



The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers



A Strong Foundation: The Common Core State Standards

- Nearly every state in the nation is working individually and collectively to improve its academic standards and assessments to ensure students graduate with the knowledge and skills most demanded by college and careers
- The Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics were created by educators around the nation



Key Advances of the Common Core

MATHEMATICS

Focus, coherence and clarity: emphasis on key topics at each grade level and coherent progression across grades

Procedural fluency and understanding of concepts and skills

Promote rigor through mathematical proficiencies that foster reasoning and understanding across discipline

High school standards organized by conceptual categories

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

Balance of literature and informational texts; focus on text complexity

Emphasis on argument, informative/explanatory writing, and research

Speaking and listening skills

Literacy standards for history, science and technical subjects

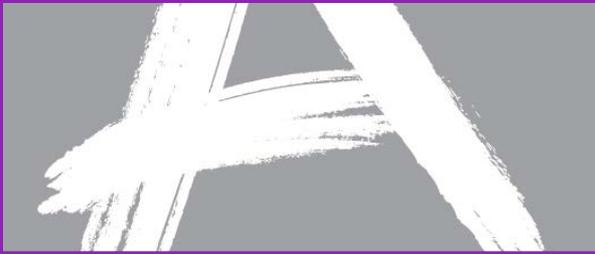


ANCHORED IN COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



What's Next? Common Assessments

- **Common Core State Standards** are critical, but just the first step
- **Common assessments** aligned to the Common Core will help ensure the new standards truly reach every classroom



K-12 and Postsecondary Roles in PARCC

K-12 Educators & Education Leaders

- Educators will be involved throughout the development of the PARCC assessments and related instructional and reporting tools to help ensure the system provides the information and resources educators most need

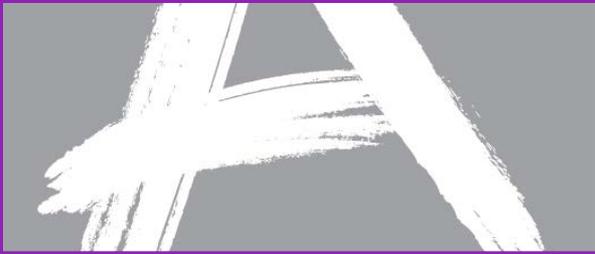
Postsecondary Faculty & Leaders

- More than 200 institutions and systems covering hundreds of campuses across PARCC states have committed to help develop the high school assessments and set the college-ready cut score that they will then use to place incoming freshmen



The PARCC Goals

1. Create high-quality assessments
2. Build a pathway to college and career readiness for *all* students
3. Support educators in the classroom
4. Develop 21st century, technology-based assessments
5. Advance accountability at all levels



Goal #1: Create High Quality Assessments

Priority Purposes of PARCC Assessments:

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



Goal #1: Create High Quality Assessments

- To address these priority purposes, PARCC will develop an assessment system comprised of **four components**. Each component will be computer-delivered and will leverage technology to incorporate innovations.
 - Two ***summative assessment components*** designed to
 - Make “college- and career-readiness” and “on-track” determinations
 - Measure the full range of standards and full performance continuum
 - Provide data for accountability uses, including measures of growth
 - Two ***formative assessment components*** designed to
 - Generate *timely* information for informing instruction, interventions, and professional development during the school year
 - In ELA/literacy, an additional *third* formative component will assess students’ speaking and listening skills



Goal #1: Create High Quality Assessments

- **Summative Assessment Components:**
 - **Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)** administered as close to the end of the school year as possible. The ELA/literacy PBA will focus on writing effectively when analyzing text. The mathematics PBA will focus on applying skills, concepts, and understandings to solve multi-step problems requiring abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools
 - **End-of-Year Assessment (EOY)** administered after approx. 90% of the school year. The ELA/literacy EOY will focus on reading comprehension. The math EOY will be comprised of innovative, machine-scorable items
- **Formative Assessment Components:**
 - **Early Assessment** designed to be an indicator of student knowledge and skills so that instruction, supports and professional development can be tailored to meet student needs
 - **Mid-Year Assessment** comprised of performance-based items and tasks, with an emphasis on hard-to-measure standards. After study, individual states may consider including as a summative component



Goal #1: Create High Quality Assessments

The PARCC assessments will allow us to make important claims about students' knowledge and skills.

- In English Language Arts/Literacy, whether students:
 - Can Read and Comprehend Complex Literary and Informational Text
 - Can Write Effectively When Analyzing Text
 - Have attained overall proficiency in ELA/literacy
- In Mathematics, whether students:
 - Have mastered knowledge and skills in highlighted domains (e.g. domain of highest importance for a particular grade level – number/fractions in grade 4; proportional reasoning and ratios in grade 6)
 - Have attained overall proficiency in mathematics

Goal #1: Create High-Quality Assessments

BEGINNING OF YEAR

END OF YEAR

Flexible



Early Assessment

- Early indicator of student knowledge and skills to inform instruction, supports, and PD



Mid-Year Assessment

- Performance-based
- Emphasis on hard to measure standards
- Potentially summative



Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)

- Extended tasks
- Applications of concepts and skills



End-of-Year Assessment

- Innovative, computer-based items



ELA/Literacy

- Speaking
- Listening



Summative assessment for accountability



Formative assessment

Goal #2: Build a Pathway to College and Career Readiness for All Students

K-2 formative assessment being developed, aligned to the PARCC system

Timely student achievement data showing students, parents and educators whether ALL students are on-track to college and career readiness

College readiness score to identify who is ready for college-level coursework

Targeted interventions & supports:

- 12th-grade bridge courses
- PD for educators

K-2

3-8

High School

SUCCESS IN FIRST-YEAR, CREDIT-BEARING, POSTSECONDARY COURSEWORK

ONGOING STUDENT SUPPORTS/INTERVENTIONS



Goal #3: Support Educators in the Classroom

**INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS TO
SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MODULES**

K-12 Educator

**TIMELY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
DATA**

**EDUCATOR-LED TRAINING TO SUPPORT
“PEER-TO-PEER” TRAINING**



Goal #4: Develop 21st Century, Technology-Based Assessments

PARCC's assessment will be computer-based and leverage technology in a range of ways to:

- Item Development
 - Develop innovative tasks that engage students in the assessment process
- Administration
 - Reduce paperwork, increase security, reduce shipping/receiving & storage
 - Increase access to and provision of accommodations for SWDs and ELLs
- Scoring
 - Make scoring more efficient by combining human and automated approaches
- Reporting
 - Produce *timely* reports of students performance throughout the year to inform instructional, interventions, and professional development

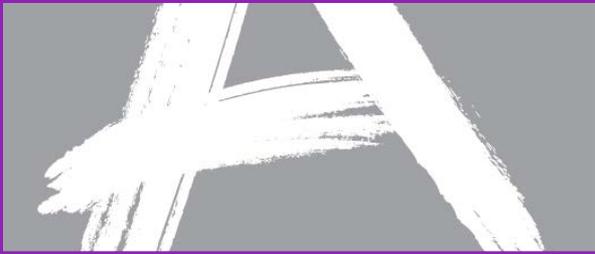


Goal #4: Develop 21st Century, Technology-Based Assessments

- PARCC assessments will be purposefully designed to generate **valid, reliable and timely** data, including measures of **growth**, for various accountability uses including:
 - School and district effectiveness
 - Educator effectiveness
 - Student placement into college-credit bearing courses
 - Comparisons with other state and international benchmarks
- PARCC assessments will be designed for other accountability uses as states deem appropriate



Implementation and Instructional Support & Next Steps

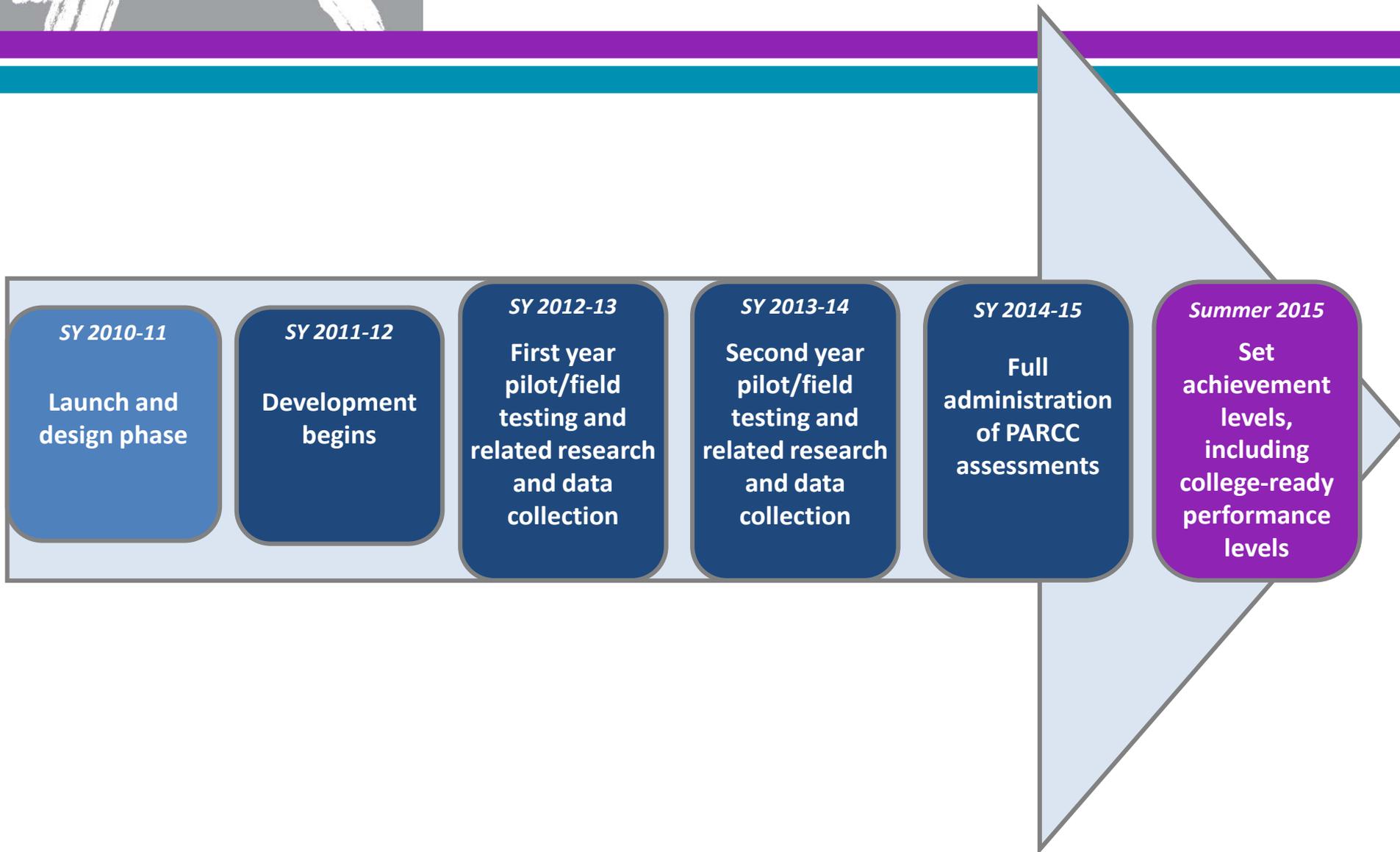


PARCC's Implementation Support & Stakeholder Engagement

To support state efforts to **implement and transition** to the Common Core and next generation assessments, PARCC will facilitate:

- *Strategic planning and collective problem solving* for the implementation of CCSS and PARCC assessments
- Collaborative efforts to develop the highest priority *instructional and support tools*
- Multi-state support to build *leadership cadres of educators*
- Multi-state support to engage the *postsecondary community* around the design and use of the assessments

PARCC Timeline





Key Challenges for PARCC

Technical Challenges

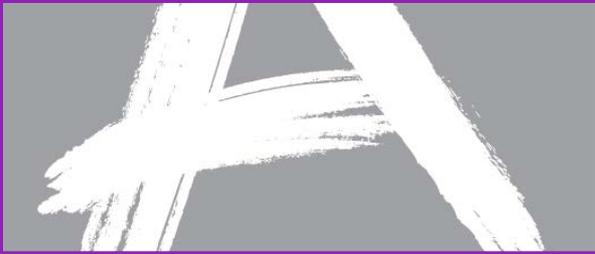
- Developing an interoperable technology platform
- Transitioning to a computer-based assessment system
- Developing and implementing automated scoring systems and processes
- Identifying effective, innovative item types

Implementation Challenges

- Estimating costs over time, including long-term budgetary planning
- Transitioning to the new assessments at the classroom level
- Ensuring long-term sustainability

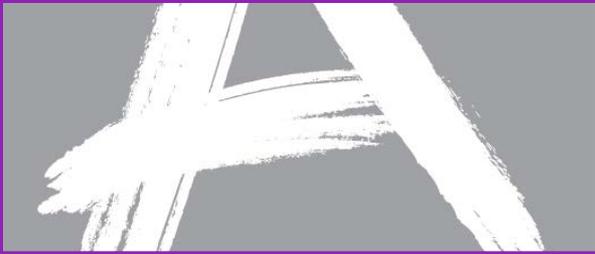
Policy Challenges

- Student supports and interventions
- Accountability
- High school course requirements
- College admissions/ placement
- Perceptions about what these assessments can do



PARCC Highlights: The Work is Underway

- Governing Board meetings where major decisions have been made around assessment design, procurement schedule, committee structure and by-laws
- Consortium-wide and in-state meetings, including first Transition & Implementation Institute, attended by 200 state and district leaders from 22 states
- Release of final by-laws, draft content frameworks and launch of PARCC website (www.parcconline.org)
- Direct engagement with over 1,000 educators, K-12 and postsecondary leaders and state and local officials



The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

www.PARCConline.org