

**Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Assessment Committee Meeting
DESE, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA
January 13, 2016, 3:35 p.m.-4:15 p.m.**

Members of the Committee Present:

Dr. Roland Fryer, Committee Chair
Mr. Paul Sagan, Board Chair (via telephone)
Secretary of Education James Peyser
Dr. Penny Noyce
Mr. Donald Willyard

Mitchell D. Chester, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, Secretary to the Board

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Assessment Committee Meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson informed committee member of a memorandum from Higher Education Commissioner Santiago requesting that Board of Higher Education member Paul Toner sit on the oversight committee. The committee agreed to include Mr. Toner in future meetings and discussions.

Mr. Wulfson reviewed the 2015 district assessment choice results. He said one third of districts chose to stay with MCAS and two-thirds chose PARCC. Mr. Wulfson said the Department is working with Measured Progress and Pearson to administer two tests this spring.

Mr. Wulfson updated committee members on the Department's engagement with the field; he provided a project management outline for advisory committees and workgroups. He said the invitation to participate was sent to approximately fifty education and policy associations, and will be posted on our MCAS 2.0 site. Mr. Wulfson also noted that the curriculum frameworks will be posted on our website with a web form for members of the public to identify specific standards and submit comment. The committee agreed not to have a hearing on the revision to the curriculum frameworks at this time. They said they will discuss the possibility after the public comment period closes and a revised draft is produced.

Mr. Wulfson reviewed statewide technology readiness data for teaching, learning and assessment. He said out of 1,805 schools 1,363 meet the minimum specifications for computer-based testing, whereas only 11 meet the standards for next generation teaching. He said the majority of those not ready for computer-based testing, do not have sufficient computers. Mr. Wulfson noted that many schools and districts have made significant improvements since the data was collected; another snapshot will be taken to inform a comprehensive statewide strategy.

The Department's Chief Financial Officer Bill Bell reviewed the procurement management process. He said the draft of the request for responses (RFR) is on a very aggressive schedule, along with select committee work to provide input. He noted that that the RFR will refer to future needs, such as history/social science and upgrades to the science assessment, but will not include specifications at this time.

In response to Secretary's Peyser's question, Mr. Wulfson said that the Department can be open to partnering with other vendors with specialized skills; he also noted that the contractor can sub-contract for specific services. In response to Ms. Noyce's question, Mr. Wulfson said in terms of score reporting the Department could move back to four performance levels instead of the five currently PARCC, but it would be hard to compare year-to-year and across states. In response to Mr. Fryer's question, Mr. Wulfson said the Department is not limiting itself to only using PARCC items, but has not set any quotas to ensure that the most high quality items are used in development.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

MEETING DOCUMENTS

Board Assessment Committee Meeting DESE, 75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA December 21, 2015, 3:10 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Secretary Peyser and Roland Fryer attended.

Paul Sagan and Donald Willyard participated via phone. Penny Noyce was absent.

The committee did not have a quorum in attendance. They held a discussion, but did not decide or vote on any items.

Meeting Materials- Agenda, MCAS/PARCC 2016 Choice Results, Draft of MCAS 2.0 outreach list, Procurement timeline

Update on testing plans for spring 2016

Michol Stapel, Director of Student Assessment, updated the committee on Spring 2016 assessment choice results. About 60% of districts registered their decision. About 40 districts have chosen to move to PARCC. Results are posted on the Department's website:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=21379>

Dr. Fryer asked about the demographic breakdown of choice, which has not been analyzed yet.

Ms. Stapel said the Department is moving quickly to finalize the PARCC items that will appear on the 2016 MCAS test. She noted that the composition will be eliminated in grades 4 and 7 this year because students will write in response to text for the Narrative Writing section in grades 3—8. MCAS and PARCC items will be broken out for reporting purposes.

Mr. Wulfson reported that US Department of Education (US-ED) communicated with the Department regarding Massachusetts dual assessment system in 2016. He said US-ED placed Massachusetts on high risk, but have not identified sanctions at this time. Mr. Wulfson said Massachusetts will demonstrate progress with our assessment transition plan.

Deputy Commissioner Wulfson said the Department will form the following committees to advise on the test development: Project Steering, Communications, Procurement Management Team, Research, Test content/frameworks (ELA/Math/Science), Test administration, High school testing, History/social science, Accessibility, Technology readiness, Technical advisory committee, and Accountability.

Secretary Peyser noted that the committees must be an open process that includes all stakeholders. He said the timeline is short to inform the test development

Mr. Wulfson said the Department is in the process of setting up a MCAS 2.0 website, creating a web form to voice their concerns or thoughts for the committees to review. He said the review will start with the principals of the 2010 standards, which have more direct connections to the test content.

Ms. Stapel said the History/Social Science assessments were planned and developed for grades 5,7, and high school. She said the development would begin with an eighteen to twenty four month process for framework development.

Members provided feedback on the proposed outreach list.

Overview of contractor procurement process

In response to Secretary Peyser's question, Ms. Stapel said Measured Progress will score the MCAS tests including the added PARCC questions. She said some cost savings occur with the elimination of scoring the composition questions, but there are writing questions at other grades.

Mr. Wulfson said procurement timeline is very aggressive, and the Department is working with the Operational Services Division. He said the procurement will build in future assessments, such as science and history/social science.

PARCC consortium governance update

Commissioner Chester said Massachusetts is still a member of the consortium with seven other states and the District of Columbia. He said New Mexico Commissioner Hannah Skandera is now the governing board chair. Commissioner Chester reported that the PARCC Governing Board endorsed Massachusetts plan for using PARCC content. He said Parcc is looking at their current structure as a consortium.

The committee suggested they meet monthly going forward.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Preliminary Results of District Assessment Choice for Spring 2016

(All figures rounded)

Overall response:

- 350 respondents (280 districts, 60 outplacements, 10 collaborative programs)
- 150 want MCAS in 2016 (43% of respondents)
- 200 want PARCC in 2016 (57% of respondents)
- We have heard from 62% of the districts, collaborative and outplacements we sent to.
- Districts: we heard from 80% of districts

MCAS in 2015:

- 200 respondents were MCAS in 2015
 - 160 wish to do MCAS in 2016
 - 40 districts will do PARCC
 - 10 request to do all CBT
 - 20 request to do all PBT (includes Lawrence, Holyoke, Southbridge, and Lynn)
 - 10 districts want some CBT

PARCC in 2015:

- 150 respondents were PARCC in 2015
 - 120 want the same testing format as last year
 - 30 would like a different testing format
 - 10 want to switch to CBT
 - 15 want to switch to PBT
 - 5 districts wants some CBT and some PBT

8th grade Algebra

- 5100 8th graders anticipated to take PARCC Algebra I test, as indicated through the responses.

Dear education or community leader,

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has begun the process of developing a new statewide student assessment system and of refining the state's English language arts and math standards that were approved in 2010. The following information describes the committees and workgroups charged with executing this process and opportunities for educators, parents, students, and other stakeholders to get involved.



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education MCAS 2.0 Project Management Plan

On November 17, 2015, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to begin development of a next generation state assessment program, to be implemented as our state-wide assessment beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. This working paper describes the project management structure, including the various committees and workgroups that will support the development effort. Contact information is provided for key project personnel.

In project documents, the new assessment program is unofficially referred to as “MCAS 2.0”, to differentiate it from the Commonwealth’s existing Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System.

COMMITTEES AND WORKGROUPS

Board Assessment Committee

The Board Assessment Committee will oversee the project, monitor its progress, discuss recommendations from the various workgroups, and make periodic reports to the full Board. Current members of the Board Assessment Committee are: Roland Fryer (chair), Pendred Noyce (vice-chair), Paul Sagan, James Peyser, and Donald Willyard. The committee is expected to meet monthly. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and minutes of past meetings will be posted on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education webpage (www.doe.mass.edu/boe/).

Project Management Workgroup

This is an internal working group to coordinate the various DESE, DHE, and EOE units involved in the project. It is chaired by the project’s co-directors, Deputy Commissioner Jeff Wulfson (jwulfson@doe.mass.edu) and Acting Associate Commissioner Michol Stapel (mstapel@doe.mass.edu).

Project Communications Workgroup

The Project Communications Workgroup will include key DESE project staff and invited representatives from the major state education associations. The purpose of the committee is to ensure that administrators and teachers in the field are kept fully informed about the project as it moves through the planning and implementation stages. Workgroup meetings and related communications activities will be coordinated by Jass Stewart (jstewart@doe.mass.edu).

Procurement Management Workgroup

The Procurement Management Workgroup will provide logistical support in the procurement of a testing contractor to administer MCAS 2.0, including the development of the request for proposals and the evaluation of responses. The group will consult with the state Operational Services Division to ensure compliance with all public procurement requirements. Rob O'Donnell (rodonnell@doe.mass.edu) will chair this group.

Test Administration Workgroup

This workgroup will address key issues relating to test administration, including the number and length of testing sessions; whether tests should be timed or untimed; the scheduling of testing windows; options for scoring and dissemination of results; content of score reports; and schedules for phasing in computer-based testing. Michol Stapel (mstapel@doe.mass.edu) will chair this group.

High School Testing Workgroup

This workgroup will address a number of policies relating to the ELA, mathematics, and science tests to be administered in grades 9-12. These include the specific tests to be offered; whether certain tests will be mandatory or optional; the sequence of tests required for the competency determination beginning with the class of 2020; and the schedule for transitioning from the current high school MCAS tests. Brooke Clenchy (bclenchy@doe.mass.edu) will chair this group.

ELA and Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks Refinement Panel

The Board has directed the Department to consult with K-12 educators, curriculum specialists, and others to identify possible refinements to the Massachusetts English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks based on lessons learned during implementation since 2011. A public webform on the Department's website will provide an opportunity for Massachusetts stakeholders to provide input on aspects of the curriculum frameworks. Panelists will be asked to review that input to recommend any needed refinements and implications for MCAS 2.0. Jacob Foster (jfoster@doe.mass.edu) will coordinate this process.

MCAS Accessibility Workgroup

This workgroup will address accessibility features, test administration considerations, and accommodations, particularly as they relate to students with disabilities and English language learners. Current policies for both MCAS and PARCC will be reviewed, leading to recommendations for inclusion in MCAS 2.0. Dan Wiener (dwiener@doe.mass.edu) will chair this group.

Digital Learning Advisory Council

The DLAC is an existing Board advisory council established by statute (St. 2012, c.379, s.7). The DLAC will be asked to monitor districts' progress toward technological readiness for computer-based testing, and to identify ways in which the state can assist in those efforts. DLAC meetings are open to the public and are posted on the DLAC's webpage (www.doe.mass.edu/boe/sac/dlac/default.html). Ken Klau (kklau@doe.mass.edu) coordinates the DLAC's activities.

Test Content Review Panels

Panels of classroom educators and curriculum specialists will be convened to assist the Department in reviewing test items for grade appropriateness and alignment to the curriculum frameworks. There will be separate panels for each grade and subject area. These panels are expected to begin work in summer 2016, after the selection of a testing contractor. More information will be provided at that time.

MCAS Technical Advisory Committee

The MCAS Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is an existing group of outside assessment experts who continually review the MCAS test designs to ensure that the results are valid. The design of the MCAS 2.0 assessment will be subject to the same level of scrutiny by the TAC. Michol Stapel (mstapel@doe.mass.edu) chairs the TAC.

School and District Accountability and Assistance Advisory Council

The AAAC is an existing Board advisory council established by statute (G.L. c.15, s.1G). The AAAC will be asked to review and advise on the transition to MCAS 2.0 results in the state's school and district accountability system. AAAC meetings are open to the public and are posted on the AAAC's webpage (www.doe.mass.edu/boe/sac/sda/). Matt Pakos (mpakos@doe.mass.edu) is the liaison between the MCAS 2.0 project staff and the AAAC.

History and Social Science Workgroup

Following the recommendations of the recently convened Working Group on Civic Learning and Engagement, the Board has directed the Department to update the 2003 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework, and to add a history and social science component to the MCAS assessment. A proposed timetable for these activities will be presented to the Board this winter. The history and social science tests will not be included in the initial MCAS 2.0 roll-out in spring 2017, but will follow the updating of the framework. A workgroup will be established at a later date to review and evaluate options for these tests. Dave Buchanan (dbuchanan@doe.mass.edu) will be coordinating the framework review and update process.

PARCC Consortium

Massachusetts will remain a member of the multi-state PARCC consortium, in order to have continued access to test items developed by the consortium and to allow for cross-state comparisons of student performance. The consortium's governing board currently consists of the chief state school officers of the member states. Bill Bell (wbell@doe.mass.edu) will coordinate staff support to the Commissioner on matters relating to consortium governance.

EDUCATOR PARTICIPATION

The MCAS 2.0 project needs the advice and counsel of our public school teachers and school administrators. In particular, we are currently looking for volunteers to participate on the Test Administration workgroup; the High School Testing workgroup; the MCAS Accessibility workgroup; and the ELA and Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks review panels. Interested educators should send an email to MCAS2.0@doe.mass.edu with your contact information; the workgroup you are interested in; your experience and current employment; and any other relevant information. We are especially interested in volunteers who are familiar with the state's curriculum frameworks and have expertise in best practices for classroom instruction and large-scale assessment.

Please note that the Test Administration workgroup and the High School Testing workgroup will both have a number of meetings in late January and February to support the development of the

testing contract request for proposals. Educators interested in serving on either of these groups should submit their applications no later than January 20. Applications for the MCAS Accessibility workgroup and the Curriculum Frameworks review panels may be submitted through February 1.

Higher education faculty will also be involved in many of the workgroups and review panels. Sue Lane (slane@bhe.mass.edu) in the Department of Higher Education will coordinate their participation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

All members of the public are invited to attend the Board Assessment Committee monthly meetings. These meetings will include reports from all of the workgroups and advisory committees, as well as discussion of the major test design decisions. We will also shortly be creating an MCAS 2.0 project webpage on the DESE website, where project documents and related informational materials will be posted.

Although the workgroups will be staffed primarily by educators, there will be some opportunity for parents and members of other stakeholder groups to participate in those meetings. If you have a particular interest in joining any of the committees or workgroups, please send an email to MCAS2.0@doe.mass.edu. Please include your contact information, your background and/or organizational affiliation, the committee or workgroup you are interested in, and any other relevant information.

Finally, we will be soliciting student input through the State Student Advisory Council.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

We welcome your comments and questions. Please feel free to contact any of the Department staff listed above. General inquiries can also be sent to MCAS2.0@doe.mass.edu.

Statewide Technology Readiness for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Standards:

Minimum Standards for Computer-Based Testing:

- Sufficient Internet connections within schools (wired or wireless)
- Sufficient Internet connection from the school/district to an Internet Service Provider (ISP)
- Sufficient bandwidth available for testing
- Sufficient number of computers to give the test within a testing window

School Data:

1,805 Schools	1,363 meet minimum specifications
	442 do not meet minimum specifications

Reasons for Lack of Readiness:

442 Schools	403 have insufficient computers
	26 have insufficient Internet and computers
	13 have insufficient Internet

Cost Estimates:

- **Computers:** \$3.1 to \$12.3M (\$250 to \$1,000 ea.)
 - 304 schools need ≤ 30 computers
 - 85 schools need 31-60
 - 37 schools need 61-90
 - 13 schools need 91-120
 - 3 schools need 121-150
- **Infrastructure:** \$2.4 million

Standards for Next Generation Teaching and Learning:

- Similar to standards for computer-based testing, but includes all classrooms and common areas in a school, not just those used for testing
- Sufficient devices to at least reach a 1:3 computer-to-student ratio
- Sufficient bandwidth to meet demand as schools purchase more computers

1,805 Schools	11 meet the standard
	12 have insufficient data
	1,782 do not meet the standard

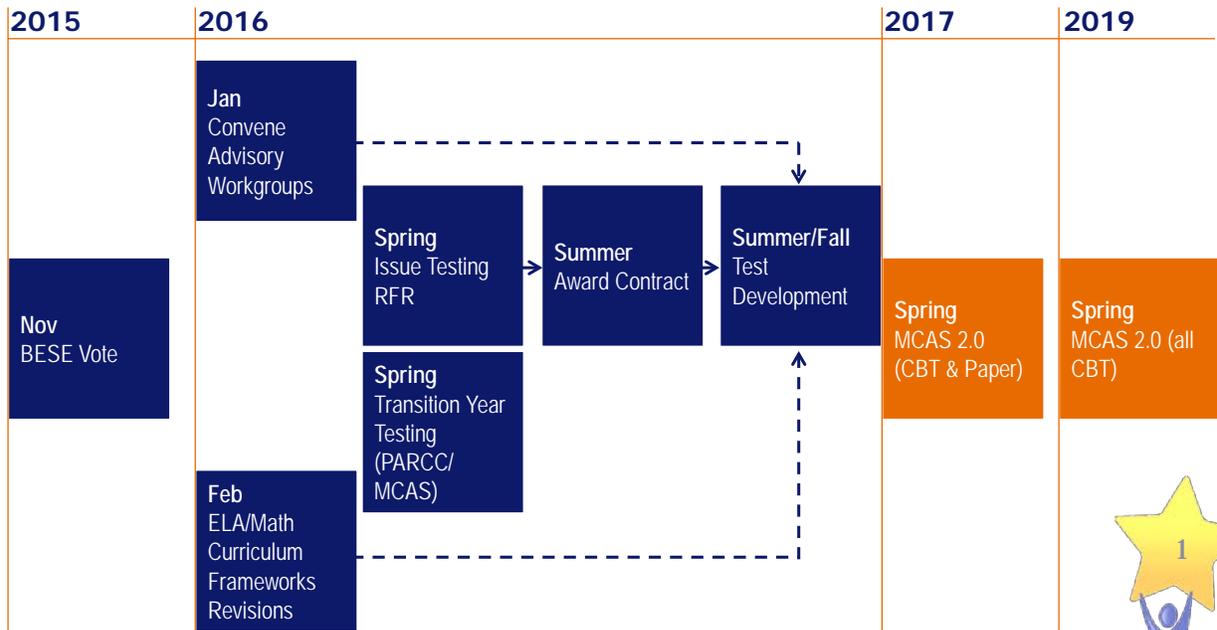
1,782 Schools	82 have insufficient computers
	1,671 have insufficient Internet and computers
	29 have insufficient Internet

- **Computers:** \$66.9 to \$268M (\$250 to \$1,000 ea.)
- **Infrastructure:** \$95.6 million (approx.)

Funding Sources:

- Digital Connections Partnership Schools Grant - \$5M authorized out of \$38M appropriation; \$9.82 requested for FY17
- E-Rate – Provides Federal reimbursement for technology upgrades (MA districts have received \$42.9M in FY16)
- Low/no-cost loans – Being considered by MSBA
- ESEA law – Average district allocation for technology (rough estimate): \$36,098

MCAS 2.0 Development Timeline



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

