

## **Design Considerations**

### **Article 1**

**CTB/McGraw-Hill**, April, 2003. Computer-Based Testing – Issues and Considerations.

This paper addresses issues and considerations for expanded use of technology in schools emphasizing the benefits that can be derived from using computers to administer both formative and large-scale assessments. The benefits of online assessments versus paper-and-pencil format are outlined: faster score reports; administration efficiencies; greater security; testing is available anytime and anywhere; makes greater use of technology resources in school and today's students are comfortable using computers as tools. In addition, computers have the ability to deliver item types not possible with a paper-and-pencil administration including audio or video items and new types of constructed-response items and scenarios. Negative aspects of online testing were outlined as: local infrastructure to support online testing; scheduling resources for testing; preparing teachers and students to use the testing system; accommodating students with disabilities and security of the system. Until adequate transition can be made from paper-and-pencil assessments to online testing it is necessary that states provide both online and pencil-and-paper testing through the transition. Because the assessments have important consequences for students, it is vital that scores be comparable across students and administrations, no matter how the test is administered.