**Policy update/clarification for the Multidisciplinary Performance Task (MDPT) – January 29, 2015**

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As most of you are well aware, Kansas students will be participating in a field test of the Multidisciplinary Performance Task (MDPT) during the 2015 assessment window. The purpose of a field test first and foremost is to determine the validity of a particular assessment and the items or prompts within it. A possible secondary purpose is to provide students and teachers the opportunity to practice a new kind of assessment.

Policies related to the administration of this performance task were in development alongside the development of the task itself, and like the assessment are also being field tested. The following policies and practices related to the administration of the MDPT have been in place for a number of months now, but warrant clarification due to specific questions raised about possible discrepancies in interpreting the policies.

**During Activity One:**

·         Students will interact with 2-3 resources within KITE. These resources may not be printed off or photographed in any way. They are to remain within KITE for reasons of test security.

·         Students will have the opportunity to take notes either using the KITE system or using paper/pencil, whichever the*student* prefers. Anypaper/pencil notes students take should be collected at the end of activity one, if students will be leaving the classroom. They are to then be redistributed to students for their use during activity two.

·         Students will have guiding questions to help guide their reading and note taking. They are not required to answer the guiding questions, and their notes will not be scored.

·         All students will have access to the read-aloud feature within the KITE system, whether the read-aloud accommodation is listed for the student or not.

**During Activity Two:**

·         Each student will see his/her writing prompt.

·         Students will still have access to the resources from activity one.

·         Students may reference their notes from activity one. (Important to note: If a student uses the highlight feature within KITE, his/her highlighting will not be saved from activity 1 to activity 2.)

·         If students need to make additional notes using paper/pencil, they may do so. This could mean planning out a response prior to typing it into the KITE system. Please keep in  mind, however, that the tasks and the scoring rubrics are intended for an “on-demand” response situation, not a polished or lengthy essay.

·         This assessment is untimed. Estimates for time allocations were provided in order to assist building and district test coordinators with assessment scheduling, but if students require more time for the assessment, they should be granted more time.

·         Students must eventually type their responses into the KITE system.

·         Students may use graphic organizers, dictionaries, or any other writing tools generally used during writing instruction. These tools *must be selected by the student for use* and may not be handed out by a test administrator or teacher. Teachers and test administrators are not permitted to force students to use a particular writing tool.

·         A spell-check tool will be available within KITE. Students will be able to turn this feature on or off.