A Tale of Two Assessments: MCAS & PARCC
The Beginning: 1993

On June 18, 1993, the Massachusetts Education Reform Act was signed into law.
MCAS: Then and Now

- Tests all public school students in Massachusetts, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, & science/technology/engineering.


- Reports on the performance of individual students, schools, and districts.

1998
First MCAS tests introduced

2001
MCAS “counts”

2002
NCLB requires annual testing in grades 3-8
Grade 10 MCAS Results

Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, September 2015
Highlights of 2015 MCAS Results

✓ More students met the graduation requirement on their first try
  88% of 10th graders met the state's MCAS graduation standard on their first attempt in ELA, mathematics & science and technology/engineering.

✓ Achievement gaps are closing
  In ELA & Mathematics: Between 2007-2015, the gap between white students & African American/black students & between white students & Latino students narrowed in all grades.
In many ways, MCAS has worked

- More & more students reach the standards set by MCAS each year
- (Some) achievement gaps closing

On multiple measures, Massachusetts students:
- Lead the nation
- Globally competitive
And yet…In 2014, nearly 40% of public high school graduates placed into Developmental education in one of Massachusetts’ public institutions of higher education.

Source: Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, 2015
What is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a multi-state consortium working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in ELA & math.

PARCC states work together to:
- Build a pathway to college and career readiness for all students;
- Give students a 'college/career ready' score indicating they are prepared for credit bearing college courses;
- Create high-quality assessments that measure the full range of the Common Core State Standards;
- Support educators in the classroom;
- Make better use of technology; and,
- Advance accountability at all levels.
PARCC Governing Board Members

**Governing Board Chair**
Commissioner Mitchell Chester — Massachusetts

**Members**
Commissioner Robert Hammond — Colorado
Commissioner David Hespe — New Jersey
Superintendent Hanseul Kang — District of Columbia
Superintendent Lillian Lowery — Maryland
Secretary Hanna Skandera — New Mexico
Superintendent Tony Smith — Illinois
Commissioner Kenneth Wagner — Rhode Island
Last year, 5 million students in 11 states & the District of Columbia took PARCC.
PARCC: Massachusetts’ 2 Year Test Drive

To evaluate PARCC’s quality, rigor, and efficacy, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education planned a two-year "test drive" of the assessment in 2013.

In November 2015, the Board will vote on whether to adopt PARCC.
### Assessment Choices, Spring 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2015</th>
<th># of districts</th>
<th>MCAS</th>
<th>PARCC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># of districts</td>
<td>% of districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3-8</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARCC for Grade 9 &amp;/or 11 (optional)</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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</table>

### Spring 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring 2015</th>
<th>Enrolled</th>
<th>Tested</th>
<th>Part. Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MCAS Grades 3-8</td>
<td>202,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARCC Grades 3-8</td>
<td>229,500</td>
<td>223,500</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCAS Grade 10</td>
<td>71,500</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2015
## PARCC: On Paper or Computer?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th># of Districts Administering PARCC</th>
<th>PARCC: Paper-Based Tests</th>
<th>PARCC Computer-Based Tests</th>
<th>PARCC Mix of Paper &amp; Computer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of districts</td>
<td>%</td>
<td># of districts</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3-8</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 9 &amp;/or 11 (optional)</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2015
Looking Ahead: what’s next?

On Tuesday, November, 17 the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is scheduled to vote on whether to adopt PARCC as a next generation replacement for MCAS.

To guide this decision, they may consider:
- Instructional Impact
- Technical Quality
- Design and Feedback
- Governance and Operational Viability
For More information:

http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/

http://www.doe.mass.edu/parcc/

http://www.parcconline.org/