



Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *Lillian M. Lowery*

DATE: June 23, 2015

SUBJECT: State Assessment Program Options, 2015-2016

PURPOSE:

To provide a recommendation to the State Board around the administration of PARCC high school assessments during the 2015-2016 school year. Along with the recommendation, an analysis of cost will be provided.

PARCC State Assessment Recommendations (2015-2016)

During the 2015-2016 school year, PARCC assessments will be administered again in schools in Maryland in grades 3-8 and in English 10 and Algebra I to meet federal accountability requirements. In 2014-2015, students enrolled in Algebra II were also administered the PARCC Algebra II assessment. In high school, there are also additional assessments that may be offered to students including PARCC English 9, PARCC English 11 and PARCC Geometry. There are varying opinions across school districts regarding whether the additional tests should be required or optional for districts to administer. After discussions with various stakeholder groups (superintendents, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction and English and math coordinators), **I am recommending to the State Board that beginning in 2015-2016, school districts be given the option of offering PARCC English 9, PARCC English 11, PARCC Geometry and PARCC Algebra II assessments to students enrolled in those courses.**

College and Career-Ready Determination

By the end of the 2015-2016 school year, according to the Maryland College and Career-Ready/College Completion Act of 2013, all eleventh graders must be determined “college and career-ready” in English and mathematics prior to entering twelfth grade. College and career determination is based upon passing a college placement examination (SAT, ACT, Accuplacer, Compass, etc.). Students who have not passed one of the college placement examinations, determined by local school districts, must enroll in a transition course(s) in twelfth grade. While local school districts have the authority to determine which college placement examinations to administer, I feel that they should be given the option of offering PARCC English 11 and PARCC Algebra II to meet those requirements. In 2015-2016, the cost of these two assessments is included in the state assessment budget for all students enrolled in English 11 and Algebra II in Maryland.

Cost Consideration

Table 1 itemizes the potential cost for each content test. The recommendation is to make these tests available AND optional to districts. For pricing purposes, an estimated maximum cost was calculated by assuming all eligible students within the state will participate in testing. The pricing is dependent on the percentage of students that takes the computer-based test (CBT) versus the paper-based tests (PBT). Table 1a. includes the percentage assumption used to create the budget for 2016: 50% CBT and 50% PBT. Table 1b. reflects the actual percentage that was utilized during the 2014-2015 school year.

Table 1: Cost Estimates of Optional PARCC assessments beyond those required by High School Assessment program

a.

50% CBT - 50% PBT		
Content	Additional Test Count	Potential Cost
Algebra II	55,000	\$837,100
English 11	60,000	\$913,200
English 9	65,000	\$989,300
Geometry	65,000	\$989,300
All	245,000	\$3,728,900

b.

80% CBT - 20% PBT		
Content	Additional Test Count	Potential Cost
Algebra II	55,000	\$746,350
English 11	60,000	\$814,200
English 9	65,000	\$882,050
Geometry	65,000	\$882,050
All	245,000	\$3,324,650

ACTION:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve the PARCC State Assessment Plan for high school students for 2015-2016.

LML:hrj