

Question Lot Responses - August Meeting

The following questions were submitted by committee members during the August 24th meeting of the Committee of Practitioners (CoP). Answers provided by RIDE.

➤ **Many states have dropped PARCC. Why does RI still recommend use of PARCC?**

Rhode Island knows well the benefits of working as part of an assessment consortium. There is a cost benefit when states work together and a collective wisdom that leads to higher quality assessments. The decision to participate in PARCC and to remain in PARCC was made because this consortium was deeply committed to:

- Designing a test that supports creative curriculum aligned to the CCSS;
- Measuring the full range of student learning with abundant accommodations;
- Including a large proportion of items requiring students to think critically, read authentic text deeply, solve and explain their thinking on math problems; and use technology to introduce innovative item types;
- Developing a robust set of assessment reports;
- Ongoing research to ensure continuous improvement and validated results.

➤ **I've heard that federal requirements for school rating only require 51% to be based on testing. How much do test results account for our school rating, now?**

For elementary and middle schools the state assessment accounts for 100% of a schools rating through various metrics. For high schools it accounts for 70%, with graduation rates accounting for the other 30%.

➤ **Will this group continue to have more conversations on PARCC and Common Core?**

After the initial input stage and starting in 2017, the CoP will have an opportunity to revisit all of the recommendations being made in the ESSA state planning process, including PARCC and Common Core, and provide additional feedback.

➤ **When will our new school accountability system be implemented?**

The new accountability system will be implemented for the 2017-2018 school year.

➤ **Instead of accountability or responsibility system does RIDE have a mechanism to collect from schools feedback on what they need to achieve goals?**

Currently, RIDE does not have a mechanism to collect feedback on what schools need to achieve goals.

➤ **There has been lots of recent discussion on a national level about Common core not being a good set of standards. Why does RIDE still support the use of these?**

Rhode Island adopted the CCSS in place of a planned update to our current standards, known as Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) and Grade Span Expectations (GSEs). By adopting the CCSS, our state was positioned to work with other states on collaborative curriculum and assessment initiatives. The CCSS are rigorous, internationally benchmarked, and establish clear expectations for the development of foundational skills and knowledge in earlier grades. The Common Core State Standards were developed based on a large and growing body of evidence. The writers of the standards used scholarly research; surveys on what skills are required of students entering college and workforce training programs; assessment data identifying college-and career-ready performance; and comparisons to standards from high-performing states and nations.

➤ **Will you expand on what the council is doing regarding Common Core and PARCC so the committee can offer comments to them directly on that?**

The date for the Council discussion on Common Core and PARCC has not yet been set, but will be made publically available through the Council Agenda when possible. The recommendation memo from the CoP will be made available to the Council prior to their conversation.

➤ **Will you email our current accountability system to the group?**

Below is the link to the technical bulletin for the 2015 accountability system. The accountability system was revised for this year and we are in the process of finalizing the technical bulletin for that model. We will share the 2016 technical bulletin when it is finalized. [RI Accountability System - Technical Bulletin](#)