

Considerations to Guide the State Board's MCAS/PARCC Decision

Instructional Impact

How do MCAS and PARCC compare in terms of the ambition of curriculum expected of educators and the level of performance expected of students?
How do MCAS and PARCC compare in terms of usefulness and timeliness of information to educators and parents?

Technical Quality

Does one test do a better job than the other of predicting whether a student is on track to succeed in college?
How does PARCC compare to MCAS in terms of alignment to MA ELA and math standards?
How will PARCC ensure quality? What will Massachusetts's role be?

Design and Feedback

What role did/does Massachusetts play in developing PARCC?
What do students who took PARCC think of it?
What do educators say about PARCC versus MCAS?
Are students disadvantaged or advantaged by the on-line versus paper-and-pencil version?
Is PARCC accessible to special needs (students with disabilities, English language learners) students?
How much testing time do MCAS and PARCC require?

Governance and Operational Viability

Is PARCC sustainable?
How will Massachusetts ensure that if PARCC is selected, decisions about the assessment will be in the best interests of the Commonwealth?
Are schools technologically ready for PARCC?
What is the cost of PARCC versus MCAS?

State Board Role

What is the Board's role in adopting PARCC?
What will happen to the graduation (competency determination) requirement?
What additional questions do you have?