**From:** Merklein, Trip [CO]   
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2010 11:04 AM  
**Subject:** RE: Tech. Proficiency Assessment

Dear Members,

Many of you have recently received a form letter from our district’s Human Resources department regarding a CDE online technology assessment that is necessary to meet requirements for Title II federal funding of technology. Over the past week I have received a number of inquiries about the timing and implications of this assessment. While I am still not certain why there was such short notice for this request, the SVVSD Human Resources department has been very helpful in providing clarifying information. On the other hand, CDE has yet to respond to an email inquiry I sent over a week ago.

As a result of several communications with Director of Human Resources Ella Padilla, as well as a Q & A forum with Assistant Superintendent of HR David Burnison at Tuesday’s Association Representatives meeting, the nature of this assessment request has become more clear. The FAQs on the CDE web site have also been helpful. <http://www.cde.state.co.us/edtech/PTPSelfAssessmentSystem.htm>

Foremost, **this assessment will not be tied to a teacher’s evaluation** **in any way** (and at this time I have no reason to believe that it ever will be). This expectation has been clearlycommunicated to building administrators and supervisors . This assessment in fact might be more appropriately labeled a survey. A teacher’s *not proficient* score will probably have more to do with access to (or lack of) classroom technology and related professional development, rather than on a teacher’s actual proficient use of technology. Do not be surprised if your receive a  *not proficient* score. That is not cause for individual concern at this time, though it may have implications for future district professional development offerings.

Whether a teacher chooses to not take the assessment this year (in which case they are rated *not proficient*), or chooses to take it and receives a *not proficient* rating, will not factor into any teacher’s evaluation.  Teachers may retake the assessment until rated *proficient*, a rating which is valid for 3 years. Teachers who do not take it this year will be required to take it next year.

Ella Padilla has asked principals to make an effort to provide PLC or staff meeting time to complete this task. The December 1st deadline is most relevant for Special Education teachers (their technology is more closely tied to Title II funds). Otherwise, David Burnison has indicated that completion of the assessment by Winter Break will be sufficient. Obviously, teachers are trusted to use their professional judgment in addressing this short-notice request, realizing that it is a federal bureaucratic hoop to jump through, though one important to the continued funding of some essential District technology.

If you feel that this technology assessment is in any way being used as part of your evaluation, please do not hesitate to call or email your concern.

**HAVE AN ENJOYABLE THANKSGIVING BREAK!**

Trip Merklein

President

St. Vrain Valley Education Association

255 Weaver Park Road, Suite 202

Longmont, CO   80501

(303) 772-3666