

# Introduction to PARCC: The next generation assessment

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
EDUCATION



# AGENDA

- 1. PARCC defined**
- 2. Understanding PARCC: Samples of MCAS and PARCC items**
- 3. This year's field test (plans, exemptions, accountability)**
- 4. Review of MCAS to PARCC transition plan**
- 5. Technology readiness**
- 6. Engagement with educators and the public**
- 7. Graduation requirements**



# PARCC

***“The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers represents a fundamental shift in how we think about student testing, state-to-state. PARCC is based on the belief that standardized tests should not be about penalizing educators, students and schools. Instead, tests should be tools to help improve teaching and learning. The PARCC assessments are carefully crafted to give teachers, students, schools, and parents better information on how we’re preparing our kids for careers and college — and life.”***

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



# What Is PARCC?

## The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

- 1. Made up of 18 states (plus Washington, DC and US Virgin Islands), chaired by Commissioner Chester**
- 2. Developing common, high-quality English language arts and Literacy (ELA) and mathematics tests for grades 3–11**
  - a) Computer-based and linked to what students need to know for college and careers**
  - b) For use starting in the 2014–15 school year**
- 3. Includes two summative assessment components:**
  - a) Performance Based Assessment (PBA)**

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



# PARCC in Massachusetts

## 2010 Memorandum of Agreement

(Signed by Governor Patrick, Secretary Reville, and Commissioner Chester)

- ★ Massachusetts signs memorandum of agreement (MOA) making a commitment to adopt PARCC assessments “...*provided they are at least as comprehensive and rigorous as our current MCAS assessments, if not more so.*”
- ★ Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will make this determination



# Why Do We Need A New Assessment?

- 1. The MA 2011 ELA & Math Standards incorporate the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**
- 2. The new standards include *significant changes and shifts* from the prior standards**
- 3. MA must implement an assessment aligned to the new standards**
  - ★ MCAS would require significant changes to be fully aligned with the 2011 standards**



# Why Do We Need a New Assessment?

- 1. Every student deserves an education that prepares him/her to be *college and career* ready.**
- 2. Massachusetts has had among the highest standards and best assessments in the nation; however, MCAS was not originally designed to measure *college and career readiness*.**
- 3. Our 2011 ELA and mathematics curriculum frameworks demand strong reading, writing, critical thinking, and analytical skills, which the PARCC assessment will measure.**
- 4. Our next generation assessments will help spur better classroom instruction, which will provide students with the skills and knowledge all of our students need to be successful.**



# Why PARCC?

- 1. The PARCC consortium received \$186M to design a new assessment system**
  - a) Significant cost and quality benefits!**
- 2. Massachusetts has played and continues to play key leadership and “hands on” roles in the design and development of the PARCC assessments**
- 3. All indications to date are that PARCC will provide a more robust assessment system than MCAS**



# PARCC: A More Comprehensive Assessment System!

- ★ **More comprehensive system to assess what students know and are able to do:**
  - ★ **Performance based assessments**
  - ★ **Technology enhanced items**
- ★ **Answers about how well students are doing when teachers need this information and can do something about it!**



# ΠΑΡΧΧ Ασσεσμεντ Δεσιγν: Εγγλιση Λανγουαγε Αρτσ/Λιτεραχη ανδ Μαθηματιχησ, Γραδεσ 3-11

BEGINNING  
OF YEAR

END  
OF YEAR

## 2 Optional Assessments/Flexible Administration

### Diagnostic 2-8 / K-1 Formative Assessments

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

### Mid-Year Assessment

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

### Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)

- Extended tasks
- Applications of concepts and skills
- Required

### End-of-Year Assessment (EOY)

- Innovative, computer-based items
- Required

**Speaking & Listening (required non-summative assessment)**

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# PARCC

## Sample MCAS and PARCC Items



# PARCC vs. MCAS

## Assessment of Writing

**PARCC will assess *writing in every grade* (3-11) with students assessed on three kinds of writing:**

- 1. Literary Analysis**
- 2. Narrative Writing**
- 3. Research**

**MCAS assesses writing in *just three grades* (4, 7, and 10.)**



# How PARCC will Assess Grade 7 Analytic Writing *(sample released item)*

**You have read three texts describing Amelia Earhart. All three include the claim that Earhart was a brave, courageous person.**

- **“Biography of Amelia Earhart”**
- **“Earhart’s Final Resting Place Found”**
- **“Amelia Earhart’s Life and Disappearance”**

**Consider the argument each author uses to demonstrate Earhart’s bravery.**

**Write an essay that analyzes the strength of the arguments about Earhart’s bravery in at least two of the texts. Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.**





**Field Test  
2013-2014**



# Why Are We Doing a Field Test in the Spring 2014?

- 1. Field testing is about students evaluating the assessment, not about the assessment evaluating the students.**
- 2. Spring 2014 is *the only PARCC field test* and the one chance Massachusetts will have to influence the items for the final test.**
- 3. The primary purposes of the PARCC Field Test are to:**
  - a) Examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-15 school year;**
  - b) Pilot assessment administration procedures; and**
  - c) Give schools and districts the opportunity to**



# PARCC Field Test Sample

## 1. National Sample Size:

- a) Over 1.2 million students are needed to participate in the Field Test to evaluate the quality of items for PARCC's operational assessments in 2014-2015

## 2. Massachusetts Sample:

- a) Approximately 350 districts
- b) Over 1,100 schools
- c) Roughly 75,000 students in grades 3–11
- d) Nearly 700 schools will administer computer-based tests, and close to 400 schools will administer paper and pencil tests



# Putting PARCC to the Test!

- 1. We will use the results of the field test to evaluate the rigor of PARCC items in Fall 2014**
- 2. We, and many other organizations, are conducting independent reviews to evaluate PARCC's readiness to deliver a quality assessment**
- 3. We will analyze the results of 2014/15 test results and the summer 2015 standard setting to inform the Board's decision to adopt PARCC in Fall 2015**



# Accommodations & Accessibility

- 1. Most Massachusetts accommodations have been adopted by PARCC**
- 2. Many accommodations that have been manually implemented based upon an IEP for MCAS will be built into the computer-based PARCC tests and will be available to *all* students**
- 3. Other accommodations will be available only to students with disabilities and English Language learners**
- 4. APIP a new way of attaching accommodations to each test item, will activate accommodations for individual students, depending on their disability, ELL status and**



# MCAS Testing Exemptions

- 1. In order to avoid “double-testing,” the Commissioner has extended the option to superintendents to exempt certain classes that participate in the PARCC Field Test from the 2014 MCAS testing requirement**
- 2. No school’s achievement scores will be disadvantaged because it participated in the field test**



# Maintaining Trends for Accountability

**Goal:** Maintain trends as we move from MCAS to PARCC while ensuring schools are not disadvantaged by field test participation

## **Current Plan:**

- 1.** Issue accountability determinations for all schools with sufficient data
- 2.** For districts that choose to exempt students in grades 3-8 participating in PBA component of field test from MCAS tests in same subject area:
  - a)** Calculate annual PPI *including* field-tested grades.
  - b)** Calculate annual PPI *excluding* field-tested grades.
  - c)** Districts will receive the higher of the two performance measures



**PARCC**

**MCAS to PARCC  
Transition Plan**



# Statutory Responsibilities of the Board of Elementary & Secondary Education

- **Set state standards for:**
  - **student academic performance**
  - **standards for high school graduation**
- **Adopt system for assessing:**
  - **student performance**
  - **school and district performance**

**(M.G.L. c. 69, s. 1D; M.G.L. c. 69, s. 1I)**



# **MCAS to PARCC Transition Plan**

## **2013-2014 School Year**

**November 19,  
2013**

**Board of Elementary and  
Secondary Education votes on  
plan for two-year “test drive” of  
the PARCC assessment**

**Spring 2014**

**PARCC field test administered in  
randomly selected Massachusetts  
schools/classrooms**



# MCAS to PARCC Transition Plan

## 2014-2015 School Year

**Early fall  
2014**

**Analysis of PARCC field-test data**

**Late fall  
2014**

**Board receives update on PARCC field test and operational test that includes an assessment of whether PARCC is on track to be better than MCAS**

**Winter/  
spring  
2014–2015**

**Massachusetts schools administer first operational PARCC or MCAS assessments in grades 3-8; all grade 10 students will continue to take MCAS in order to qualify for the Competency Determination**



# MCAS to PARCC Transition Plan

## 2015-2016 School Year

**Summer/  
early fall  
2015**

**Standard-setting for PARCC tests;  
analysis of operational data**

**Late fall  
2015**

**Board of Elementary and Secondary  
Education determines whether or not  
PARCC is better than MCAS, and votes  
on whether or not to adopt PARCC**

**Spring 2016**

**Administration of PARCC operational  
tests for grades 3-8; grade 10 students  
will continue to take MCAS to qualify  
for the Competency Determination**



# The PARCC Decision

- 1. Rigor:** ESE will use the results of the field test to evaluate the rigor of PARCC items in Fall 2014
- 2. Quality:** ESE and other organizations are conducting comprehensive, independent reviews to evaluate PARCC's readiness to deliver a quality assessment
- 3. Opportunity:** ESE will evaluate PARCC's capacity to assess standards and measure skills and abilities we cannot assess with MCAS



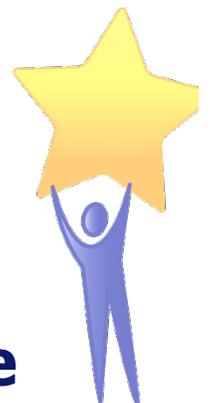
PARCC

# Technology Readiness



# Technology Questions

- 1. Will districts be able to access the test across multiple technology platforms?**
  - a) PARCC has adopted minimum requirements that are close to being “device agnostic” ([www.parcconline.org/field-test-technology](http://www.parcconline.org/field-test-technology))**
- 2. How long will there be a paper/pencil option?**
  - a) At least through 2015-2016, and possibly beyond**
- 3. What if we don't have the technology or bandwidth?**
  - a) FCC is committed to expanded e-rate infrastructure options**
  - b) ESE working with the Administration and the**



# Technology Readiness Supports

## 1. PARCC

- a) Training: regional workshops and on-demand modules
- b) Site Readiness: planning tools, district visits, and infrastructure trials
- c) Customer Support: call center and online resources

## 2. Technology Funding

- a) State: infrastructure bond and LTI
- b) Federal: e-Rate modernization – more options for infrastructure spending, not necessarily more money



**PARCC**

**Communications and  
Engagement**



# Communication and Engagement

**ESE is working to ensure that we reach all stakeholders to hear their concerns, clearly answer their questions, and assist them in making the best decisions for their district**

- 1. Presentations at conferences and roundtables for associations, school committees, superintendents**
- 2. Webinars and conference calls for superintendents and principals**
- 3. District toolkits distributed in January 2014 (parent letters, one-pagers, FAQs, PowerPoint decks)**
- 4. Scheduling additional presentations and community outreach to teachers, parents.**





## **Final Thoughts**



# Graduation Requirement

## ★ Class of 2018:

★ Grade 10 students through the **class of 2018** will take MCAS (for competency determination)

## ★ MCAS Science testing continues

★ Science will still be a requirement for the competency determination



# What Are Teachers Saying about CCSS?



*Teachers praise new standards for classroom learning*

National online survey of 20,000 K-12 teachers by Scholastic found:

- 77% of math and/or ELA teachers said the standards will have a “positive” or “very positive” impact
- 12% said the impact would be “neither positive or negative”
- 10% “don't know enough to say”
- 1% said the impact would be negative



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# For More Information

- ★ For more information regarding PARCC and the 2014 Field Test, please visit the PARCC website at <http://www.parcconline.org/field-test>
- ★ If you have questions regarding the PARCC Field Test, please contact Pearson's PARCC Support Center: 1-888-493-9888 (open Monday through Friday, 6:00am to 8:00pm CST) or [PARCC@support.pearson.com](mailto:PARCC@support.pearson.com)
- ★ If you have questions regarding state policies, please contact Student



# PARCC Timeline in MA

