

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers



States Working Together To Build the Next Generation of Assessments

Key Messages

- 1 While the **Common Core State Standards**, now adopted by nearly all states, are a critical first step in improving our education system, they **alone will not lead to the instructional changes needed** to improve student achievement and attainment. **Assessments** that measure the full range of the English and mathematics standards **will help ensure that the new standards truly reach every classroom.**
- 2 Too often, **existing assessments aim too low, failing to deliver honest, timely results** that enable teachers to adjust instruction as necessary and students to get the support or enrichment they need.
- 3 The states that are part of the PARCC consortium have voluntarily come together to develop common assessments, anchored in college- and career-ready expectations, that will provide an **honest picture of how well our students, schools and system are achieving** in mathematics and English.

What is PARCC?

- PARCC is a consortium of states working collectively to design and develop K–12 assessments in mathematics and English language arts/literacy aligned to the Common Core.
- The assessments are being developed by states for states, and states' adoption and administration of the common assessments is voluntary.
- The PARCC assessments will be aligned to the expectations of two- and four-year colleges and validated by higher education.
- The assessments will deliver, in real time, information to assess whether students are on track to graduate from high school ready for college and careers — and measure both students' mastery of the content and their ability to apply that knowledge in real-world situations.
- The assessments also help ensure comparability across states, districts and schools, mitigating challenges with teacher and student mobility.

Why PARCC?

The states that are part of PARCC came together because of a shared mission to:

- 1 Create high-quality assessments that measure the full range of the Common Core State Standards and the full range of student performance;
- 2 Build a pathway to college and career readiness for *all* students;
- 3 Support educators in the classroom;
- 4 Develop 21st-century, technology-based assessments; and
- 5 Advance accountability at all levels.