Information to Help Districts Choose MCAS or PARCC in Spring 2015

May 2014
Agenda

★ PARCC field test update
★ Lessons learned from the field test
   ★ Feedback from teachers
   ★ Feedback from students
★ Transition from grant-funded to operational PARCC
★ Timeline for decision-making
★ How to register your decision
★ Technology readiness
★ Reporting and Accountability
   ★ Equipercentile linking and growth
★ Resources
Spring 2014 Field Test

⭐ Allows students to experience the new computer-based testing format before it counts

⭐ Allows us to determine the fairness, validity, and accuracy of test questions – and refine the test before it becomes operational next year

⭐ No student, school, or district results reported
Participation in the field tests

Most schools in Massachusetts are participating
- Public schools and charter schools, no outplacements
- Approx. 81,000 students in 1,050 schools in 345 districts

Students in grades 3–11 (grade 10 EOY only)

Representative random sample
- Most students were selected for either PBA or EOY
- Subset selected for both PBA and EOY
- Approx. 1/3 taking paper and 2/3 taking online
- A small number of districts opted to consolidate participation (all students took only PARCC in 17 schools)
What did students say about taking PARCC online?

★ The majority of students expressed a preference for the online tests over paper-and-pencil tests (74% ELA, 56% Math)

★ All or most test questions asked students about things they had learned in school this year (87% in ELA, 70% in math)

★ 28% reported that the ELA test was more difficult than their school work; 61% of students reported that the math test was more difficult
What did students say about preparing for PARCC online?

★ **2 out of 3 students** took practice test(s) on a computer or tablet to get ready

★ **Approx. 87%** use a computer or tablet at least once a week **at home**

★ **Approx. 60%** use a computer or tablet at least once a week **in school**
What did students say about taking the PARCC PBA field test online?

- How hard it is to type answers depends on the subject area:
  - **ELA**: 87% found it easy to type answers
  - **Math**: 58% found it easy to type answers; 41% found it hard

- Many students experienced a technology-related problem
  - **ELA**: 31% reported a problem during testing
  - **Math**: 46% (22% had trouble changing answers)

- The test was easy to navigate
- Accessibility tools were easy to use
What did teachers say about taking PARCC online?

- 81% had never administered a computer-based test before
- Most students were able to complete the test without needing the additional time allotted
  - 29% said none of the students in their class needed additional time
  - 44% said less than 1/3 needed additional time
  - 28% said approx. half to most needed additional time
- 48% said the training did not prepare them to solve basic problems related to technology; 46% agreed that the training was adequate
What are we learning so far?

★ Students are able to affirmatively engage with the new online assessments
★ Schools and districts will benefit in the coming school year from more time and support as they prepare for online testing
★ Use “proctor caching;” do not administer the test live online
★ The majority of schools (72%) need more devices to test all their students (in grades 3–11)
★ Paper-based PARCC testing provides a valuable and viable option for at least the next two years
★ MA test administrators for computer-based tests expect and will require better support and training from the assessment vendor than what has been delivered so far.
Transition to operational PARCC Testing

★ PARCC was established in 2010 with a $186 million federal grant that funds development of the new assessments through Sept. 2014

★ Beginning in FY 2015 member states will pay for PARCC on a per pupil basis through:
  ★ PARCC Operational Contract – New Mexico
  ★ PARCC Diagnostic Assessment – Maryland and PARCC Inc.
  ★ PARCC Partnership Contractor – Rhode Island
## Timeline for making decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, May 19</td>
<td>District superintendents receive instructions and a pass code via email for registering the district’s choice via an online tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19–June 30</td>
<td>District superintendents register decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m., Monday, June 30</td>
<td>Deadline to register early decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 1</td>
<td>Deadline for decision <em>pending availability</em> (instructions forthcoming)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to register your district’s spring 2015 assessment early decision

1. Check email for your district’s unique password.
   ★ To be sent by parcc@doe.mass.edu to superintendents
   ★ Subject: Instructions for Registering Decision for PARCC or MCAS for 2015 – Early Decision Due June 30

2. Go online to survey

3. You will receive a receipt indicating your decision after you submit the survey

4. Choices can be altered until the deadline
You may change your decision until 12:00 p.m., Monday, June 30, by revisiting this online form and completing it again.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Student Assessment Services at 781-338-3625 or PARCC@doe.mass.edu.

Enter password here

This email address will receive confirmation of your decision

Please provide your name and email *
Name (First and Last)  Email Address

Please select the district you are responsible for. Note that the dropdown menu is arranged alphabetically. If you are responsible for more than one district you will be asked to complete this form for each district. *

-- Please Select --

Next

0%
What can districts choose in spring 2015?

★ Will your district administer PARCC or MCAS tests for grades 3–8 in ELA and Mathematics?

★ Choose all PARCC or all MCAS tests for all grades (grades 3–8), and for both subjects

★ (If PARCC is chosen) For grade 8 math, indicate how many students will participate in

★ The PARCC grade 8 mathematics test, or

★ The PARCC Algebra I test, if the school’s Algebra I curriculum is aligned with the 2011 framework
If your district chooses PARCC ...

★ Indicate the percentage of students who will take computer-based (CBT) and/or paper-based (PBT) PARCC tests.
★ Choose all CBT or all PBT by school.
★ Indicate the percentage of students in grades 3–8 who will be taking the test online.
What can districts choose in spring 2015 for grades 9 and 11?

- Will your district administer PARCC tests in ELA and Mathematics in grade 9 and/or 11, if funding is available?
  - Can be separate from grades 3-8 decision
  - Can make separate decisions for ELA and Mathematics
  - Can make separate decisions for gr. 9 and for gr. 11

- **ELA**
  - grade 9 ELA test, grade 11 ELA test

- **Mathematics**
  - Integrated Mathematics I test, Integrated Mathematics III test, Algebra I end-of-course test, Algebra II end-of-course test, Geometry end-of-course test
High school considerations

- Grade 11 ELA, Integrated Math III and the Algebra II tests will qualify students to take credit-bearing courses in all state colleges.
- Up to 60% of community college students are now placed in remedial courses.
  - Only 17 percent of all community college students graduate with an associate’s degree within 3 years including <5% percent of those on the remedial path.
- Grade 10 students will take MCAS tests in ELA and Mathematics.
- The current Competency Determination requirements are in place through the class of 2018.
What other factors should districts consider?

- All students in grades 5, 8, and high school participate in MCAS Science and Technology/Engineering tests.
- PARCC participation includes PBA and EOY portions for both Mathematics and ELA.
Spring 2015 PARCC testing dates for MA

- **Performance-based assessment (PBA)**
  - March 16–April 10 for computer-based testing
  - March 23–April 3 for paper-based testing
- **End-of-year assessment (EOY)**
  - May 4–29 for computer-based testing
  - May 11–22 for paper-based testing

*Remember that a school participating in PARCC must take both the PBA and EOY portions.*
October 1 Deadline

★ For districts that did not register their decision by June 30
   ★ Decisions are pending availability; districts may not be able to participate in PARCC, depending on the Department’s budgetary considerations.

★ If your district does not respond by October 1, the Department plans to assign students to participate in MCAS.
What are the technology specifications for PARCC computer-based testing

- [http://www.parcconline.org/technology](http://www.parcconline.org/technology)
- Technology Guidelines for PARCC Assessments: Version 4.2 contain specs for
  - Windows desktop and laptop
  - Mac desktop and laptop
  - Chromebook
  - Linux
  - iPad
  - Windows tablet
  - Android tablet
What is the recommended number of devices to purchase?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Minimum number of devices</th>
<th>Recommended number of devices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For a school with three tested grades (e.g., a school with grades 3–5, 6–8, or 9–12)</td>
<td>One device for every two students in the largest tested grade</td>
<td>One device per student for the largest tested grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For a school with six tested grades (e.g., a K–8 school)</td>
<td>One device per student for the largest tested grade</td>
<td>One device per student for the two largest tested grades</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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# Technology “quick start” checklist

1. **NUMBER OF TEST TAKERS:**
   *Estimate the maximum number of students that will be testing at one time.*

2. **AVAILABLE DEVICES:**
   *Identify the school computers that will be available for testing.*

3. **BANDWIDTH:**
   - 5 kbps per student -- proctor caching
   - 50 kbps per student -- minimum level
   - 100 kbps per student -- recommended level
How should students be prepared for computer-based testing?

- Digital-learning-rich curriculum
- PARCC sample sets and tutorials

http://practice.parcc.testnav.com/#
Questions & Answers
PARCC test administration considerations

- PARCC is a timed test.
  - Extended time for students with disabilities and ELL students
- Districts can administer computer-based and/or paper-based tests.
- Similar accommodations for students with disabilities as MCAS accommodations
  - MCAS-Alt for students who need an alternate assessment in 2015
- Additional supports for ELL students
  - E.g., general directions can be read in student’s native language
How will the Department support school districts doing PARCC in 2015?

- **Student Data Upload**
  - including test accommodations used in spring 2014
- **Summer institute**
  - 9 month plan to prepare for PARCC online
- **Grade-by-grade maps**
  - computer skills
  - tools students need to use
- **Practice tests and tutorials**
- **One-page “quick start” guides**
  - for teachers
  - for principals
Reporting on PARCC

- The Department plans to use a representative sample to link PARCC results to MCAS results.
- Achievement and growth (where available) will be reported at the student, school, district, and state levels.
- A large representative sample would allow the Department to identify PARCC scaled scores that are similarly difficult to achieve to calculate a Composite Performance Index, *Needs Improvement*, and *Advanced* cut scores under “hold-harmless.”
Proposed Equipercentile Linking

Representative sample

- 31% Adv
  - 100: 260
- 36% Prof
  - 75: 240
- 22% NI
  - 50: 230
- 11% W
  - 25: 220

MCAS Grade 3

PARCC Grade 3 (simulated)

Chart Area

- ~260 (Adv)
- ~240 (100 CPI)
- ~230 (75 CPI)
- ~220 (50 CPI)
- ~210 (25 CPI)

Legend:
- Level 1
- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4
- Level 5

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Accountability

★ Schools administering PARCC will have their 2015 accountability and assistance level “held harmless” (i.e., the level will stay the same or improve from 2014, but cannot decline).

★ Schools administering MCAS will be classified into a level as usual, and will not be “held harmless.”
## 2015 Accountability Determination for a School Participating in PARCC

### Sample School A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cumulative PPI</strong></td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>High Needs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Percentile</td>
<td>Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>76</td>
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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
## 2015 Accountability Determination for a School Participating in PARCC
### Sample School B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>Cumulative PPI</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Needs</td>
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<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Percentile</td>
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<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>Level 3 (declines)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level – Effect without “Hold Harmless”</td>
<td>Level 2 (remains the same)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
# 2015 Accountability Determination for a School Participating in PARCC
## Sample School C

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Cumulative PPI</td>
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<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
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<td>Level</td>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>High Needs</td>
<td>School Percentile</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>73</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Level 3</td>
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</tr>
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Opportunities to learn more

★ **May 19**: M.A.S.S. “Drive-In” session with Commissioner Chester at Hudson High School

★ **May 22**: M.A.S.S. spring conference

★ **May and June**: Seven regional meetings

★ **July**: One-day workshop for districts administering PARCC CBT in 2015
Other resources

★ PARCC policy questions: parcc@doe.mass.edu
★ Technology readiness questions: techtool@doe.mass.edu
★ Tech Forum Conference “Getting Ready for the Common Core Assessments”
Questions & Answers
Thank you for participating.