



PARCC Becomes a Non-Profit

WASHINGTON - March 12, 2013 - The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) today announced the formation of a new non-profit organization to oversee the development of its next generation assessments. To date, PARCC has been a consortium of states with no legal status; under its new non-profit status, PARCC will become its own legal entity as a 501(c)(3). Launching the non-profit is the first step in the process to ensuring the PARCC assessment system can be sustained in the long term and beyond the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top Assessment grant period which ends in September 2014.

PARCC will continue to be state led. PARCC state chiefs are deeply engaged in leading this unprecedented collaboration among 22 states to develop and implement a common set of K-12 assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics anchored in what it takes to be ready for college, careers and life. The new non-profit will be governed by a Board of Directors comprised of PARCC state chiefs. The current PARCC Governing Board will retain all decision-making authority for the development of the PARCC assessment system through the end of the grant.

"I am pleased with the progress the consortium continues to make in developing PARCC, the next generation assessment system that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards," said Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Mitchell Chester, who chairs the PARCC Governing Board. "The creation of a non-profit entity establishes a state-led governance structure to oversee the administration and sustainability of these new assessments."

"This is an important step to ensure a seamless transition from the development stage of the PARCC next generation assessments to their implementation," said New Jersey Education Commissioner and PARCC Governing Board member Chris Cerf. "This non-profit will ensure that states continue to be at the forefront of new, more meaningful Common Core-aligned assessments."

PARCC's top priority is successful and on-time development of assessments in grades 3-8 and high school. A subset of the PARCC Governing Board - Janet Barresi (OK), Chris Cerf (NJ), Mitchell Chester (MA), Deborah A. Gist (RI), and Hanna Skandera (NM) - serve on the PARCC Executive Committee, which is responsible for providing day to day leadership of the project. A search will commence for a CEO to head the organization within the next two months.

For more information, visit <http://www.parcconline.org>.

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PARCC is an alliance of states working together to develop common assessments serving nearly 24 million students. PARCC's work is funded through a four-year, \$185 million dollar grant from

the U.S. Department of Education. Partners include over 700 higher education institutions and systems representing hundreds of campuses across the country that will help develop the high school component of the new assessment - and then put it to good use as an indicator of student readiness. PARCC is led by its member states and managed by Achieve, a non-profit group with a 17-year track record of working with states to improve student achievement by aligning K-12 education policies with the expectations of employers and the postsecondary community. PARCC's ultimate goal is to make sure all students graduate from high school college- and career-ready. For more information, visit www.parcconline.org.

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