A New Vision of Assessment

Texts Worth Reading

Problems Worth Solving

Tests Worth Taking

December 1, 2014
What Is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers:

- Made up of **22 states**
- Developing common, high-quality **math** and **English language arts (ELA) tests** for grades 3–11
  - Computer-based and linked to what students need to know for college and careers
  - For use starting in the 2014–15 school year
Why New Assessments Now?

We have to prepare all students for college or other postsecondary opportunities:

- A high school diploma isn’t enough in our 21st century economy
- Our K–12 system is not adequately preparing students for college

81% of today’s jobs require college or career training

1/3 of college freshmen need remedial courses
Personal Benefits: Higher Earnings and Higher Employment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Education</th>
<th>Mean Income</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School Dropout</td>
<td>$10,308</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
<td>$24,854</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>$30,171</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s &amp; Above</td>
<td>$60,845</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current state assessments were not designed to:

- Assess and signal whether students are on track for success in college or careers
- Produce timely, actionable data for students, teachers and parents
- Test key skills, such as critical thinking and ability to problem solve
Why New Assessments *Now*?

The Common Core State Standards are here:

- States are implementing these standards for **ELA/literacy** and **math**
- Better standards **require better tests**
- High-quality tests **improve and inform instruction** — they don’t detract from it
Unlike many current tests, PARCC tests will be *engaging* and will test the *critical-thinking* and *problem-solving skills* students need to succeed in school and life.
PARCC Priorities

1. Determine whether students are college and career ready or on track
2. Connect to the Common Core State Standards
3. Measure the full range of student performance, including that of high- and low-achieving students
4. Provide educators data throughout the year to inform instruction
5. Create innovative 21st century, technology-based assessments
6. Be affordable and sustainable
How Will PARCC Be Different?

**Students:** Will know if they are **on track** to graduate ready for college/careers

**Teachers:** Will have access to **timely data** to guide learning and instruction

**Parents:** Will have **clear and timely information** about student progress

**States:** Will have **valid results** that are comparable across borders
How Will PARCC Be Different?

For students:

- Test quality will mirror high-quality coursework
- Is computer-based, interactive, engaging
- Measures the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college and careers
- Produces timely information, allowing teachers to tailor instruction to students’ needs
- Includes embedded supports for English language learners, students with disabilities
Some examples include:

- Highlighting
- Customized colors
- Graphic organizers or representations
- Captions for audio

- Home language supports/tools
- Braille (tactile/refreshable)
- Signing supports (ASL)
- Assistive technology
How Will PARCC Be Different?

For teachers and schools:

- Computer-based testing will **boost** student engagement and access
- More **efficient** than pencil-and-paper tests
- Timely data during the year will **aid** instruction, professional development
- Tests will **assess** the **full range of student performance**, not just students in the middle
- Tests will **measure student growth at all levels** as well as focusing on proficiency
How Will PARCC Be Different?

Help advance our goals:

- Increased competitiveness in a global economy
- Higher achievement levels and more opportunities for all students
- Greater comparability between states
- Higher college completion, lower remedial rates
- Better educated citizens
Getting All Students College and Career Ready

**Ongoing student support/interventions**

- **K–2**
  - Voluntary K–2 assessment being developed, aligned to the Common Core State Standards

- **Grades 3–8**
  - Timely data showing whether ALL students are on track for college and career readiness

- **High School**
  - College readiness score to identify who is ready for college-level coursework

**Success In**

- first-year, credit-bearing, postsecondary coursework

**Targeted interventions and supports:**
- State-developed 12th-grade bridge courses

**Professional development for educators**
Assessments
ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3–11

Beginning of School Year

Flexible administration

Diagnostic Assessment
Mid-Year Assessment
Performance-Based Assessment
End-of-Year Assessment

Speaking and Listening Assessment

Key:
Optional
Required
Optional Assessments During the Year

Flexible administration

- **Diagnostic Assessment**
  - Flexible indicator of student knowledge and skills
  - Allows instruction, supports and professional development to be tailored to improve student learning

- **Mid-Year Assessment**
  - Performance-based items and tasks
  - Emphasis on hard-to-measure standards
  - Individual states may consider including as a summative component

*Beginning of School Year*  *End of School Year*
Two Required Assessments Yield Overall Score

- After 75 percent of the school year
- Extended tasks, applications of concepts and skills
  - **ELA/literacy**: Writing effectively when analyzing text, research simulation
  - **Math**: Solving multistep problems requiring abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance and strategic use of tools

- After 90 percent of the school year
- Innovative, short-answer items
  - **ELA/literacy**: Reading comprehension
  - **Math**: Short items that address both concepts and skills
Higher Expectations

**ELA/Literacy**
- Read sufficiently complex texts independently
- Write effectively to sources
- Build and present knowledge through research

**Math**
- Solve problems: content and mathematical practice
- Reason mathematically
- Model real-world problems
- Have fluency with mathematics
Math: Grade 3 Sample Item

- This a fairly traditional fraction task in a computer-based setting.
- Unlike traditional multiple choice, it is difficult to guess the correct answer or use a choice elimination strategy and there is more than one correct solution.
- Unlike paper and pencil tests, students can create a visual representation even though the task is scored automatically.
Second part of multi-step problem, and, unlike traditional multiple choice, it is difficult to guess the correct answer or use a choice elimination strategy.
Conclusion

- College or postsecondary career and technical training is essential to earning sustainable wages
- All high school graduates should be ready to enroll in college courses or similar technical coursework without remediation
- PARCC assessments will aid student learning, not detract from it
- We must measure what children learn in school, but we must measure with meaningful assessments
- In PARCC, students will engage with texts worth reading, problems worth solving, and tests worth taking