ASBO International

Certified Administrator of School Finance and Operations (SFO)

Beta Test Demographics

Fall 2010

Beta Test Participation

ASBO International conducted an open call for beta test candidates to the SFO program. There was a strong initial interest in participating, with more than 300 program inquiries. Beta test participants were offered a waiver of the initial application fee ($150 for ASBO members/$225 for non-members) and a reduction in exam retake fees ($75 for each exam). Candidates were responsible for paying for the exam fees ($195 for *Part 1: Accounting* and $295 for *Part 2: School Business Management*). Beta test participants were required to sit for the exam between August 9 and October 22, 2010.

There were 135 candidates who took the *Part 1: Accounting* exam and 121 candidates who took the *Part 2: School Business Management* exam. Of the 121 eligible candidates for the SFO certification, 100 are certified. The Certification Commission will publish exam passing rates each year, beginning in 2012.

Geographic Representation

There was a fairly diverse geographic representation in the beta test group across the United States; a couple of Canadian provinces were represented. There are varying degrees of job requirements for the position of school business official. In comparing the geographic distribution with these requirements, the beta test represents a good cross-section of each level of job requirement. The categories of requirements include requirements for the job, voluntary programs, and no requirements for the job. These categories are explained in further detail in ASBO International's "State of State Certification for School Business Professionals" found on ASBO's Website, www.asbointl.org

Representation of States/Provinces in Beta Test	**Exam Part 1**	**Exam Part 2**
	40 States	35 States
	2 Provinces	2 Provinces

Representation by Job Requirements in Beta Test	Exam Part 1	Exam Part 2
States/Provinces with Requirements	14	14
States/Provinces with Voluntary Programs	14	12
States/Provinces with No Requirements	14	11

Personal Demographics

The beta test group personal demographics are similar to the demographics of the profession as captured in the 2009 Job Task Analysis report and in ASBO membership surveys. The only area in which there was a significant difference was in the gender. Most ASBO members are male, yet most of the beta testers were female.

Beta Test Gender Representation

	Exam Part 1	Exam Part 2
Male	41%	43%
Female	59%	57%

Ninety-seven percent of the beta test group members who took the Part 2 exam are practicing school business officials; almost 60% of the professionals hold a master's degree and 36% hold a bachelor's degree.

Practicing School Business Officials (Part 2 exam only)

Current School Business Official	97%

Not a Current School Business Official	3%

Highest Degree Earned (Part 2 exam only)

High School Diploma	0%
Bachelor's Degree	36%
Master's Degree	60%
Doctoral Degree	4%

Professional Experience

The beta test participants who took the Part 2 exam on average have 9–13 years of experience in each of the program eligibility requirements for professional experience. The breakdown of this experience by domain area is presented below.

Area of Experience	Avg. Years
Overall responsibility for managing school accounting systems	13
Overall responsibility for managing school accounting functions	12
Overall responsibility for conducting school financial planning and analysis	13
Overall responsibility for conducting school budgeting and reporting activities	13
Administrative experience in school risk management activities	11
Administrative experience in school facilities	9
Administrative experience in school information systems	10
Administrative experience in school human resource functions	10

Administrative experience in managing school ancillary services (i.e., transportation services, food service programs, purchasing process, and/or other service programs)	10

School District Demographics

ASBO also collected information about the school districts in which the beta test candidates are employed. The data is provided for each Part 1 and Part 2 exam. About 40% are employed in districts with total revenues of more than $50 million.

Total Revenues	Part 1	Part 2
Less than $5 M	4%	3%
Between $5 and $10 M	6%	7%
Between $10 and $20 M	19%	17%
Between $20 and $50 M	27%	29%
More than $50 M	40%	41%
N/A	4%	3%

The student counts varied across the beta test group, with about a third of the participants in schools with fewer than 2,000 students, a third in schools with between 2,000 and 5,000 students, and a quarter in schools with more than 10,000 students.

Number of Students	Part 1	Part 2
Less than 2,000	30%	30%
Between 2,000 and 5,000	31%	31%
Between 5,000 and 10,000	9%	9%
More than 10,000	25%	26%
N/A	4%	3%

Almost the entire beta test group is employed in public K–12 schools, with some representation in the other school types identified.

School Type	Part 1	Part 2
Public K–12	89%	90%
Private K–12	0%	0%

Charter School	1%	2%
Parochial K–12	0%	0%
Technical	1%	2%
Other	4%	4%
N/A	4%	2%