FACTS AT A GLANCE FOR K-12 EDUCATORS

ABOUT PARCC

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states committed to building a next-generation assessment system for kindergarten through high school based upon the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy.

The Common Core State Standards were developed through an initiative led by the National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers.

- Of the 48 states and D.C. who signed a Memorandum of Agreement in support of the standards, 45 and Washington D.C. have since adopted the CCSS as their K-12 state standards in math and English.
- Teachers and subject matter content experts, along with their counter parts from higher education, were involved in developing the CCSS as members of the writing and review teams. Educators were also an integral part of state feedback teams.
- During the CCSS development process there were also two rounds of public comments solicited over the course of a year in which over 10,000 stakeholders, many of whom were educators, provided feedback, before the final standards were validated by an expert committee and released in June 2010.

The PARCC vision is to build a K-12 assessment system that:

- Builds a pathway to college and career readiness for ***all*** students,
- Creates high quality assessments that measure the full range of the Common Core State Standards,
- Supports educators in the classroom,
- Makes better use of technology in assessments, and
- Advances accountability at all levels.

The new assessments will be ready for field testing in 2012-2013 and for full statewide administration in the 2014-2015 school year.

BENEFITS OF PARCC TO K-12 EDUCATORS

The PARCC assessment system will:

- Determine whether students are college- and career-ready or on track
- Assess the full range of the Common Core Standards, including standards that are difficult to measure
- Measure the full range of student performance, including the performance high and low performing students
- Provide data during the academic year to inform instruction, interventions and professional development
- Provide data for accountability, including measures of growth
- Incorporate innovative approaches throughout the system

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DESIGN OF PARCC SYSTEM

PARCC will develop an assessment system comprised of four components. Each component will computer-delivered and will leverage technology to incorporate innovations.

- Two summative, required assessment components, given towards the end of the year, designed to:
  - Make "college- and career-readiness" and "on-track" determinations,
  - Measure the full range of standards and full performance continuum, and
  - Provide data for accountability uses, including measures of growth.
- Two non-summative, optional assessment components, given in the first half of the year, designed to:
  - Generate timely information for informing instruction, interventions, and professional development during the school year.
- There will also be an additional third non-summative component will assess students' speaking and listening skills.

K-12 EDUCATORS' ROLE IN PARCC

PARCC is engaging with educators throughout the entire development and implementation process to ensure the assessment system reflects best practices and meets the needs of teachers, and to ensure educators have ongoing opportunities to give feedback on and understand the Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments before they are fully implemented.

- PARCC has and will continue to encourage and solicit feedback from a broad group of educators across the PARCC states to provide feedback on instructional resources – such as the model content frameworks, model instructional tools, and sample assessment tasks – on a regular basis to ensure they reflect their needs and to give as many educators as possible the opportunity to see into the PARCC design and development process.
- Over time, PARCC will continue to actively engage educators for feedback and review as the states in the Partnership develop other resources for educators – e.g. professional development modules, reporting systems – to ensure educators remain closely involved and well prepared for the new standards and assessments by 2014-15.
- Each year, PARCC is hosting regional convenings of cohorts of K-12 educators from across the PARCC states at least once. At these convenings, the K-12 educators will be have the opportunity to learn about PARCC up close and personal, test the instructional tools described above, get the information they need to educate their peers on PARCC and its related resources. While the state cohorts will start relatively small, it is the goal to continuously expand each state team over time.
- As development work gets underway, PARCC will engage a variety of educators and other experts from PARCC states to provide guidance during item development and review by serving on committees covering topics such as test item review, bias and sensitivity, accessibility and accommodations, and the review of passages and media.