

STATE TESTING SPRING 2016



What do we know about the tests 2016/2017?

- In 2017 all schools will be taking MCAS 2.0.
- DESE will be putting out RFP for company to build test that is “substantially based on PARCC building on the \$200 million investment that has been made in PARCC while adding some elements of MCAS like questions”.
- The test will be under Massachusetts control therefore time period offered, accommodations allowed, length of test, information released is under Massachusetts control.
- Time line for creation of this hybrid is less than 1 year. Therefore it supports the description that it will be “substantially based on PARCC”.
- Commissioner has stated that “Schools that did MCAS last year that switch to PARCC for this spring will provide their students with a substantial leg-up in preparing for the test to be offered in 2017”. This clearly indicate the likely proportion of PARCC in MCAS 2.0

What do we know about accountability in 2016/2017?

- All schools that do PARCC in 2016 will be held harmless.
- All schools that do MCAS will have an accountability rating
- All schools will be held harmless in 2017

What do we know about reported results?

- Results will be delivered at approximately same time we get information from MCAS for 2016/2017
- District, school, student, and item analysis results will be reported
- All released items (similar to MCAS) will be shared.

Communication Plan – Key Dates

Staff

- Focus group meetings 11/18/15 and 11/20/15
- Email feedback 11/18 – 12/5/16
- Draft recommendation to staff 11/25/15
- Training plan to staff by 11/25/15
- If approved PARCC lead teacher position posted by 12/15/15
- Will be available to present at building meetings Nov/Dec/Jan

Parents

- Draft recommendation out to parents week of 11/26/15
- Parents may submit emails to APS superintendent email
- If approved Arlington PARCC link on website by 12/15/15
- Parent forums to be held in January
- Asst. superintendent available for PTO meetings in Dec/Jan/Feb

Training Plan

- Training for teachers and administrators required every year for state testing.
- Students usually do significant amount of test prep.
- Training for PARCC if approved will focus only on providing familiarity with test mechanics
- In one or two schools will do CBT either Johanna Bradley or Susan Bisson will train teachers/students.
- Online training video to review or cover students who have missed.
- Trainings will be focused between February – mid-April.

Consideration	Positives	Concerns
Stress	The “held harmless” clause for 2016 would allow us to gain experience from test without the accountability stress.	Students, teachers, administrators will be involved. IT may will be involved. Stress will be even higher if our work includes students and teachers having to study, gear up, and do additional test prep
Format	No long comp for grades 4 and 7.	Testing is all in one window so students have all testing in the same window. Three sessions of math and three sessions of ELA.
Timing	Testing is held later in year for ELA. Therefore students and teachers have more time to prepare.	Because all timing is in one window there is a potential for some students to have to experience a testing session 8 days in a row.
Technology	We would have the opportunity to “get the bugs out” of a computer based test while being held “harmless”. Option to not have all students on CBT.	Is our WIFI capacity up to the task? Do we have right devices? Do we have enough support

Consideration	Positives	Concerns
Length of test	PARCC is time test but students with disabilities and ELL can have extra time. Results thus far show general education students have sufficient time. Longer test but short test period.	Some gen education students may be stressed by timed environment. May have to update IEP's. More testing minutes.
Accommodations	MCAS Alt students still take ALT. Paper and pencil can be accommodation. ELL students can use bi-lingual dictionaries. All students can use read-aloud and text color/font size features	IEP's may need to be updated. Graphic organizers, checklists, and references sheets may not be allowed.
Training	Many online videos are already available	District PD already spoken for so PD will have to happen during day or after school.

Testing Sessions

	Grade 3		Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	MCAS	PARCC	MCAS	PARCC	MCAS	PARCC	MCAS	PARCC	MCAS	PARCC	MCAS	PARCC
ELA Total Test Sessions	2	3	4	3	2	3	2	3	4	3	4	3
Math Sessions	2	4	2	4	2	4	2	3	2	3	2	3

Example of Math Question

Questions/Information to be gathered

- Accommodations for special education students.
- How many special education IEP's will need to be modified – or if they don't need to be (like last year when they just had to inform parents).
- More feedback from middle school teachers.
- Final draft schedule based on whether schools will do paper and pencil or online.
- Will we still be using the same technology (i.e. caching server) for next year.

Draft Recommendation

- PARCC spring of 2016
- One or two schools will do digital. Remaining will have option to do digital or paper and pencil.
- No changes to curriculum or scope/sequence.
- No “test prep” except to familiarize staff and students with format and question types.
- Completely a “try-on”, “test-drive” experience.