

## Two Paths to Effective Assessments: SBAC & PARCC

Led by educators, researchers, policymakers and community stakeholders, two groups of states – PARCC and SBAC – are developing next-generation assessment systems.

Anchored in real-world expectations, these assessments will measure the full range of knowledge and skills required by the new college- and career-ready (CCR) mathematics and English/literacy standards.

Both groups are developing technology-based assessment systems that will allow students, educators, parents, policymakers, and the public to identify whether students are on track to being academically ready for college and careers (within weeks of the test), where the learning gaps exist, and how those gaps can be addressed in high school before students enter college or the workforce.

While each state has their own priorities and challenges, PARCC and SBAC provide the opportunity for states to come together and move the field forward and break new ground in assessment

### Benefits of SBAC and PARCC Assessment Systems

#### Consistency:

Comparable student achievement within and across states.

#### Equity:

The same college- and career-ready expectations for all students, regardless of zip code.

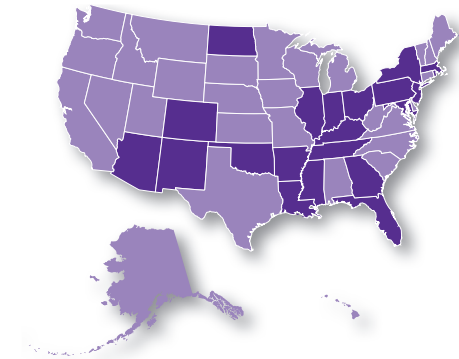
**Mobility:** As students move to new schools, educators can immediately assess their abilities with minor classroom disruptions.

**Real World Skills:** Skills that students need upon graduation.

#### Performance-based:

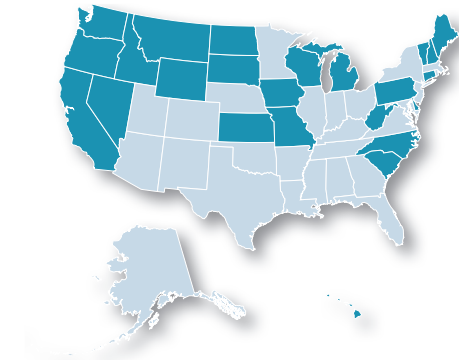
Assessment tasks will require students to apply their knowledge, not just fill in bubbles on multiple choice tests.

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has 22 member states that educate a combined 49 million public K-12 students.



[www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org)

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), consists of 24 member states that educate a combined 22 million public K-12 students.



[www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)



## Key Messages About SBAC & PARCC

- The Common Core State Standards are a critical first step in improving our education system. The next step is creating K-12 assessments that measure the full range of the standards and ensure students are on track to be college- and career-ready.
- Too often, existing assessments aim too low. They fail to deliver honest, timely results that enable teachers to adjust instruction as necessary — and allow students to get the support and enrichment they need.
- SBAC and PARCC states have come together to develop common assessments, which will first be administered in the 2014-15 school year. They are anchored in college- and career-ready expectations and will provide an accurate picture of how well students and schools are achieving in mathematics and English/Literacy.
- These assessments will be critical to economic development. They will assess the knowledge and skills all students need for the careers of tomorrow, including the ability to communicate effectively, apply math to real-world situations, critically analyze literature and informational texts, and demonstrate problem-solving techniques.

## Proficient Does Not Mean Prepared

