



PARCC Governing Board Approves Data Privacy and Security Policy; Reviews Field Testing Plans

December 11, 2013 - The Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) approved a policy to protect the privacy and security of student data and discussed school and district progress towards the spring 2014 PARCC field test.

At its meeting last week, the Governing Board, made up of the chief state school officers of PARCC Governing States, adopted a consortium-wide policy to protect the privacy and security of student data. With the adoption of this policy, PARCC states have set stringent policies and procedures that ensure states and districts control their data, maintain the security of data, and strictly limit access to data for only specific purposes that support the state assessment program. The Data Privacy and Security Policy prohibits the sharing of student data with any outside entity, including the federal government, without explicit direction from individual states.

Bari Erlichson, Assistant Commissioner and Chief Performance Officer at the New Jersey Department of Education, said, "Under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, states have reported school-level data from their state assessments to the U.S. Department of Education. As we move towards the consortia assessments, those requirements have not changed or increased. Individual states will continue to make decisions about how to fulfill those reporting requirements while protecting student confidentiality."

States currently provide their existing state assessment contractors with limited access to limited amounts of student data so they can support states in test administration, scoring and reporting of results. With the consortia tests, states will also provide that limited data to contractors, under the strict conditions set out in the PARCC Data Privacy and Security Policy.

"Through this policy, the PARCC states are very explicit that the states own and control use of their data - not PARCC," said Laura Slover, Chief Executive Officer of PARCC, Inc. "The Data Privacy and Security Policy adopted by the PARCC Governing Board clearly lays out specific and rigorous protections for the privacy of student data, which provide more protection than policies currently on the books in some states. PARCC is committed to ensuring the highest levels of security to protect student data."

The PARCC Data Privacy and Security Policy is available on the PARCC website at:

<http://www.parcconline.org/data-privacy-security> [1].

As PARCC states look ahead to the beginning of field testing in March 2014, the Governing Board also reviewed plans to help districts, schools, educators, students and parents prepare

to participate in these trials of the PARCC test questions.

Nearly 1.2 million students across 14 states plus the District of Columbia will participate in the field test in Spring 2014. The Field Test has several purposes, including identifying test items suitable for the PARCC operational assessments in 2014-15 and helping schools and districts to prepare for full-scale implementation of PARCC in 2014-15. Most students will take a small portion of the assessment during the field test, and no student will take the full exam.

Several tools and resources will be available to support school and district leaders participating in the field test:

- *Regional trainings*: Several regional trainings will be conducted in every PARCC state through February 2014 to help district leaders preparing their schools for the field test.
- *Training modules*: Several on-demand training modules will be available to schools and districts starting in December 2013 and January 2014, including modules on preparing school and district technology infrastructure, test administrator training, accommodations with computer-based testing, and field test security procedures.
- *Test Coordinator Manual*: This manual will include test administration and security protocols and will be available online in January 2014.
- *Test Administrator Manual*: This manual will include instructions for field test administration and will be available online in February 2014.
- [PARCC Accommodations and Accessibility Manual](#) [2]: This manual was released in July 2013 along with tools for IEP writing teams released in November 2013.

Teachers, students and parents can also prepare for the field test with several new tools coming soon from PARCC:

- All PARCC sample items will be re-released on the PARCC field test technology platform in January 2014. The items will include a range of features to help familiarize students, teachers and parents with the new PARCC item types and the functions available on testing day (e.g. equation builders, drag and drop, highlighting).
- Guidance on student computer skills for the PARCC assessments will be available in January 2014.
- Also in January 2014, PARCC will release a technology tutorial to familiarize students with how to navigate the computer-based assessment format, including how to go forward and backward within the test, how to use the tool bar, and how to access embedded supports and accommodations.
- Full practice tests at every grade and course will be released in March/April 2014.

For more on PARCC, please visit: <http://www.parcconline.org> [3].

Media Contact: Lesley Muldoon, 202-419-1550, lmuldoon@achieve.org [4]

###

Source URL: <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-governing-board-approves-data-privacy-and-security-policy-reviews-field-testing-plans>

Links:

[1] <http://www.parcconline.org/data-privacy-security>

[2] <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual>

[3] <http://www.parcconline.org>

[4] <mailto:lmuldoon@achieve.org>