



MASC/MASS Conference

November 8, 2013

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AGENDA

1. PARCC defined
2. Why PARCC? Why Now?
3. PARCC Field Test
4. Transition Plan
5. Accountability Questions
6. MCAS Testing Exemptions
7. Technology Needs
8. Graduation Competency Determination
9. Questions



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.”

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What Is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers:

- ★ Made up of 20 states , chaired by Commissioner Chester
- ★ Developing common, high-quality **English language arts (ELA)** and **math tests** for **grades 3–11**
 - Computer-based and linked to what students need to know for college and careers
 - For use starting in the 2014–15 school year
- ★ Two summative assessment components:
 - Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)
 - End-of-Year Assessment (EOY)



Why PARCC?

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



Why Do We Need A New Assessment?

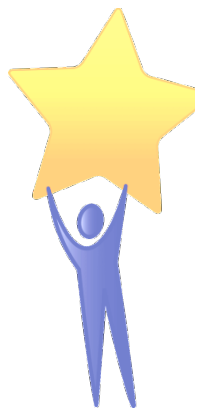
1. The MA 2011 ELA & Math Standards incorporate the Common Core State Standards (CCSS.)
2. The new standards include significant changes and shifts from the prior standards.
3. MA must implement an assessment aligned to the new standards.

★ Note: MCAS would require significant changes to be fully aligned with the MA 2010 Standards.





Overview of PARCC Field Test



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

- ✓ The primary purposes of the PARCC Field Test are to:
 1. Examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-15 school year;
 2. Pilot assessment administration procedures; and
 3. Give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments.
- ✓ Important to Note: No student, school, or district results will be reported.



PARCC Field Test Sample

1. National Sample Size:

- Over **one 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:

- ★ 360 districts
- ★ Close to 1,300 schools
- ★ Roughly 87,000 students in grades 3–11
- ★ Nearly 800 schools will administer computer-based tests, and close to 500 schools will administer paper and pencil tests.



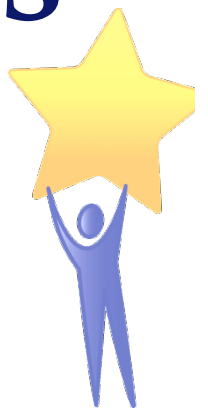
Putting PARCC To the Test!

1. We will use the results of the field test to evaluate the rigor of PARCC items in Fall 2014.
2. We 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.





Field Test and MCAS Participation Exemptions



MCAS Testing Exemptions

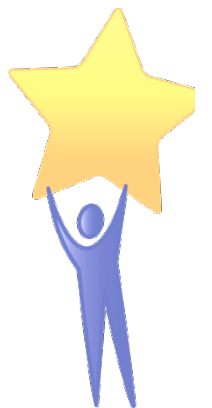
1. In order to mitigate the burden of participating in the PARCC Field Test, the Commissioner has agreed to allow superintendents to exempt certain classes that participate in the PARCC Field Test from the 2014 MCAS testing requirement.
2. “No school will be disadvantaged because it participated in the field test.”

The Department will calculate school performance twice: with and without MCAS scores from the field tested grade. Districts will be able to select the better of the two school performance measures.





Accountability Questions



Accountability in 2013/14

1. Tens of thousands of students will take a PARCC field test and many will *opt out of MCAS* in that subject area. This leaves ESE and districts with less MCAS data with which to make all sorts of decisions.
2. The Commissioner's commitment: "No school will be disadvantaged because it participated in the field test."
Based upon feedback from superintendents –
The Department will calculate school performance twice: with and without MCAS scores from the field tested grade. Districts will be able to select the better of the two school performance measures.



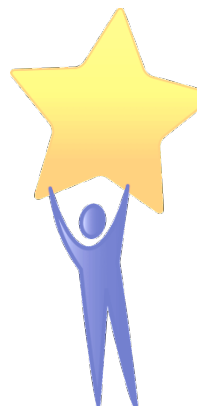


Technology Questions About Computer-Based Test Administration



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)
 - a) How long will there be a paper/pencil option?
 - a) At least through 2015-2016 and possibly beyond
 - b) What if we don't have the technology or bandwidth?
 - a) FCC is committed to expanded eRate options and funding
 - b) Working with the Administration and the Treasurer's Office to help districts meet the matching requirement





Communications: Critical Messages and Timelines



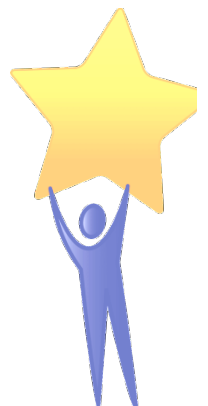
Communications

Parents:

- ★ The Department will provide a sample letter for parents regarding non-participation in MCAS (and therefore no scores in a subject)

School Committee Members:

1. The Department is working with MASC to provide resources for use with school committee members.
2. The Department will make multiple targeted and open regional presentations over the coming months.
3. The Department will attend MASC Regional Meetings starting in December..



What Are Teachers Saying about CCSS?

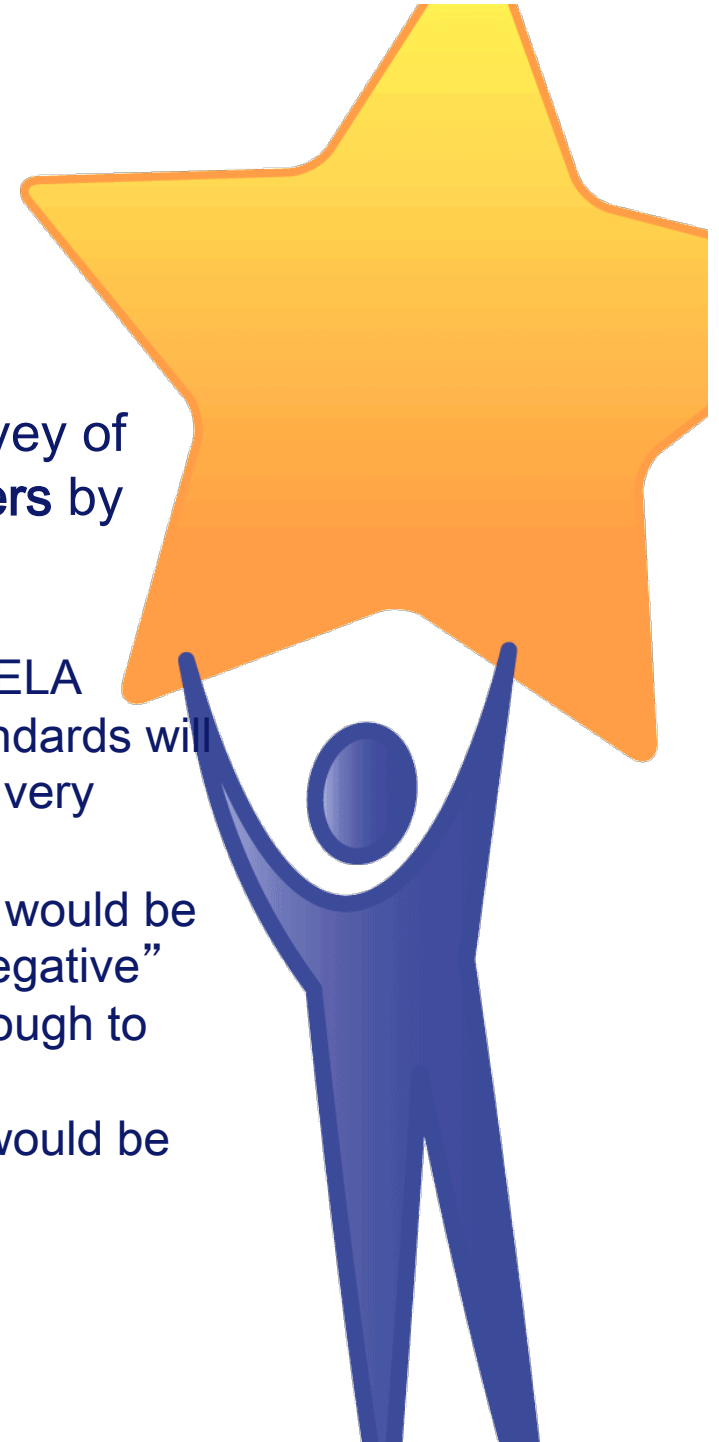


Teachers praise new standards for classroom learning

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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



Transition Plan

Scheduled for **Board vote November 2013:**

★ Massachusetts Choice: MCAS or PARCC

in 2014/15

1. **MCAS only** for Grade 10 in 2014/15 and 2015/16
2. MCAS for Competency Determination through **Class of 2018**
3. Budget will determine extent to which we can make PARCC end-of-course assessments available for **grades 9 and 11**

★ PARCC for grades 3-8 in **2015/16**



Projected Timeline Leading to Board Vote on PARCC

- 1. September and October 2013:** Commissioner presents PARCC Transition Plan to Board.
- 2. November 2013:** Board asked to approve PARCC Transition Plan.
- 3. Spring 2014:** PARCC Field Test.
- 4. Fall 2014:** Analysis of Field Test results.
- 5. Spring 2015:** 1st Operational Administration of PARCC.
- 6. Summer 2015:**
 - a) Analysis of 2015 test results
 - b) Standard setting.
- 7. Fall 2015:** **Board Vote** on whether or not to adopt PARCC.





Final Thoughts



Graduation Requirement

★ **Class of 2018:**

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

★ **MCAS Science** testing continues (including for the Science competency determination)



Quick Reminder on Level 4 Schools

★ **Level 4 Schools** may choose to opt out of PARCC Field Test:

1. No justification required.
2. May exercise MCAS opt out; many implications (+/-) to consider.

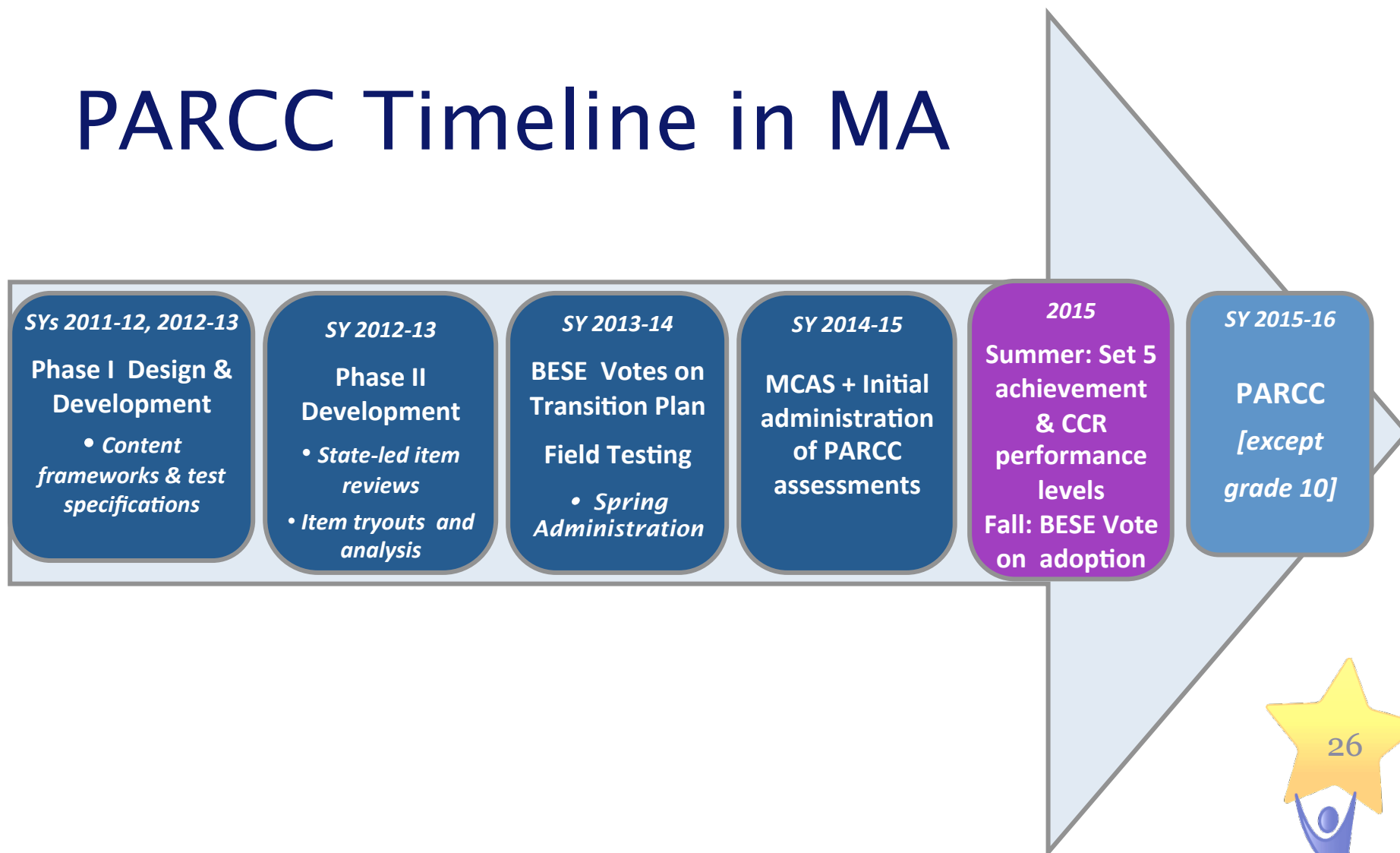


For More Information

- ★ For more information regarding PARCC and the 2014 Field Test, please visit the PARCC website at <http://www.parconline.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.
- ★ If you have questions regarding state policies, please contact Student Assessment Services at parcc@doe.mass.edu.



PARCC Timeline in MA



Additional Information



MCAS ELA Grade 7 Writing Prompt (2012)

Imagine that for one day you could trade places with anyone you choose. The person could be real or imaginary, from the past or from the present. In a well-developed composition, identify the person you would want to trade places with, explain why you would like to trade places with this person, and describe how your day would be different as this person.



PARCC Grade 7 sample analytic writing prompt: *Amelia Earhart's Disappearance*

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.

