Update on the PARCC and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia

August 16, 2013
Groups of 15 or more states could apply for a grant to develop online, next-generation assessment systems that:

- Assess **shared standards** in mathematics and ELA/literacy for college- and career-readiness
- Measure **individual growth as well as proficiency**;
- **Utilize technology** to the maximum extent appropriate; and
- Provide **information that is useful** in informing:
  - Teaching, learning, and program improvement;
  - Determinations of school effectiveness and of principal and teacher effectiveness for use in evaluations and support; and
  - Determinations of individual student college and career readiness, such as determinations made for high school exit decisions, college course placement to credit-bearing classes, or college entrance.

- **Operational by 2014 – 2015 school year**

(US Department of Education, 2010)
The Two State-Led Comprehensive Assessment Consortia

- **PARCC**
  20 states & DC

- **Smarter Balanced**
  26 states

- **Both:** Pennsylvania

- **Neither:** Alabama, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Virginia
The Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
PARCC

English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3 – 11

PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE CENTER: Digital library of released items; formative assessments; model content frameworks; instructional and formative tools and resources; student and educator tutorials and practice tests; scoring training modules; professional development materials; and an interactive report generation system.

DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT
Returns information about student strengths and weaknesses to inform instruction, supports, & professional development

MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT
Mid-Year Performance-Based Assessment (Potentially summative)

Flexible timing

Performance-Based Assessment

ELA/Literacy
• Speaking
• Listening

Flexible timing

END-OF-YEAR ASSESSMENT
• ELA/literacy
• Math

Flexible timing

Retake Option

Optional Assessments to inform instruction

Required but not summative, not used for accountability

Summative assessment for accountability

* After study, individual states may consider including this as a summative component.

PARCC Summative Assessments:
Performance-Based Assessments

- Taken after roughly 75% of instructional year
- 3 ELA/literacy tasks over 3 sessions
  - 1 narrative task
  - 1 literary analysis task
  - 1 research simulation task
- Math tasks over 2 sessions
  - complex, real-world application problems
  - emphasis on mathematical practices and modeling
- Electronic and distributed human scoring
- Results by end of school year
PARCC Summative Assessments: End-of-Year Assessment

- Taken after roughly **90%** of instructional year
- **Multiple item types** including constructed response and technology enhanced
- **Fixed-form**, with multiple forms per grade level
- Will include items across **a range of cognitive demand**
- **Electronically scored**
PARCC: Summative Components

- **Timed**, spread over nine testing sessions
- **Estimated testing time**, ELA + math:
  - 8 hours in grade 3
  - 9 hours in grades 4 - 5
  - 9.5 hours in grades 6 – 8
  - 9.5 - 10 hours in high school
- **PT and EOY scores combined for accountability**
- **1 Retake in 3 – 8 and up to 3 in HS**, as State/locally approved
- **Paper and pencil version** as accommodation and for at least the first year at additional cost
PARCC: Speaking/Listening Assessment

- **Required in grades 3 - 11, but not used for accountability;** also available in grades K-2
- **Scored by classroom teacher** using standardized rubric
- Scores may be used within students’ grades
PARCC Supports: Interim Assessments

Flexible Timing

- **Optional Diagnostic Assessment**, grades 2 – 8
  - Two-stage adaptive assessment designed to inform instruction
- **Optional Mid-Year Performance Tasks**, grades 3 – 11
  - Designed to mirror summative Performance Tasks
PARCC Supports:
The Partnership Resource Center

- **Reporting suite** with customizable reports for user groups
- **Online practice tests**
- **Formative assessment items and tasks**
- **Professional development materials** – scoring, use of data
- **Instructional tools and resources** developed by Partner states
- Optional “ready-to-use,” instructionally embedded **formative tasks and tools for K-1**
PARCC Assessment System

English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3 – 8 and High School

PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE CENTER: Digital library of released items; formative assessments; model content frameworks; instructional and formative tools and resources; student and educator tutorials and practice tests; scoring training modules; professional development materials; and an interactive report generation system.

DIAGNOSTIC ASSESSMENT
Returns information about student strengths and weaknesses to inform instruction, supports, & professional development

MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT
Mid-Year Performance-Based Assessment (Potentially summative)

MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT
Flexible timing

PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENT
• ELA/literacy tasks
• Math tasks

ELA/Literacy
• Speaking
• Listening

ENDING OF YEAR ASSESSMENT
• ELA/literacy
• Math

Flexible timing

Retake Option

Projected cost as of spring 2013:
$29.50 per student annually, for both ELA and math summative assessments, delivered and scored.

PARCC: Supports and Timeline

Plans as of spring 2013, subject to change

2012 - 2013
• K-16 Educator Leader Cadres launched (24 per state) and provided on-going training
• Prototype items & tasks released (www.parcconline.org)

Summer 2013
• More prototype items & tasks released
• 2 sets of online Professional Learning Modules released

Fall 2013
• Assessment PD modules released

Spring 2014
• Practice tests available
• College readiness tools released

2014 – 2015 school year
• Mid-Year and Summative assessments ready

2015 – 2016 school year
• K-1 formative tasks ready
• Diagnostic and Speaking/Listening assessments ready
The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium
Smarter Balanced

English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3 – 8 and High School*

DIGITAL LIBRARY of formative tools, processes and exemplars; released items and tasks; model curriculum units; educator training; professional development tools and resources; practice tests; scorer training modules; and teacher collaboration tools.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT
- Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

INTERIM ASSESSMENT
- Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

PERFORMANCE TASKS
- 1 ELA/Literacy Task
- 1 Math Task

COMPUTER ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENT
- ELA/Literacy
- Math

Optional Interim assessment — no stakes

Summative assessment for accountability

* Summative and interim assessments for grades 3 – 8 and 11, with additional supporting assessments for grades 9 and 10.

** Time windows may be adjusted based on results from the research agenda and final implementation decisions.
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment

Performance Tasks

- Taken after roughly **75%** of instructional year
- **One ELA task and 1 math task** per year, 90 – 120 minutes per content area
- Focus on **hard-to-measure standards**
- Combination of **machine and teacher/human scoring**
- **Results by end of school year**
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessment
Computer Adaptive End-of-Year Assessment

- Taken after roughly 90% of instructional year
- **Multiple item types** including constructed response and technology enhanced
- **Adaptive delivery** can span up to two grade levels up or down to gain accuracy and clearer profile of strengths and needs

Re-take option
Smarter Balanced
Summative Components

- **Untimed**, over multiple testing sessions
- **Estimated testing time**, ELA + math:
  - 7 hours in grades 3 – 5
  - 7.5 hours in grades 6 – 8
  - 8.5 hours in grade 11
- **PT and EOY scores combined** for accountability
- **1 Retake**, if locally approved, for testing irregularities
- **Paper and pencil version for 3 years**; thereafter as accommodation
Smarter Balanced Supports: Optional Interim Assessment System

- **Computer adaptive**, multiple item types from EOY summative
- **Customizable**: number, scope, timing
- **Non-secure** and fully accessible -- teachers can see items and student responses
- **Produces links** to student resources and PD resources
Smarter Balanced Supports:
The Digital Clearinghouse

DIGITAL CLEARINGHOUSE of formative tools, processes and exemplars, released items and tasks, model curriculum units, educator training; professional development tools and resources, interactive reporting system; scoring training modules, and teacher collaboration tools.

- **Reporting suite** with differentiated tools for users
- **Online Practice Test utility**
- **Assessment literacy modules**
- **Formative tools, exemplar instructional modules, vetted and rated units**
- **Released performance tasks and rubrics**
- **Issue-focused chat rooms** for teachers
Smarter Balanced Assessment System

English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3 – 8 and High School*

DIGITAL LIBRARY of formative tools, processes and exemplars; released items and tasks; model curriculum units; educator training; professional development tools and resources; practice tests; scorer training modules; and teacher collaboration tools.

INTERIM ASSESSMENT
Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

INTERIM ASSESSMENT
Computer Adaptive Assessment and Performance Tasks

PERFORMANCE TASKS
• 1 ELA/Literacy Task
• 1 Math Task

COMPUTER ADAPTIVE ASSESSMENT
• ELA/Literacy
• Math

Scope, sequence, number, and timing locally determined

Projected cost as of spring 2013:
$22.50 per student annually, for both ELA and math summative assessments, delivered and scored. Additional $4.80 per student annually for use of the interim assessment system and optional resources.
The Smarter Balanced Open Source System Architecture

Test Creation
- Item Authoring
- Item Banking
- Test Creation

Test Administration
- Test Registration
- Test Delivery
- Test Scoring

Data Warehouse & Reporting

Shared Services

Future Plug-and-Play Applications

Digital Library
- Submit to Library
- Review Against Quality Criteria
- Publish to Library
- Browse/Search
- Download/Stream
- Apply in Classroom
- Rate

Commission Content Development to Quality Criteria Specifications

LEADERS FROM STATES

EDUCATORS IN CONSORTIUM STATES

TRAINED EDUCATORS IN CONSORTIUM STATES

EDUCATORS IN CONSORTIUM STATES

PUBLISHERS

K-12 Center at ETS
Smarter Balanced:
Supports and Timeline

Plans as of spring 2013, subject to change

2012 - 2013

- Prototype items & tasks released (www.smarterbalanced.org)
- Practice Test utility available to teachers, students, public

Summer/fall 2013

- Teacher cadres (avg. 90 per state) trained in use of formative tools and PD modules; ready to lead in-state trainings (Summer)
- First set of Exemplary Instructional Modules released (Fall)

Winter 2014

- Second set of Exemplary Instructional Modules released

Fall 2014

- Comprehensive Electronic Platform, including Digital Library launched
- Interim assessments available
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Driving Advances in K–12 Assessment