PARCC/MCAS
Choice: Why PARCC in 2015?

May/June 2014

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Presenter Introductions
2. Where We are on the 2-Year PARCC “Test Drive”
3. PARCC Field Test Update and Preliminary Student and Teacher Survey Data
4. The PARCC/MCAS Choice
   ★ Why PARCC in 2015?
   ★ How will Choosing PARCC Affect Our Schools?
5. Let’s Talk
Where We are on the 2-Year PARCC “Test Drive”

- **2013**
  - BESE votes on 2-year “test drive”

- **Mar-Jun 2014**
  - PBA and EOY field tests

- **Jun*-Oct 1, 2014**
  - Districts choose PARCC or MCAS

- **2015**
  - Operational PARCC and MCAS testing

- **Fall 2015**
  - BESE votes whether to adopt PARCC

- **2016**
  - PARCC is implemented or transition begins to another “next-gen” assessment

*June 30 is PARCC “guarantee” deadline*
PARCC Field Test Update

★ Most schools in Massachusetts will participate
  ★ Approx. 81,000 students in 1,050 schools in 345 districts

★ March 24 to April 11: Performance Based Assessment (PBA) window completed
  ★ 41,000 students tested online
  ★ 17,000 students tested with pencil and paper

★ May 5 to June 6: End of Year Assessment window
  ★ Approx. 33,500 students expected to test online
  ★ Approx. 14,500 students expected to test with pencil and paper
What did 37,000 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.
- 83% (Math) to 94% (ELA) of students responded that they had enough time.
- Two out of three of students took one or more practice tests on a computer or tablet to get ready.
What did 37,000 Students Say about Taking PARCC Online?

- Approximately 87% use a computer or tablet on at least a weekly basis at home
- Approximately 60% use a computer or tablet on at least a weekly basis in school
- The vast majority (87%) of students taking the ELA PBA found it “easy to type answers;” for math, 58% found typing “easy” – but 41% found it “hard”
- Almost half of students (46%) reported a technology problem during the math test, compared to 31% in ELA
- Students overwhelmingly found it easy to navigate and use the embedded “accessibility tools”
81% had never before administered a computer based test

Most students were able to complete the test without needing the additional time allotted (sessions were 40-80 minutes)

- 29% said none of the students in their class needed additional time; 44% said less than 1/3rd needed additional time; 28% said about half to the majority needed the additional time

48% said the training did not prepare them to solve basic problems related to technology; 46% agreed that the training was adequate
Fewer than 1% of Students “Opt Out”

Questions about student opt-outs were fielded from 43 districts; however, only 86 students were recorded as opting out during the online PBA Field Tests.

- This represents .2% of 41,000 students tested online.
- Perhaps some of the 319 students who were absent were “opting out,” however, even if every absence not recorded as “medically necessary” were included, the maximum percent “opting out” would still be fewer than .75%.

- Parental opt outs are not allowed on state tests.
- Many PARCC states are experiencing far greater resistance to implementation of new standards and assessments than is Massachusetts.
The PARCC/MCAS Choice: Why PARCC in 2015?

★ So why should a district elect to administer PARCC instead of MCAS in spring 2015?

★ Students participating in PARCC will have a head start on experiencing a next generation assessment – the type of assessment that all schools must administer beginning with the 2015/2016 SY

★ Districts that choose to administer PARCC in spring 2015 will be able to do so at “NO RISK” – they will have their 2015 accountability levels "held harmless"
The PARCC/MCAS Choice: Why PARCC in 2015?

★ So why should a district elect to administer PARCC instead of MCAS in spring 2015?

★ PARCC will provide both a paper and online version of its assessments next year

★ Students will take either PARCC or MCAS next year; generally speaking, there will be no double-testing

★ PARCC will not cause any interruption in a district’s ability to use student growth percentiles (SGPs) for educator evaluation
The PARCC/MCAS Choice: Why PARCC in 2015?

- **May**
  - Early May: First of weekly conference calls to give districts information about choice
  - May 19: M.A.S.S. Drive-in Conference and release of PARCC/MCAS choice tool

- **June 30**
  - CHOICE 1st Deadline: Districts interested in choice ‘guarantee’ submit decision (PARCC or MCAS for grades 3-8) for spring 2015*

- **July**
  - One-day workshop for districts administering PARCC online in 2015

- **October**
  - October 1: CHOICE Final Day: Districts submit decision (PARCC or MCAS) for spring 2015, pending availability
  - October 31: Final decision for PARRC online or paper test administration

- **Winter**
  - PARCC and MCAS trainings
  - Data uploads for online PARCC testing

- **Spring**
  - PARCC and MCAS test administrations (see dates below)

**MCAS 2015 Testing Dates**
- ELA testing window: March 23-April 6
- Math and G5/G8 STE testing window: May 4-May 19
- H9 STE testing window: June 2-5

*Grades 9 and 11 are optional and subject to appropriation

**PARCC 2015 Testing Dates (tentative)**
- Performance-Based Assessment: March 16-April 10 for computer-based testing; March 23-April 3 for paper-based testing
- End-of-Year: May 4-29 for computer-based testing; May 11-22 for paper-based testing
Test Drive: Yr 1: 2014 Field Test
Yr 2: 2015 Operational Test

- 2014 Field Test: About 15% of students in grades 3-11 “tested the test” – assessing test items and online/paper test delivery
- 2015 PARCC Operational Test: All students within a district that selects PARCC in grades 3-8 and possibly some in grades 9 & 11 will take the new assessments
  - Each school will administer PARCC either online OR on paper in both English Language Arts and Mathematics
  - Students in grades 5, 8, and high school will also continue to take the MCAS Science and Technology/Engineering tests
# Test Drive: Yr 1: 2014 Field Test

## Yr 2: 2015 Operational Test

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<tr>
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<th>Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test</th>
<th>Spring 2015 PARCC Operational Test</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Choice of PARCC or MCAS</strong></td>
<td>Districts were randomly sampled to participate. Districts taking the Performance-Based Assessment had a choice to also take MCAS, or exempt students from MCAS.</td>
<td>Districts will choose either PARCC or MCAS, not both. Separate choices will be made for Grades 3-8 and for grades 9 &amp; 11. Grade 10 MCAS continues to be required.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Participation</strong></td>
<td>In participating districts, students from a small number of classrooms were randomly selected to take parts of the ELA or Mathematics test, not the entire test.</td>
<td>All students in grades 3-9 and 11 selected to participate will take the complete PARCC tests in both ELA and Mathematics.</td>
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<td><strong>Test Format</strong></td>
<td>Schools were assigned to take either the paper version or the online version of the assessments.</td>
<td>Districts administering PARCC will have the opportunity to select whether students will take the paper or online version of the assessments.</td>
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<td><strong>Performance Results</strong></td>
<td>No district, school, or student-level results were produced.</td>
<td>District, school, and student-level results will be produced and publicly reported.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Student Rosters</strong></td>
<td>District or school personnel were required to load classrooms of students into PearsonAccess using the student data upload process.</td>
<td>The Department will upload all students enrolled as of the October 2014 SIMS. Schools will only need to add or remove any students who were not reported on the October 1 enrollment report.</td>
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<td><strong>Technology</strong></td>
<td>Online delivery: TestNav 8.0 (1st administration).</td>
<td>Online delivery: TestNav 8.0 (with more functionality to enhance usability and accessibility).</td>
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“Hold Harmless” Approach for Schools Administering PARCC

★ Will accountability reporting be different in 2015?
★ Yes, but only for schools that administer PARCC. Their level will stay the same or improve from 2014, but cannot decline. Protocols will be followed that ensure PARCC 2015 results do not disadvantage school accountability classifications in 2016, 2017, and 2018 as well.

★ Schools administering MCAS will be classified into a level as usual, and will not be held harmless.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
“Hold Harmless” Approach for Schools Administering PARCC

Will data be reported for a school that chooses PARCC?

- Yes, ESE will report assessment and accountability data for all schools, whether they administer MCAS or PARCC
- Using a representative sample, ESE will use “equipercentile linking” to compare and publish achievement levels and CPI scores based upon 2015 MCAS and PARCC results for each school
- ESE will calculate reliable student growth percentiles (SGPs) for schools that administer PARCC
What will hold harmless look like in practice?

Below are three hypothetical examples of 2015 accountability determinations for schools that participate in PARCC in spring 2015.
PARCC: Anticipated Decision Criteria

★ RIGOR
★ First round: Fall 2014 based upon field tests
★ Second round: Fall 2015 – MCAS/PARCC comparison

★ QUALITY
★ Items are aligned with full range of standards and full continuum of student performance: Ongoing
★ Provides valid and reliable assessment of students’ knowledge, skills and abilities: Fall 2015

★ COVERAGE
★ Provides measures of student performance on all standards, including the hardest to assess

+ TECHNOLOGY Readiness and Paper Option
Let’s Talk