

Teacher Hand Scoring System User Guide

2017-2018

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Descriptions of the operation of the Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS), Test Delivery System (TDS), and related systems are property of the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and are used with the permission of AIR.

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Section I. Introduction to the User Guide

This user guide supports Scorers using the Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) to score Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and the Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs) item responses that require human scoring for the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program.




Organization of the User Guide

- [Overview of the Teacher Hand Scoring System](#) provides an overview of THSS.
- [Accessing the Teacher Hand Scoring System](#) explains how to log in to THSS.
- [Using the Teacher Hand Scoring System](#) describes the overall layout of THSS and highlights the important tasks and functions.

Document Conventions

[Table 1 lists](#) typographical conventions and key symbols that appear throughout this document.

Table 1. Key Elements and Descriptions

Element	Description
	Warning: This symbol accompanies important information regarding actions that may cause fatal errors.
	Alert: This symbol accompanies important information regarding a task that may cause minor errors.
	Note: This symbol accompanies additional information or instructions of which users must take note.
Text	Boldface text is used to indicate a link or button that is clickable.
<i>Page</i>	Boldface italics text is used to indicate the name of a system page.

Intended Audience

This user guide is intended for Scorers and Score Managers responsible for scoring or reassigning hand-scored items for students. To use this system, you should be familiar with using a web browser to retrieve data and with filling out web forms.

Additional Resources

For information about supported browsers and operating systems, refer to the [System Requirements for Online Testing](#).

For information about hardware and software requirements, refer to the [Technical Specifications Manual for Online Testing](#).

For information about registering students for assessments and managing user accounts, refer to the *TIDE User Guide*.

For information about administering online tests in the Test Delivery System, refer to the *Test Administrator User Guide*.

For information about viewing reports, refer to the *Online Reporting System User Guide*.

All user guides and related documents for Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program systems are available on the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal (<http://vt.portal.airast.org>).

Section II. Overview of the Teacher Hand Scoring System

The Teacher Hand Scoring System (THSS) allows Scorers to score item responses that require human scoring on both the Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) and the Interim Comprehensive Assessments (ICAs). When students in a test session submit an assessment, the hand-scored items are sent to THSS, where Scorers can view students' responses to each item and enter scores or mark them with condition codes. Once scores are approved, data will be available for viewing in the AIR Ways Reporting System.

THSS User Roles

The following users can access THSS:

- **Scorers:** Scorers can use THSS to score the hand-scored items for any student whose items they are assigned. Items are assigned by default to the Test Administrator for that student's test session. School-level Scorers can reassign items to other Scorers in their school, and district-level Scorers can reassign items to other Scorers in their district.
- **Score Managers:** These users can view a list of items completed by any student associated to their school (if a school-level user) or district (if a district-level user) and reassign them to any Scorers in their school or district (depending on their user level). Score Managers can also view and score item responses that have been reassigned to them.

Section III. Accessing the Teacher Hand Scoring System

This section contains information about how to log in to THSS and how to switch between other Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program systems.

Logging in to THSS

To access THSS, you must have an authorized username and password.

To log in to THSS:

1. Navigate to the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program Portal (<http://vt.portal.airast.org>).
2. Click the **Test Administration** program card (see [Figure 1](#)).
3. Click the **Teacher Hand Scoring System** card (see [Figure 2](#)).
4. The secure login page appears (see [Figure 3](#)). Enter your email address and password used to access all Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program online systems in the respective fields.
5. Click **Secure Login**. The *Response List* page appears (see [Figure 5](#)).

Figure 1. Test Administration Program Card



Figure 2. THSS Card

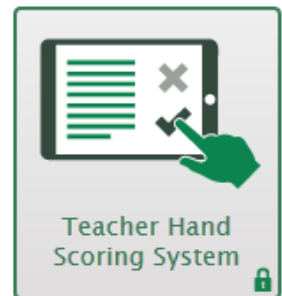




Figure 3. Secure Login Page

Login

 Email Address

 Password

[Forgot Your Password?](#)

Secure Login

First Time Login This School Year?

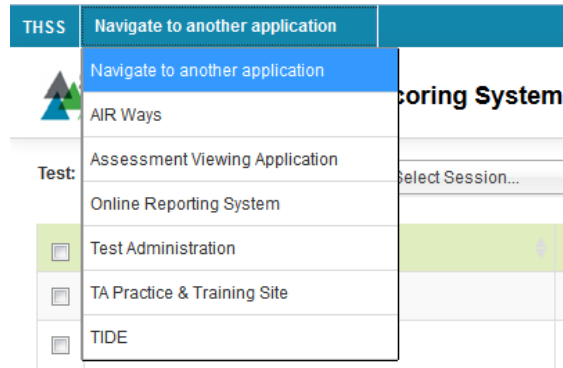
The password you used during the previous school year has expired.

[Request a new one for this school year.](#)

Switching Between Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program Online Systems

All Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program secure online systems, including THSS, use an integrated Single Sign-On system that allows users to log in once and access all available applications. Access to all systems and their tasks and features is dependent on your user role.

Figure 4. Single Sign-On Drop-Down Menu



The upper-left corner of your browser displays a drop-down list that displays the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program applications you can access (see [Figure 4](#)). From the drop-down list, select the application you want to switch to. The main page for that application appears and you do not have to log in again.



Warning: If you are using the TA Interface or TA Practice and Training Site and you navigate away from it, your session stops and all students in the session are logged out. You cannot resume your session. You must create a new session, and your students must log in again to resume testing. Refer to the *Test Administrator User Guide* for more information.

Section IV. Using the Teacher Hand Scoring System

This section explains how to use THSS to enter scores for responses, mark responses as complete, and reassign responses to other Scorers.

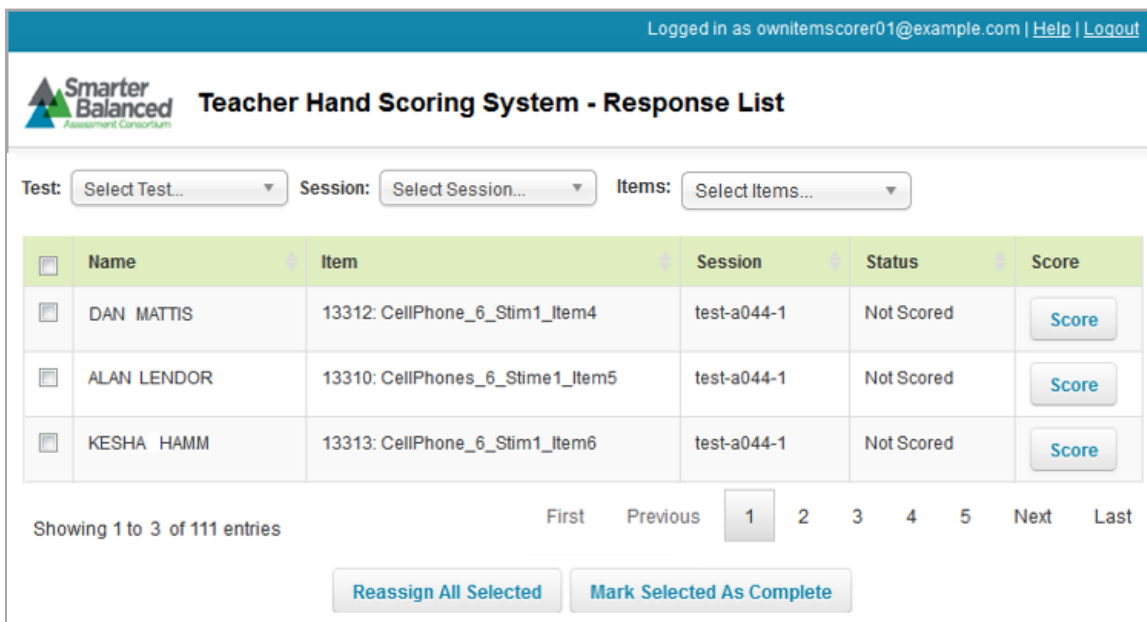
Overview of the Response List Page

After you log in, the **Response List** page appears (see [Figure 5](#)). The table on this page populates with the responses assigned to you to score. You can use the navigation links in the bottom-right corner to view all the responses in the list.



If you are a Score Manager, this table displays the hand-scored responses for all the students in your associated school or district, depending on your user level.

Figure 5. Response List Page



[Table 2](#) describes the columns in the **Response List** table.

Table 2. Response List Table Columns

Column	Description
Student Name	Name of the student.
Item	Name of the hand-scored item.
Session	ID of the session in which the student completed the test containing this response.

Column	Description
Status	<p>“Not Scored” indicates the response still needs to be scored.</p> <p>“Tentatively Scored” indicates the response was scored but still needs to be marked as complete by the Scorer.</p>
Assigned To*	The Scorer to whom the response is currently assigned.
Score	Click the button in this column to enter a score for the response .If you are a Score Manager, you can only enter scores for responses that are assigned to you.

*This column only appears in the **Response List** table for Score Managers.

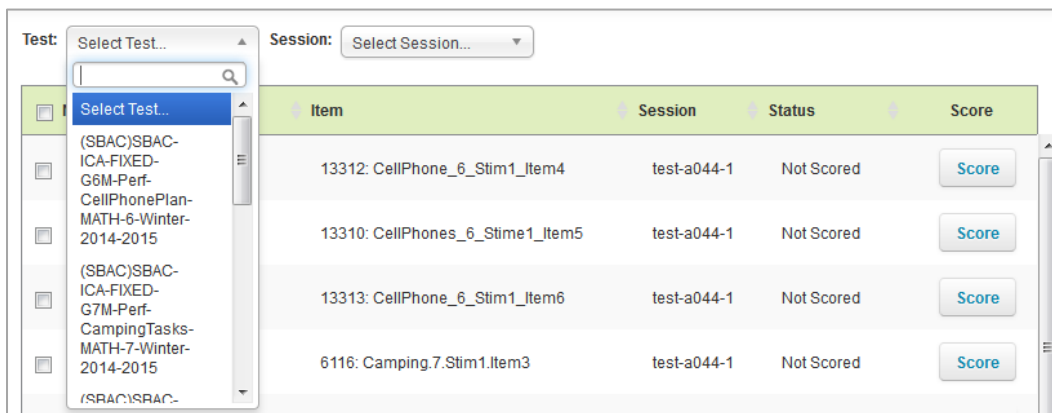
Filtering the Response List Table

You can use the drop-down lists on the **Response List** page to filter the responses that appear in the table. Scorers can filter the table by test and session. Score Managers can filter the table by test, session, grade, subject, and/or assigned Scorer.

To filter the list of items:

1. Open a drop-down list above the **Response List** table (see [Figure 6](#)).

Figure 6. Test Filter



2. If you see the option you wish to select, click it. Otherwise, enter the desired option in the search bar. The table updates to show only responses associated with the selected option.
3. To apply additional filters, repeat steps 1–2 with a different drop-down list.

Sorting the Response List Table

You can sort the **Response List** table by student name, item, Session ID, or response status.



Score Managers can also sort the **Response List** table by the assigned Scorer.

To sort the table by one of these columns:

1. Click a column header. The table lists the responses by that column in ascending order.
 - a. To sort the responses in descending order, click the column header again.

Scoring Responses

When scoring responses, you can either assign a score to the response or mark it with a condition code. Condition codes are used for any item you cannot score due to the nature of the student's response. If a single item consists of multiple scoring criteria, you should enter a score or condition code for each criterion. For a description of the available condition codes, see [Condition Codes](#). For more information about how to score responses and use condition codes, refer to the *Smarter Balanced Hand Scoring Rules* document.



In order to score student responses, Score Managers must first reassign the responses to themselves. For more information on reassigning responses, see the section [Reassigning Responses](#).

Entering Scores for Responses

This section explains how to enter scores and condition codes for responses.

To score responses:


1. In the Score column of the **Response List** table, click **Score** for a response. The **Score Response** page appears, displaying the item rubric, student response, and scoring fields.
2. To review the rubric, click  in the *Rubric* section. To view examples of scored anchor responses, click [Exemplar](#).
3. In the *Response* section, review the item stem and the student's response.

Figure 7. Response Section

4. In the *Scoring* section, do one of the following:
 - a. To enter a score for the response, use the drop-down list in the **Score** column to select a numerical score. The score cannot exceed the value in the **Points** column.
 - b. To assign a condition code to the response, select the appropriate option from the drop-down list in the **Condition Code** column.

Figure 8. Scoring Section

Scoring Criteria	Points	Score	Condition Code
Correct Answer	2	2	Not Applicable

[Submit Score](#)
[<< Back to Response List](#)
[<< Previous Response](#)
[Next Response >>](#)



To view a guide for scoring the student response, click [Training Guides](#) in the **Rubric** section banner.

5. If the item consists of multiple scoring criteria, repeat step [4](#) for each criterion.
6. When you finish entering scores for the response, click **Submit Score** at the bottom of the page.

- To navigate to the **Score Item** page for a different item, click **Previous Response** or **Next Response** at the top or bottom of the page (the order of responses is determined by the selected sorting on the **Response List** table). To return to the **Response List** page, click **Back to Response List**. The item's Status column now displays **Tentatively Scored**.

About Machine-Scored Responses

The Test Delivery System (TDS) automatically suggests scores for student responses on the full write of the ELA Performance Tasks. These responses display "**Tentatively Scored**" in the **Response List** table when they arrive in THSS, and the suggested scores in the **Score** and **Condition Code** drop-down lists on the **Score Item** page display (Machine Score) next to the suggested score (see [Figure 9](#)).

Figure 9. Machine-Scored Responses

Scoring Criteria	Points	Score	Condition Code
Organization/Purpose	4	3 (Machine Score)	Not Applicable
Evidence/Elaboration	4	1 (Machine Score)	Not Applicable
Conventions	2	2 (Machine Score)	Not Applicable

You can review the suggested scores and condition codes assigned by the scoring machine and change them, if necessary.



Alert: If you remove the suggested machine score for a response without entering a replacement value, the score for the response will revert to the suggested machine score when you submit it.

Completing Item Responses

After entering scores or selecting condition codes for responses, you should mark the responses as complete to finish the process.

To mark responses as complete:

- On the **Response List** table (see [Figure 5](#)), mark the checkbox for any responses you have finished scoring.
- Click **Mark Selected As Complete** at the bottom of the page.
- In the window that pops up, click **Mark Selected as Complete**. Once you mark a response complete, it is submitted and can no longer be edited or viewed in THSS.

Reassigning Responses

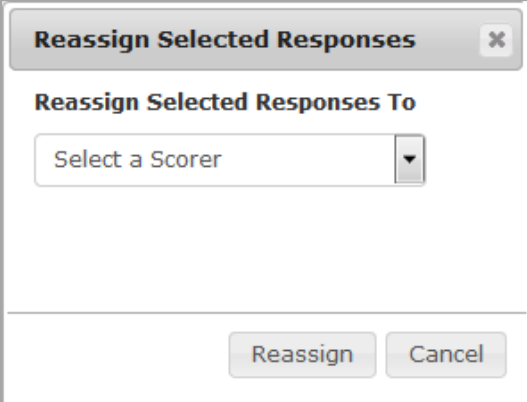
THSS automatically assigns a response to be scored to the Test Administrator for the session in which the student tested. If a student started a test in one session, and completed it in another, the response will appear only to the Test Administrator who proctored the session in which the student completed the test.

You can reassign responses to other Scorers in your school. Those users associated with a district can reassign a response to anyone within their district.

To reassign responses:

1. On the **Response List** table (see [Figure 5](#)) mark the checkbox for any items you wish to reassign.
2. Click **Reassign All Selected** at the bottom of the **Response List** page. A window pops up.
3. In the pop-up window, select a Scorer from the drop-down list. Only users associated with your school or district appear.
4. Click **Reassign**. The selected responses are reassigned to the selected Scorer. They no longer appear on your **Response List** table. You will no longer be able to access this response.

Figure 10. Reassign Selected Students Window



The image shows a dialog box titled "Reassign Selected Responses" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title bar, the text "Reassign Selected Responses To" is displayed. Underneath this text is a dropdown menu with the text "Select a Scorer" and a downward-pointing arrow. At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: "Reassign" and "Cancel".

Appendix A. Condition Codes

The condition codes listed in [Table 3](#) may be applied to a student response. For more information about how to score responses and use condition codes, refer to the *Smarter Balanced Hand Scoring Rules* document.

Table 3. Response List Table Columns

Condition Code	Description
Blank	Student did not enter a response.
Insufficient	<p>a. Student has not provided a meaningful response. Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Random keystrokes ○ Undecipherable text ○ “I hate this test” ○ “I like pizza!” (in response to a reading passage about helicopters) ○ Response consists entirely of profanity <p>b. For ELA Full Writes, use the “Insufficient” code for responses described above and also if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student’s original work is insufficient to make a determination whether he or she is able to organize, cite evidence/elaborate, and use conventions as defined in the rubrics; or ○ Response is too brief to make a determination regarding whether it is on purpose or on topic.
Non-Scorable Language	<p>a. ELA/literacy: Language other than English</p> <p>b. Mathematics: Language other than English or Spanish</p>
Off Topic	<p>For ELA Full Writes Only:</p> <p>A writing sample will be judged off topic when the response is unrelated to the task or the sources, or shows no evidence that the student has read the task or the sources (especially for informational/explanatory and opinion/argumentative).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-topic responses are generally substantial responses.
Off Purpose	<p>For ELA Full Writes Only:</p> <p>A writing sample will be judged off purpose when the student has clearly not written to the purpose designated in the task.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An off-purpose response addresses the topic of the task but not the purpose of the task. • Note that students may use narrative techniques in an explanatory essay or use argumentative/persuasive techniques to explain, for example, and still be on purpose. • Off-purpose responses are generally developed responses (essays, poems, etc.) clearly not written to the designated purpose.

Appendix B. User Support

If this document does not answer your questions, please contact the Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program Help Desk.

The Help Desk will be open Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ET during the summative testing window and Monday–Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET outside of the summative testing window (except holidays).

**Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program
Help Desk**

Toll-Free Phone Support: 1-844-218-1184

Email Support: vthelpdesk@air.org

If you contact the Help Desk, you will be asked to provide as much detail as possible about the issues you encountered.

Include the following information:

- Scorer name and IT/network contact person and contact information
- Results ID for the affected student tests
- Operating system and browser version information
- Any error messages and codes that appeared, if applicable
- Information about your network configuration:
 - Secure browser installation (to individual machines or network)
 - Wired or wireless Internet network setup

Appendix C. Change Log

Change	Section	Date
Updated erroneous help desk information.	Appendix B	10/23/2017