

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers



K–12 and Postsecondary Working Together To Build Pathways to College and Careers for All Students

Key Messages

- 1 The significant need for remediation among high school graduates reveals **vast discrepancies between how the K–12 education system prepares students and the academic skills postsecondary institutions expect.**
- 2 Higher education and K–12 experts developed the **Common Core State Standards to set an academic baseline** for what high school graduates should know and be able to do at the start of college or careers. But strong standards must be paired with strong assessments.
- 3 The state tests that most students take today do not provide **accurate information about whether students in high school are on track** to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses.
- 4 Twenty-two states have banded together through PARCC to develop **high-quality common assessments** in English language arts/literacy and math.
- 5 These assessments will generate a **college and career readiness score** that will give states an opportunity to develop interventions for students who are not on track to be academically ready for entry-level, credit-bearing courses at postsecondary institutions.

What is PARCC?

- PARCC is a consortium of states working collectively to design and develop K–12 assessments in mathematics and English language arts/literacy aligned to the Common Core.
- The assessments are being developed by states for states, and states' adoption and administration of the common assessments is voluntary.
- The PARCC assessments will be aligned to the expectations of two- and four-year colleges with critical input from higher education leaders. Postsecondary experts will validate the assessments.
- The new tests will deliver information about whether students are on track to graduate from high school ready for college and careers.
- The assessments will measure both students' mastery of the content and their ability to apply that knowledge in real-world situations.
- Common, high-quality assessments will help ensure comparability across states, districts and schools, mitigating challenges with teacher and student mobility and improving equity.

Why is PARCC Important for Higher Education?

Postsecondary leaders in PARCC states came together with their K–12 counterparts to advance the following mission:

- Guarantee students place into entry-level, credit-bearing courses without the need for remediation by developing a PARCC College and Career Readiness Determination that is recognized by higher education institutions.
- Use the assessments to provide clear signals to students and teachers about college readiness prior to high school graduation.
- Respond to early warnings with tools and transition courses, aligned to the PARCC assessments, to support students in meeting postsecondary goals.
- Engage postsecondary leaders in the development of PARCC assessments and interventions that increase access to postsecondary opportunities for all students.
- Ensure that the PARCC College and Career Readiness Determination is embraced by postsecondary faculty and administrators by continuing to validate the assessments through targeted research and evaluation.

Learn more about postsecondary's role in PARCC at www.parcconline.org/postsecondary.