



PARCC Governing Board Takes Key Votes, Announces Field Testing Plans, Gives Progress Update

WASHINGTON, D.C. - June 28, 2013 - The Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) met on June 26, 2013. The board meets quarterly to make major policy and operational decisions on behalf of the PARCC consortium related to the overall design of the assessment system, PARCC's procurement strategy and other significant issues.

The PARCC consortium is made up of 21 states and the District of Columbia. Nineteen of those states have committed to participate only in PARCC and administer the PARCC assessments in the 2014-2015 school year. The K-12 chief state school officers from those 19 states serve on the Governing Board. The June 26 meeting included an open, public session and an executive session.

Two important votes were held at the meeting. The opening session was a joint session of the Governing Board and PARCC's Advisory Committee on College and Career Readiness where the joint body voted to approve grade- and content-specific performance level descriptors for both English language arts/literacy and mathematics, which articulate the knowledge, skills and practices that students performing at a given level on the PARCC assessments should be able to demonstrate at each grade level and content area.

In the afternoon session, the Governing Board voted to approve the first edition of the accessibility and accommodations manual, which is a comprehensive policy document that will support local educators in the selection, administration and evaluation of accommodations for the assessment of students with disabilities (SWDs) and English learners (EL) on the PARCC End-of-Year, Performance-Based, and Mid-Year assessment components.

"We are developing PARCC as a next generation assessment system that will allow states to assess new college and career ready standards," said Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester, who chairs the PARCC Governing Board. "Field testing is an integral part of every testing program, and in the case of PARCC, will help us better understand how well this new assessment assesses a broader range of the skills and competencies we value in the standards."

The announcement of PARCC's field testing plans was also unveiled. Earlier this year PARCC concluded successful trial runs of assessment items and questions with 2,300 students in six states. This summer, additional trial runs with 4,800 students in four states will allow PARCC states to continue testing the quality of assessment items and their accessibility for students.

The PARCC Field Test will be administered in spring 2014 to over one million students across

PARCC states. The field test is designed to ensure items are accurately measuring the knowledge and skills tested and that the questions provide a valid and reliable result of what students know and can do. The PARCC Field Test will help inform test development, in preparation for the first operational administration of PARCC in 2014-2015, and will give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments.

During summer 2013, PARCC will select schools for the field test to comprise a representative sample of students across PARCC states. Schools will be notified of their selection in August. After the schools' participation is finalized in fall 2013, a sample of classrooms will be selected to participate from each school. The field test sample size for each state will be proportional to each state's student enrollment (with a minimum sample size). More information is at <http://www.parcconline.org/field-test> [1].

The vast majority of students participating in field testing will only take about one-quarter of the PARCC test, and no student participating in field testing will take the full assessment.

In a session on PARCC progress, the chiefs were provided an update around a previous Governing Board decision to revisit the development timeline for PARCC's non-summative components to ensure adequate time for quality review and feedback from states. The revised timeline - which has been established through an amendment to the Race to the Top Assessment grant - will allow PARCC an additional year to complete the Diagnostic Assessment, K-1 Formative Tools and the Speaking and Listening Assessment. PARCC will field test all three components in the 2014-2015 school year and deliver them to states and districts in the summer of 2015.

PARCC will deliver the summative assessment (which includes the Performance-Based Assessment and the End-of-Year Assessment), the Partnership Resource Center and Professional Development Modules for educators in the 2014-2015 school year, as scheduled.

A solicitation for contractors to develop the PARCC Diagnostic Assessment and K-1 Formative Tools was released through PARCC's Fiscal Agent state of Florida ([LINK](#) [2]). A solicitation to build the Speaking and Listening Assessment will be released in the next few weeks.

The next PARCC Governing Board meeting is scheduled for September 25 in the Washington, D.C. metro area with a site yet to be determined.

Follow the consortium on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/PARCCPlace> [3].

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