How long will it take? How much lead time will districts need?
A: The actual process of migrating account data, once it has been cleaned and prepped does not take long – from a few hours to a few days depending on the amount of data. Users should build time into their planning to ensure that:
a) Users are oriented to the new user interface, and
b) The account administrator/technical resource has time to clean and prepare the account data for the migration. Pearson can assist in preparing the account data by running a migration report in the current system to identify potential data issues to be addressed.

Q: What happens to Progress monitor data if you migrate in the middle of the year?
A: Active weekly or monthly progress monitor schedules and scores from the current year and previous year will move over to the new aimsweb. Filed schedules and inactive schedules will not be migrated over.

Q: Will we need to redo goals for students being progress monitored? Or will the goals migrate over?
A: No, if the goals are part of an active progress monitor schedule for the student, the goals will migrate over and do not need to be redone.
Q: When we migrate to the new system will the students who currently are labeled as progress monitoring and strategic monitoring remain or will we have to re-identify students and input them into the system?
A: Students currently labeled as progress and strategic monitoring, with an active progress monitor schedule, will be carried over to the new system. Users will be able to see their schedules in the “Monitor” area of the new aimsweb.

Q: Will we have access to aimsweb while data migration is going on?
A: Yes, you can access aimsweb, but cannot make any changes in the system. Once the migration has been scheduled, the data in your current aimsweb account will be “frozen” and cannot be changed.