Common Core Initiative Mission

• The Common Core State Standards – 
  • Provide a **consistent, clear** understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.
  • Designed to be robust and **relevant to the real world**, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.
  • Position US students to **compete successfully** in the global economy.
**Key Advances of the Common Core**

### MATHEMATICS

- Focus, coherence and clarity: emphasis on key topics at each grade level and coherent progression across grades
- Procedural fluency and understanding of concepts and skills
- Promote rigor through mathematical proficiencies that foster reasoning and understanding across discipline
- High school standards organized by conceptual categories

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

- Balance of literature and informational texts; focus on text complexity
- Emphasis on argument, informative/explanatory writing, and research
- Speaking and listening skills
- Literacy standards for history, science and technical subjects

**ANCHORED IN COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS**
• Focus

Intended by 4 out of the 6 top-achieving counties

Intended by all but one of the top-achieving countries (5 out of 6)

Intended by all of the top-achieving countries
K-12 and Postsecondary Roles in PARCC

K-12 Educators & Education Leaders

• Educators are involved throughout the development of the PARCC assessments and related instructional and reporting tools to help ensure the system provides the information and resources educators most need

Postsecondary Faculty & Leaders

• Nearly 750 institutions and systems covering hundreds of campuses across PARCC states have committed to help develop the high school assessments and set the college-ready cut score that will indicate a student is ready for credit-bearing courses
New tests and teaching tools in English Language Arts/Literacy & Mathematics

- **Tests worth taking**, made up of **texts worth reading** and **problems worth solving**
- Full of the kinds of **questions great teachers routinely ask** students
- Closely aligned to **college- and career-ready standards** that prepare students for success after high school
PARCC Tests

- Measure **problem-solving and critical thinking skills**
- Give **timely feedback to teachers and students** on strengths and weaknesses, allowing teachers to better meet student needs
- Determine whether students are **on track for college or career**
- Include a **writing component at every grade level**
- **Allow comparison** across schools, districts and states
PARCC Assessment System

Beginning of School Year

- Diagnostic Assessment
- Mid-Year Assessment
- Speaking and Listening Assessment

Formative tools

End of School Year

- Performance-Based Assessment
- End-of-Year Assessment

Summative assessments

Flexible use

Non-summative assessment

optional  required
Summative Components

Performance-Based Component (PBA)

ELA/Literacy
Writing essays drawing evidence from sources, including multi-media

Math
Solving multi-step problems that require reasoning and address real world situations

End-of-Year Component (EOY)

ELA/Literacy
Demonstrating comprehension of literary and informational texts

Math
Demonstrating understanding of concepts, fluency, and application of knowledge

PBA and EOY Combined = Total Score
Formative Tools

Diagnostic Assessments

• Grades 2-8
• Reading, Writing, Math
• Computer-based, adaptive
• Designed to pinpoint students’ strengths and weaknesses

Mid-Year Assessments

• Grades 3-11
• ELA/Literacy and Math
• Computer- and paper-based test modules
• Designed to mirror summative assessments and to use for instructional purposes

*K-1 formative tools also available*
Sample Grade 6 Math Question

Mr. Ruiz is starting a marching band at his school. He first does research and finds the following data about other local marching bands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Band 1</th>
<th>Band 2</th>
<th>Band 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Brass Players</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Percussion</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part A

Type your answer in the box. Backspace to erase.

Mr. Ruiz realizes that there are ____ brass instrument player(s) per percussion player.

Part B

Mr. Ruiz has 210 students who are interested in joining the marching band. He decides to have 80% of the band be made up of percussion and brass instruments. Use the unit rate you found in Part A to determine how many students should play brass instruments.
SAMPLE ITEM

STUDENT DIRECTIONS

You have read three texts describing Amelia Earhart. All three include the claim that Earhart was a brave, courageous person. The three texts are:

- “Biography of Amelia Earhart”
- “Earhart’s Final Resting Place Believed Found”
- “Amelia Earhart’s Life and Disappearance”

Consider the argument each author uses to demonstrate Earhart’s bravery.

Write an essay that analyzes the strength of the arguments about Earhart’s bravery in at least two of the texts. Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.
• **Sample Grade 3 ELA/Literacy Task**

• **Question:**
  • You have read two texts about famous people in American history who solved a problem by working to make a change.

  • Write an article for your school newspaper describing how Eliza and Carver faced challenges to change something in America.

  • In your article, be sure to describe in detail why some solutions they tried worked and others did not work.

  • Tell how the challenges each one faced were the same and how they were different.
Field Tests: A Key Milestone

Before PARCC states administer these new tests in 2014–15, they must conduct field tests this spring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014 Field testing</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARCC is launched, governing board meets</td>
<td>Test development begins</td>
<td>Item types released</td>
<td>Sample questions released</td>
<td>Field testing</td>
<td>Operational tests administered</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14
Field Tests: Timeline 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>Sept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support for School Staff
- Regional workshops
- On-Site visits
- Manuals & training modules
- Call center
- Tools to check computer systems & conduct “dress rehearsals”

- **PBA Field Test**
  - March 24–April 11
- **EOY Field Test**
  - May 5–June 6

Practice Tests

Research Findings
The field tests are designed to generate data to evaluate the quality of the test questions.

- Opportunity for a number of important research studies.
- Not designed to yield individual student, school, or district results.
Field Testing: Schools in 14 States & DC

- Over 1 million students
- Nearly 16,000 schools
- 1-3 grades per school, 2 classrooms per grade*
- The field tests are designed like the full tests (PBA and EOY components)
  - Most students will only take one component

*in most cases
Field Test Benefits

- **Students** become familiar with new item types and the test delivery platform
- **Parents** learn more about PARCC
- **Teachers** provide feedback to PARCC on “how it went”
- **Technology Coordinators** evaluate their schools’ technology systems
- **Administrators** evaluate overall readiness
- **Test Developers** measure the reliability of the test questions
Field testing the performance-based assessment, which features writing in English Language Arts (ELA) and multi-step, real-world problems in math

Field testing the end-of-year assessment, which features reading comprehension in ELA and conceptual understanding in math
Thousands of educators across PARCC states are reviewing PARCC test questions.

The field test is another chance to provide feedback on the development of the new tests.

Students and teachers will be asked to take surveys about their experience with the field tests when they are over.
Field Tests
- Most students will use PARCC’s computer-based platform
- Paper-and-pencil versions of the field tests will also be administered

Tests in 2014–2015 and onward
- Paper versions will be available for schools still in the process of gearing up
- Goal is for all students to take PARCC assessments on computer within a few years

Computer- and Paper-Based Tests
## What’s Next for PARCC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td><strong>Summer/Fall</strong></td>
<td><strong>Winter/Spring</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students take field tests</td>
<td>PARCC begins building tests</td>
<td>Mid-year assessments available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARCC releases practice tests</td>
<td>Findings from research reported</td>
<td>Students take operational tests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resources

• Model Content Frameworks
  – www.parcconline.org/parcc-model-content-frameworks

• Test Specifications and Blueprints
  – http://www.parcconline.org/assessment-blueprints-test-specs

• Sample items and tutorials for every tested subject and grade
  – http://practice.parcc.testnav.com/#

• Educator Leaders Cadres
  – Public ELC portal for educator resources!
    – http://parcc.nms.org/

• Test Administration Training Modules
  – PowerPoint and voice recorded guidance to guide test administration
    – Register here: parcc.pearson.com/tms

• Practice Test
  – Available spring 2014
More Information

www.parcconline.org/field-test
Stay informed! Sign up for updates at

www.parcconline.org