

**Hudson, Mark**

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**From:** Kimberly Friedman [kimberly.friedman@arkansas.gov]  
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## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*Johnny Key, Commissioner*

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June 8, 2015

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### **Announcement Regarding Future Academic Assessments**

**LITTLE ROCK** — In light of the recommendation by the Governor's Council on Common Core Review regarding statewide assessment, the Arkansas Department of Education will not renew its contract with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers when it expires June 30, 2015, and will pursue negotiating a contract with ACT and ACT Aspire to provide testing services for the 2015-2016 school year.

"ADE appreciates the work of Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin and the council, and we support Gov. Hutchinson's adoption of this recommendation," ADE Commissioner Johnny Key said. "I will ask the State Board of Education at its meeting on Thursday to consider formal action approving the transition to ACT and ACT Aspire. Our primary goal is for all students to graduate from high school ready to enter either college or a career. We believe ACT and ACT Aspire assessments will be effective tools to measure how well we are meeting that goal."

Arkansas will still receive results from the PARCC assessments administered during the 2014-2015 school year. Because this was the first year the assessment was given, results will not be available until this fall.

The governor's council continues to review Arkansas' academic standards, with a report expected later this summer.

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