Student Assessment Fiscal Overview

September 22, 2015

Student Assessment Budget

★ Funding includes both state and federal funding.

★ Spending has risen since FY14 to accommodate the district-choice element of the Commonwealth's test drive of the PARCC assessment.
  - ★ FY14 = $32M
  - ★ FY15 = $37M
  - ★ FY16 = $37M

★ Spending represents less than .50% of our annual appropriations.

★ Spending includes:
  - ★ ESE assessment staff (13%)
  - ★ Assessment contracts (87%)

Assessment Contracts: Scope

★ PARCC - Pearson

  ★ ELA and Mathematics tests in grades 3-11

  ★ High school retests

★ MCAS - Measured Progress

  ★ ELA and Mathematics tests in grades 3-8 and 10

  ★ Science and Tech/Eng tests in grades 5, 8, and HS

  ★ High school retests

  ★ MCAS Alternate Assessment

★ ACCESS – WIDA Consortium

  ★ Assessment of English language proficiency for ELLs in grades K-12

Cost Variability

- ★ Predicting future costs for both assessment programs depends on numerous variables:
  - ★ PARCC
    - ★ Cost is driven by multi-state student volumes and by MA optional-service election.
    - ★ Price agreement effective through FY18, with possibility of renegotiation in FY17.
    - ★ Computer-based v. paper-based affect cost.
  - ★ MCAS
    - ★ Requires new procurement for the 2016-2017 school year.
    - ★ Revisions to current tests and potential addition of testing in grades 9 and 11.
    - ★ Introduction of computer-based testing

Cost Overview

★ PARCC & MCAS contracts have different scope and financial structures, resulting in an extrapolation of comparative per student costs.

  ★ PARCC current combined ELA & Math test cost averages $32 per student, including state optional services & project management costs. Cost average projected to increase per current contract terms.

  ★ MCAS test cost for ELA & Math averages $42 per student. New procurement and scope will dictate cost in subsequent years.

★ Presently there is no clear conclusion that either assessment program is more or less expensive than the other.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education