

## **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Transition**

### **Principles for Assessment Transitioning**

#### **Theory of Action:**

Maryland is striving to create a world-class education system that prepares all students for college and career in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Maryland holds true to the ideals that all students can and must learn and grow; all educators must be effective and continue to improve; and all schools must help students and educators grow through continuous improvement. Maryland believes every student should receive a challenging curriculum, a meaningful diploma, and a career and college pathway. Maryland is invested in closing the achievement gap and addressing the needs of all students, including students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and children in poverty. Maryland is dedicated to providing high quality pathways for aspiring teachers and principals and expanding professional development opportunities. Finally, Maryland is committed to turning around the lowest-achieving schools and providing continuous support to all Maryland Public Schools.

Rigorous curriculum, next generation assessments, and college- and career-ready performance standards are being implemented in classrooms throughout Maryland. The transition from the state's current curriculum content standards and the Maryland School Assessment (MSA)/High School Assessments (HSA) to Common Core curriculum standards and the PARCC assessments will be complete by 2014-2015. As the transition occurs, Maryland is committed to fair and transparent academic policies and to the administration of assessments aligned with curriculum and with accepted "best" practice. Principles for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and School Leaders, and Teachers, and Commitments to Parents and Students support the Theory of Action for a seamless transition to PARCC. Ensuring that all students are held to fair and reasonable performance standards for high school graduation as the transition occurs; Maryland will strive to implement policies and practices aligned with the following expectations:

#### **Principles for MSDE**

- ✓ MSDE will assure that all policies and procedures related to the implementation of PARCC are consistent with COMAR regulations.
- ✓ MSDE will assure that student rights and interests are honored and protected as the transition from MSA and HSA to PARCC is implemented.
- ✓ MSDE will communicate regularly with LEAs and school leaders, teachers, parents, and students regarding the transition to PARCC.

- ✓ MSDE will collect, retain, and report PARCC assessment data to meet Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) accountability requirements.
- ✓ MSDE will provide professional development, technical support, and assistance to LEAs to ensure the proper administration and the accurate analysis and application of PARCC data.
- ✓ MSDE will provide professional development to LEAs on the implementation of assessments for central office staff, principals and teachers.
- ✓ MSDE will provide teachers and principals with appropriate communication regarding accommodation policies for students with identified needs.
- ✓ MSDE will monitor the technology readiness of individual school districts and offer suggestions regarding the best way to prepare for implementation of the assessment.
- ✓ MSDE will work within PARCC to assure that the assessments administered to Maryland students are reliable and valid for the purposes intended.

### **Principles for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and School Leaders**

- ✓ LEAs should allocate resources appropriately to support transition to the new curriculum and assessments.
- ✓ LEAs are responsible for the full implementation of PARCC at the local level.
- ✓ LEAs should provide teachers with comprehensive professional development, related to transitioning to the new Common Core State curriculum and assessments.
- ✓ LEAs should provide teachers with access to resources and professional development.

### **Principles for Teachers**

- ✓ Teachers will implement continuous and actionable feedback to guide student learning and instruction.
- ✓ Teachers will implement information gained from the professional development and technical assistance provided on the use of data for instructional improvement.
- ✓ Teachers will implement the curriculum and prepare students for success on the new assessments.

### **Commitment to Parents**

- ✓ Parents will receive communication regarding the transition from MSA/HSA to PARCC assessments.
- ✓ Parents will receive information that outlines and explains the assessment program.
- ✓ Parents will receive a timeline of events related to the implementation of the assessments.

### **Principles for Students**

- ✓ All students will be tested using a valid assessment that measures what it is intended to measure and is aligned to the curriculum and instruction the student has received.
  - The skills measured by the assessment are taught to students at the grade level where they are tested;
  - Students are familiar with the assessment requirements and formats; and
  - Appropriate instructional changes are made in a timely way to prepare students for transitioning from one assessment system to the next.
- ✓ High school students will be provided with sufficient notice of assessments that will be required for graduation.
- ✓ Students will be provided a sufficient opportunity to learn the content and demonstrate their knowledge.
- ✓ Students should have the opportunity to pass the test required for graduation according to the administration schedule until they meet the requirements.
- ✓ Students will receive sufficient and appropriate accommodations when necessary to support their learning of the curriculum and their taking of the test. The accommodations provided during instruction will be aligned with the accommodations allowed during testing.
- ✓ Students will receive continuous and helpful feedback on their learning in a timely and efficient manner.

## **Proposal**

A more detailed discussion is needed to provide the State Board with specific information around the following topics:

- Budget for PARCC and HSA assessments;
- High School Graduation Requirements and the PARCC assessments;
- Biology and Government HSA program;
- PARCC public information communication plan;
- PARCC assessment and college and career readiness; and
- PARCC Assessment timeline.