



The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

April 2011



The Education Landscape

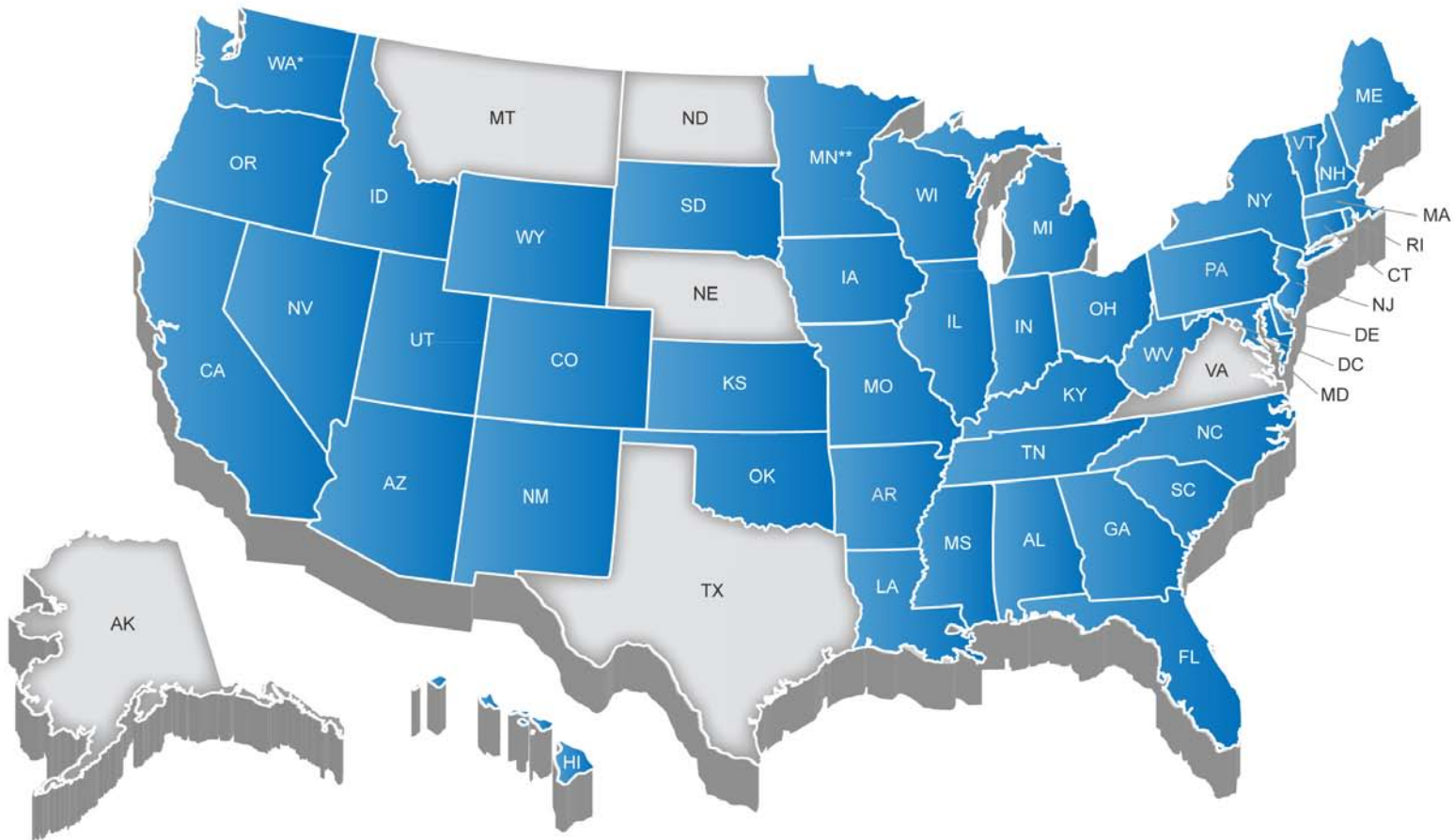
- We are standing at a once in a lifetime moment in education reform
- Nearly every state in the nation is working individually and collectively to improve its academic standards and assessments to ensure students graduate with the knowledge and skills most demanded by college and careers



The Common Core State Standards Initiative


- Beginning in the spring of 2009, Governors and state commissioners of education from 48 states, 2 territories and the District of Columbia committed to developing a common core of state K-12 English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics standards
- To date, over forty states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS)
- Most states intend to implement the new standards by the 2014-15 school year

44 States + DC Have Adopted the Common Core State Standards




* Washington has adopted the CCSS provisionally

** Minnesota adopted the CCSS in ELA only



Why Common, Next-Generation Assessments?

- While the Common Core State Standards are a critical first step, they alone will not bring about the instructional changes necessary to improve student achievement and attainment
- Creating common assessments grounded in common standards is the logical next step
- Assessments aligned to the Common Core will help ensure the new standards truly reach every classroom



Why Common, Next-Generation Assessments?

CURRENT ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS...

- Include tests with **disconnected purposes** (e.g., instructional improvement vs. accountability vs. college admissions)
- **Are not challenging enough to measure college and career readiness** and therefore have no currency with higher education (or most students)
- **Fail to generate information** for educators and students quickly enough or at all
- **Do not measure the full range of college- and career-ready knowledge and skills** (e.g., research, critical thinking, and collaboration)
- Are **widely inconsistent across states**, and impossible to compare

PARCC'S NEXT-GENERATION ASSESSMENT SYSTEM WILL...

- Include “through-course” assessments in each grade in addition to end-of-year tests to produce a **more complete picture of student performance**
- **Provide a common measure of college and career readiness**, and will include a college-ready cut score to signal readiness for credit-bearing, college-level coursework that will be valued by postsecondary
- Leverage new technologies in assessment and reporting to get **actionable student data to educators and parents in real time**
- Include a range of item types that allow for the **assessment of higher-order skills** and measure the CCSS in full
- Measure students’ mastery of Common Core State Standards, and **mitigate challenges associated with student mobility** by ensuring students will have the same expectations wherever they live



Race to the Top Assessment Program Competition

- \$350 million of Race to the Top Fund set aside for awards to consortia of states to design and develop common K-12 assessment systems aligned to common, college- and career-ready standards
- In Sept. 2010, the U.S. Department of Education awarded grants to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)



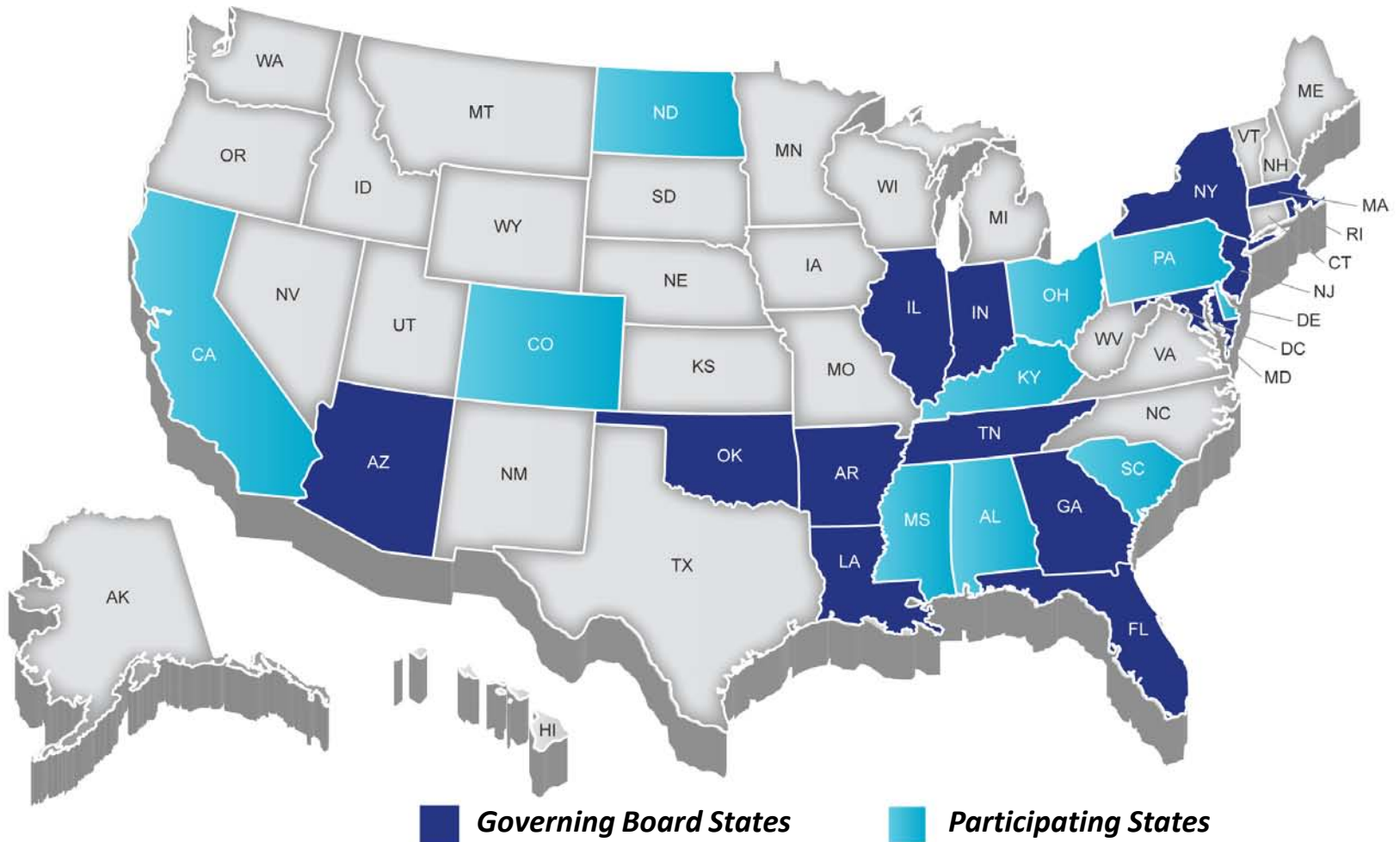
About PARCC



About PARCC

- PARCC is an alliance of 25 states working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers
- PARCC is state-led and a subset of PARCC states make up its Governing Board
- Collectively the PARCC states educate more than 31 million students — nearly 63% of K-12 students attending American public schools

PARCC States

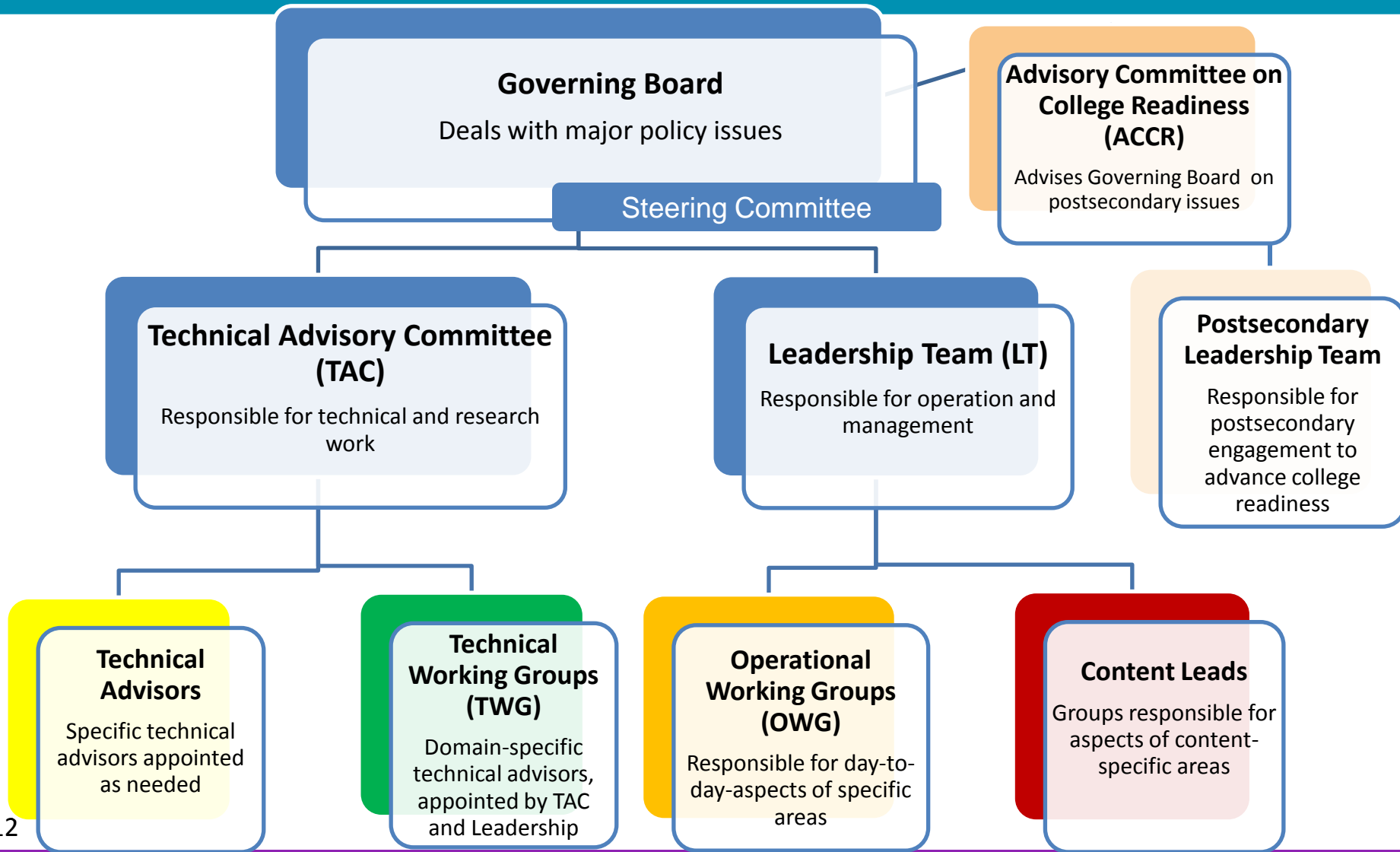




PARCC Governance

Governing Board States	AZ, AR, DC, FL, GA, IL, IN, LA, MD, MA, NJ, NY, OK, RI, TN
Governing Board Chair	Massachusetts Commissioner Mitchell Chester
Fiscal Agent State	Florida US Education Department award is to Florida on behalf of 25 states to oversee budget, procurement, and reporting functions
Project Management Partner	Achieve Achieve is a bipartisan, non-profit organization that helps states raise academic standards, improve assessments, and strengthen accountability to prepare all young people for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship

PARCC Committee Structure





K-12 and Postsecondary Roles in PARCC

K-12 Educators & Education Leaders

- Educators will be 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

- More than 200 institutions and systems covering nearly 1,000 campuses across PARCC states have committed to help develop the high school assessments and set the college-ready cut score that they will then use to place incoming freshmen



The PARCC Vision



The PARCC Vision

1. Build a pathway to college and career readiness for ***all*** students
2. Create high-quality assessments that measure the full; range of the Common Core State Standards
3. Support educators in the classroom
4. Make better use of technology in assessments
5. Advance accountability at all levels

Goal #1: Build a Pathway to College and Career Readiness for All Students

K-2 formative assessment being developed, aligned to the PARCC system

Real-time student achievement data showing students, parents and educators whether ALL students are on-track to college and career readiness

College readiness score to identify who is ready for college-level coursework

Targeted interventions & supports:

- 12th-grade bridge courses
- PD for educators

K-2

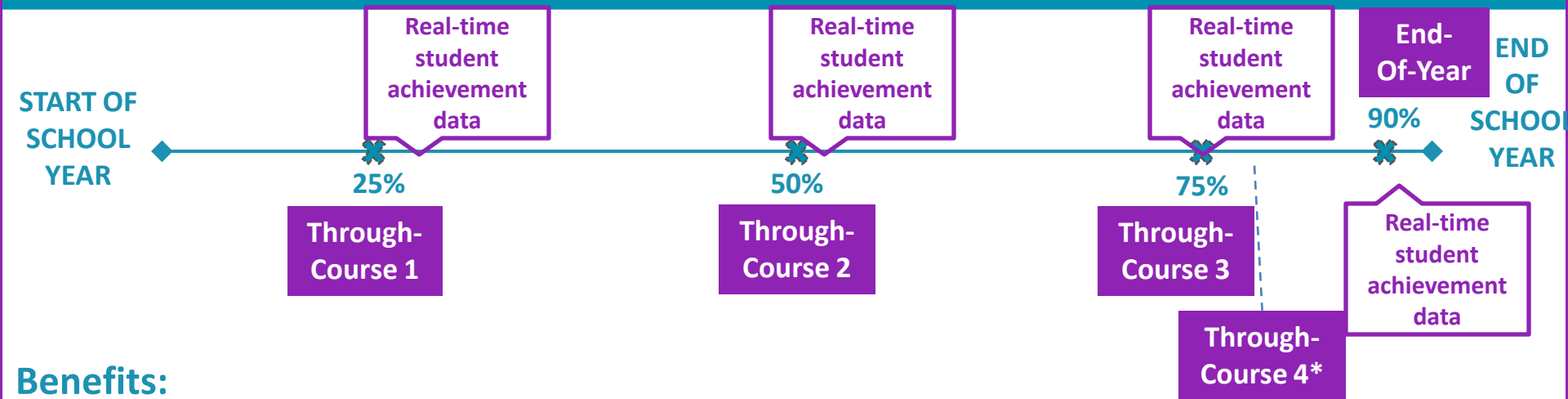
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High School

SUCCESS IN FIRST-YEAR, CREDIT-BEARING, POSTSECONDARY COURSEWORK

ONGOING STUDENT SUPPORTS/INTERVENTIONS

Goal #2: Create Better Assessments



Benefits:

- Assessment is distributed across the year to provide teachers information on their students' performance at key points during the year, allowing them to adjust instruction and target interventions before it's too late
- Results will be returned quickly so they are useful to schools
- Through-course assessments will feature rich performance tasks that will signal the kinds of student performance and instructional strategies called for by the CCSS

* Through-Course 4 is only in ELA, and will assess Speaking/Listening. This will be required but not part of summative score – could be used for course grades.

Source: Graphic adapted from a representation prepared by the Center for K-12 Assessment & Performance Management



Goal #3: Support Educators in the Classroom

INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

- Content frameworks
- Sample assessment tasks
- Model instructional units

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODULES

- ***Common Assessment 101-103***: PD focused on the implementation the new assessments
- ***Common Assessment 201-204***: PD focused on how to interpret and use the assessment results

K-12 Educator

REAL-TIME STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

- Aligned performance-based assessments given throughout year
- Data reports will be available, designed with teacher use in mind

EDUCATOR-LED TRAINING TO SUPPORT “PEER-TO-PEER” TRAINING

- Training for cadres of K-12 educators around the instructional tools AND around training their peers to use the instructional tools



Goal #4: Make Better Use of Technology in Assessments


- Technology will be central to PARCC, providing cutting edge solutions to test development, administration, scoring and reporting
- PARCC is committed to selecting secure, open source and interoperable technology platforms that allow for ongoing updates and improvements to match advances in technology over time

PARCC's computer-based assessments will:

- Produce real-time snapshots of students' knowledge
- Give parents, students and teachers the ability to adjust accordingly rather than waiting until the end of the school year

PARCC assessments will be scored:

- By a combination of automated and human scoring (with the end-of-year tests machine scored)
- States will individually determine the extent to which teachers will be involved in scoring



Goal #5: Advance Accountability at all Levels

- Many PARCC states intend to use the next generation assessments to inform accountability in a way neither possible nor effective now by providing indicators of:
 - College and career readiness for all students
 - Growth in student achievement
 - Educator effectiveness
 - Student achievement compared with other states and international benchmarks

Implementation and Instructional Support & Next Steps



PARCC's Implementation Support & Stakeholder Engagement

To support state efforts to successfully **implement and transition** to the Common Core State Standards and next generation assessments by the 2014-15 school year, PARCC will facilitate:

- Consortium-wide support for *strategic planning and collective problem solving* for the implementation of CCSS and PARCC assessments;
- Collaborative efforts to develop the highest priority *instructional and formative tools*;
- Multi-state support to build *leadership cadres of educators* who are deeply engaged in the use of those tools, the CCSS and the PARCC assessments.
- Multi-state support to engage the *postsecondary community* around the design and use of the assessments



PARCC's Implementation Support: *Strategic Planning & Collective Problem Solving*

- PARCC will convene two multi-state transition and implementation strategic planning institutes per year where state leadership teams composed of state and district leaders will:
 - Receive support to develop and execute strategic transition and implementation plans,
 - Focus on common policy decisions, challenges, and milestones, and
 - Monitor progress against their strategic plans
- In between the convenings, there will be regularly-held webinars on specific high-priority topics to help all states continue to make progress towards implementation



PARCC's Implementation Support: *Curricular & Instructional Tools*

PARCC is developing a robust set of high-quality *instructional tools* to help the education community transition to the next generation assessment system.

- ***Content Frameworks*** to offer guidance to educators on how the CCSS may be organized in a quarterly progression within each grade based on the logical progression of the subject matter
- ***Model instructional units*** aligned to the CCSS and PARCC content frameworks, and anchored around a PARCC assessment component
- ***Sample assessment tasks*** that will mirror the tasks that will be included on the PARCC assessments
- ***Professional development*** modules to help teachers, counselors, school leaders and school site testing coordinators understand the PARCC system
- ***College-ready tools***, such as model 12th-grade bridge courses for students who don't score college ready on the high school assessments.



PARCC's Implementation Support: *Supporting Formative Tools*

PARCC also has a few formative tools planned to support the new assessment system including:

- ***Text Complexity Diagnostic Tool***: a computer-adaptive tool to identify students' reading level and supply suggestions for appropriate texts for students to read to stretch their reading and put them on a growth path.
- ***K-2 Assessments*** in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, which are optional for states to administer
- ***Partnership Resource Center***, which will house the model content frameworks' sample assessment tasks; released items with item data, student work, and rubrics



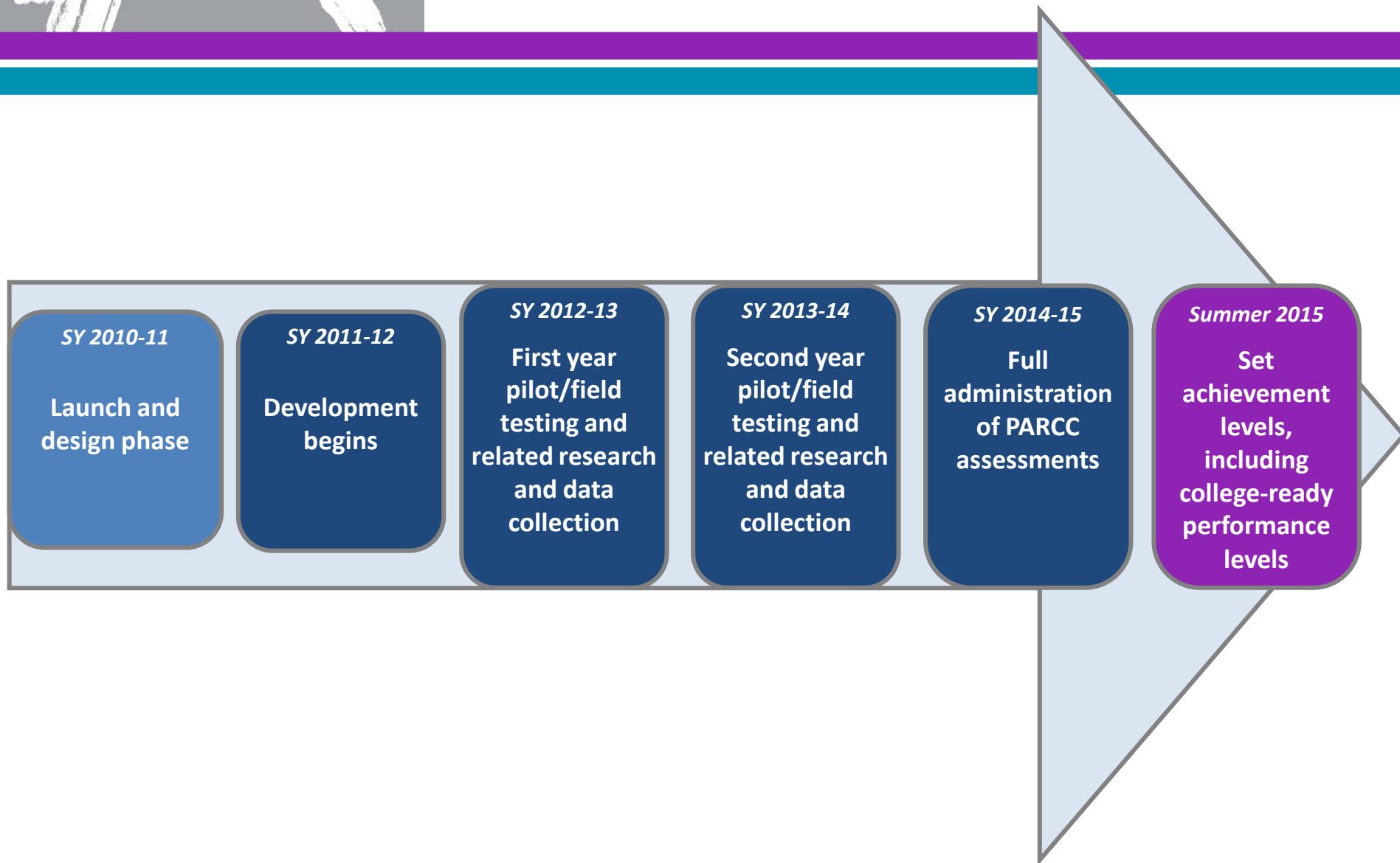
PARCC Committees

PARCC will be relying on a range of committees to support PARCC's governance, technical issues, policy issues, and research agenda (most of which have yet to be formed at this time):

- *Technical Advisory Committee*
- *Technical Working Groups*
- *Research Strategy Groups*
- *Policy Working Groups*

Over time, PARCC will convene committees to address specific issues related to the development, validity and reliability of the PARCC assessments (with educator representation)

PARCC Timeline





Key Challenges for PARCC

Technical Challenges

- Developing an interoperable technology platform
- Transitioning to an computer-based assessment system
- Developing and implementing automated scoring systems and processes
- Identifying effective, innovative item types

Implementation Challenges

- Estimating costs over time, including long-term budgetary planning
- Transitioning to the new assessments, including “through-course” components, at the classroom level
- Ensuring long-term sustainability

Policy Challenges

- Student supports and interventions
- Accountability
- High school course requirements
- College admissions/ placement
- How to change perceptions about what next-gen assessments can and will do



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