State Assessment Update

Assessment	Action/Event
Alt-MSA Science	• One year extension approved by BPW • LAC test administration training completed • Testing window November 2, 2015 – March 2, 2016
HSA	October Senior administration begins October 5, 2015
PARCC	• Pretest file window is open for Fall Block administration (8/8 – 10/23) • LAC technology and test administration training October 1, 2015 (Fall Block) • Fall Block window begins Nov. 30 (PBA)

State Assessment Update - LEA Feedback

Issue/ Concern	Test	Resolution	MSDE Action	Local Action
NEW/UNRESOLVED		As of 9/10/2015		
Text to Speech accessibility experience across different assessment platforms	MSA-Sci, HSA		MSA Science, HSA Government and Biology are migrating to the same test administration platform as the PARCC assessments (TestNav 8) in the effort of making the user experience consistent across all assessments.	
Graduation requirements with adoption of PARCC	HSA/ PARCC		Once high school PARCC results are released, MSDE's Psychometric Council will research and make recommendations concerning the cut scores for graduation as well as impact on the composite score option. Recommendations will be brought before the State Board for approval during the 2015-2016 school year.	
ONGOING /IN PROCESS		As of 9/10/2015		
Technology Device Deficiency	ALL		MSDE staff will provide various schedule plans for districts to consider during test administration training sessions. MSDE will also determine the use of the approximately $8M appropriated to local districts to increase device inventory. (Race to the Top funding)	
Disruption to school days for testing	ALL		MSDE has adjusted test administration windows (i.e. MSA Science window will now complete prior to the PARCC window) to minimize conflict and disruption to schools. When possible, tests have been divided into multiple units of which are within instructional blocks of time	School districts will need to review their scheduling models to determine efficient use of time.
Personal Needs Profile (PNP) Complexity	PARCC	MSDE will communicate information through training modules, emails, blogs and webinars monthly beginning in Fall, 2015. First technology and administration training October 1, 2015 for Fall Block administration	MSDE staff will work directly with Pearson to create training modules to meet the needs of LACs and school test coordinators (STC) to better understand reasons for and the use of the personal needs profile. (PNP).	Implementation of training by local districts as needed.
Online assessment platform issues	ALL	MSDE will work directly with Pearson Project Managers to resolve technical issues through access to the Pearson Help Desk.	MSDE will test the quality assurance during the Fall, 2015 administration of the high school tests.	Continue to report issues to MSDE daily during Fall, 2015 test administration
Parent Opt-Out issues	ALL	MSDE's communication to LACs around regulation related to student assessment as part of the instructional day.	MSDE will continue to provide technical assistance to local districts by providing legal language related to regulation around this issue.	LACs and district staff will continue to work with MSDE as needed.
Internet Connectivity	ALL	MSDE is working with LACs to assess connectivity issues.	MSDE will assist local districts in troubleshooting connectivity issues during the Fall, 2015 administration.	Connectivity issues reported to MSDE by LACs regularly

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Test item complexity/ confusion		MSDE/ LAC /PARCC communication around test items	PARCC items from the 2014-15 school year will be released during the 2015-16 school year. MSDE will provide more specific training to teachers around this issue by the state coordinators of English Language Arts and mathematics.	Local school districts will provide time, opportunity for teachers to participate in trainings offered by MSDE.
Lack of training on PearsonAccess Next		New short training modules created by Pearson	MSDE communicating information through training modules, email, blog and webinars	LACs and other district staff participation in training
RESOLVED		As of 8/13/2015		
Pearson customer service misinformation	PARCC	Pearson has changed subcontractors further clarifying requirements and adding additional support and resources	MSDE will continue to work directly with Pearson Project Managers to identify and resolve issues.	None
Two testing windows	PARCC	PARCC amended test design to one window - Tests will be administered after 80% completion of course/grade.	MSDE worked with the PARCC consortium on the test design.	None
Java updates	PARCC	TestNav App	MSDE will continue to monitor the JAVA App functionality.	LACs will continue to monitor the JAVA App functionality.
Student mobility between schools and tests	PARCC	PARCC redesign now includes only one window minimizing mobility issues.	If students move between LEAs during any testing window, MSDE will assist in making the transition of student test.	LACs will continue to communicate with MSDE as needed.
Test sessions too lengthy	PARCC	New test design attempted reduced overall testing time by 90 minutes and reduced the number of units overall.		LACs will continue to report issues related to test session times for MSDE to report to PARCC.
Student unfamiliarity with online testing	PARCC	Utilizing Practice Tests - Practice tests with annotations will be available the fall.	MSDE will provide PARCC information around the use of practice and sample tests as part of district training. MSDE will continue to provide more training to teachers in the use of the technology associated with the assessment as part of daily instructional practice.	Communication by LACs to schools about the use of the practice/sample tests to prepare students for the assessments.
Insufficient Staffing	ALL		MSDE has provided opportunity for scheduling meeting including LEA representatives at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. LACs have shared that a single testing window for PARCC and the early administration of MSA Science has eliminated the need for this meeting.	School districts will need to review their testing models to determine efficient use of staff.
Test too long	KRA	Test items were deleted and assessment was shortened by 20%. Increased number of Virtual Performance Assessment items (includes touch screen technology) to expedite the students' completion of test items.		
Significant number of student ID errors	KRA	As of Sept. 10, every LEA has uploaded its enrollment files for teachers.	MSDE requires all students to have completed SASIDs before they are loaded onto the KReady online system. Cut down error rate significantly.	

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Combination of administering LEA assessment at the same time as the KRA caused significant burden for teachers	KRA and others		MSDE working with LEAs to better schedule assessment windows addressing efficiencies in the use of devises and other administration recourses including teachers and instructional spaces.	LEA work plans had to resolve the coordination of administering multiple assessments. Several LEAs eliminated LEA benchmark assessments for the first quarter and use the KRA instead. Other LEAs introduced staggered enrollment and administer the standardized test items during that period.
Inconsistent Help Desk Support	KRA	Help Desk vendor improved services. Teachers can contact Help Desk directly. Cut back on simple problems such as downloading KRA App or log-in.		
Training was not sufficient to prepare teachers	KRA	Returning teachers received refreshers and access to the Kready online system as early as Aug. 13 before students arrived at school.		LEA administrators have improved access to monitor training needs
Initial log-in problems in several LEAs.	KRA	Assessment vendor identified problem within 24 hours. Log-in problems were resolved immediately.		