



Partnership for Assessment of College and Career Readiness (PARCC)

The Brookings Institute

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PARCC Facts



- ◆ Florida is PARCC's fiscal agent.
- ◆ Massachusetts Commissioner Mitchell Chester is the chair of the Governing Board.
- ◆ Achieve is the project management partner.
- ◆ Funds will pay for research, design, development, and field testing (not operational administration).
- ◆ Funding of \$185.9 million for 2010 – 2014



PARCC's Fundamental Goal

States in the Partnership are committed to building their collective capacity to increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for success in college and the workplace.



Theory of Action: Assessment System Design



- ◆ **More Meaningful Standards:** The Partnership's assessment system will be anchored in the Common Core State Standards which are consistent across states, clear to the public, and provide an on-ramp to college and careers.
- ◆ **Higher Quality Tests:** PARCC assessments will include sophisticated items and performance tasks to measure critical thinking, strategic problem solving, research and writing.
- ◆ **Through-Course Testing:** Students will take parts of the assessment at key times during the school year, closer to when they learn the material.
- ◆ **Maximize Technology:** PARCC assessments in most grades will be computer based.
- ◆ **Cross-State Comparability:** States in PARCC will adopt common assessments and common performance standards.



Theory of Action: Intended Outcomes



States in PARCC will use the common assessments to:

- ◆ Report achievement results based on a clear definition of **college and career readiness**, so students will know if they are on track early enough to make adjustments.
- ◆ **Compare results against a common high standard** because readiness shouldn't differ across states or income levels.
- ◆ Help make **accountability** policies better drivers of improvement by basing them on more sophisticated and meaningful assessments.
- ◆ **Promote good instruction** by providing teachers useful, meaningful and timely information, which will help them adjust instruction, individualize interventions, and fine-tune lessons throughout the school year.



Theory of Action: Key Stakeholders



Teachers, School Leaders, District Administrators, and State Officials

- ◆ Stakeholders will regularly and quickly have a wider variety of useful performance data.

Higher Education

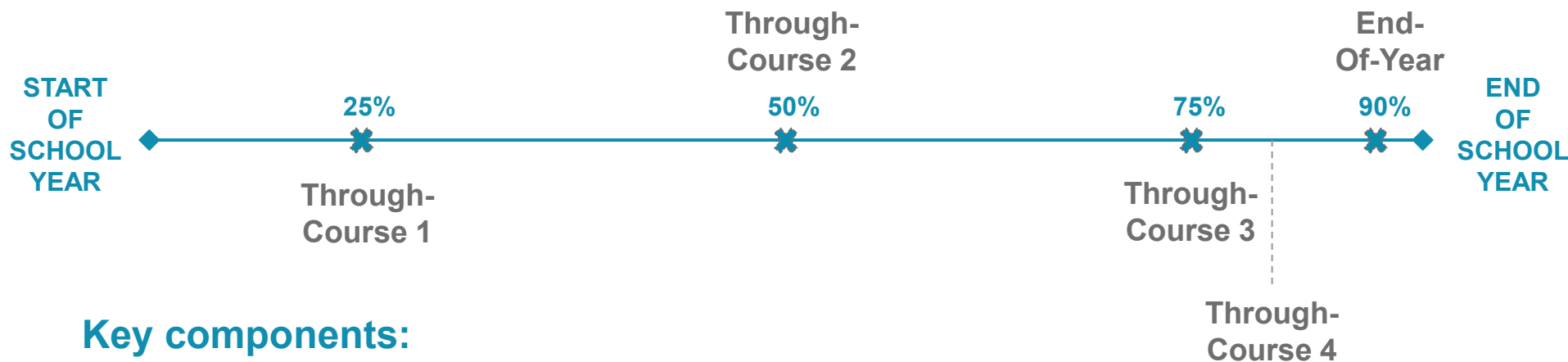
- ◆ Assessments will identify whether students are ready for and prepared to succeed in entry-level, credit bearing postsecondary courses by the time they graduate from high school.

Parents, Students, and the Public

- ◆ The Partnership's assessments will, for the first time, give information about student performance relative to children in other states and against achievement standards anchored in college- and career-ready knowledge and skills.



Assessment System Design: Distributed Summative Assessment

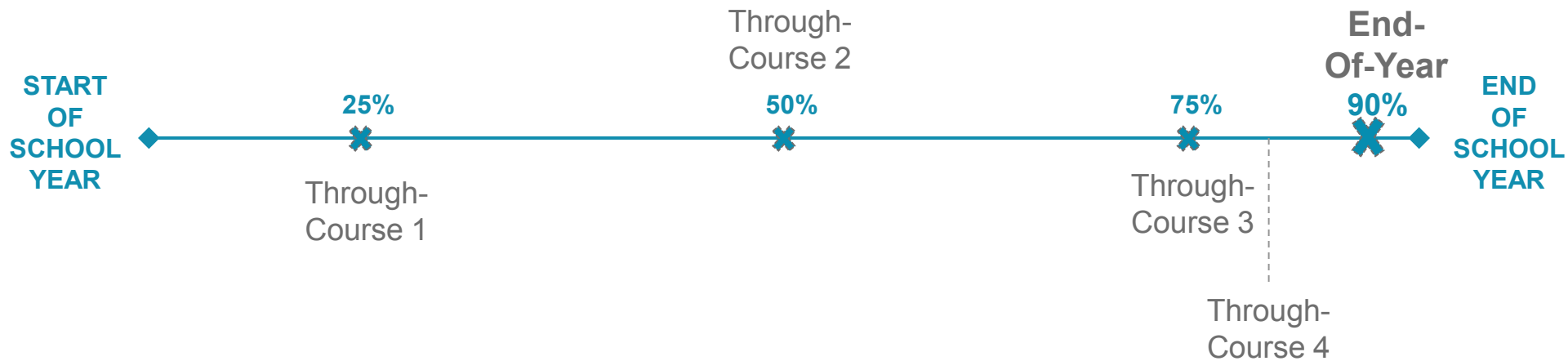


Key components:

- ◆ Three through-course components distributed throughout the year in ELA and mathematics, grades 3-11.
- ◆ One speaking/listening assessment administered after students complete the third through course component in ELA; required but not part of summative score – could be used for course grades.
- ◆ End-of-year comprehensive, computer-scored assessment that includes a range of item types, including innovative, technology-enhanced items. Enables quick turnaround of student scores.



Assessment System Design: Distributed Summative Assessment



A student's summative score—used for accountability purposes—will include his/her performance on Through-Courses 1, 2, and 3 as well as the End-of-Year assessment.



Assessment System Design: Formative Assessment



Formative Tools:

- ◆ **Partnership Resource Center (PRC):** an online, digital resource that includes two supports –
 - Released items with item data, student work, rubrics.
 - Model curriculum frameworks.
- ◆ **Text Complexity Diagnostic Tool:** a computer-adaptive tool to identify students' proximate zone of development and supply suggestions for appropriate texts for students to read.
- ◆ **K-2 Assessments in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics.**



Higher Education: Key PARCC Partner



- ◆ 200 postsecondary systems and institutions across all 26 PARCC states – representing nearly 1,000 campuses – committed as partners.
- ◆ Role of Higher Education:
 - Partner with K-12 to develop college-ready high school assessments in English and mathematics.
 - Guide long-term strategy to engage all colleges and universities in PARCC states.
 - Lay groundwork for implementation of college-ready high school assessments as valid placement instruments for credit-bearing courses.
- ◆ Ultimately, PARCC college-ready assessments will help many more students enter colleges better prepared – and much more likely to persist in and complete degree and certificate programs.



Setting College-Ready Performance Standards



To set college-ready performance standards on the high school assessments, PARCC will use evidence from research such as:

- **Concurrent validity studies** that compare performance on PARCC assessments with SAT, ACT, Compass, Accuplacer and other similar assessments.
- **Predictive validity studies** that document the relationship between performance on PARCC assessments and subsequent performance in first year courses.
- **Judgment studies** by postsecondary faculty rating the importance of specific standards and test items for success in first year courses they teach.
- **Alignment studies** that examine the relationship between content and student work in first year courses and what PARCC assessments measure.



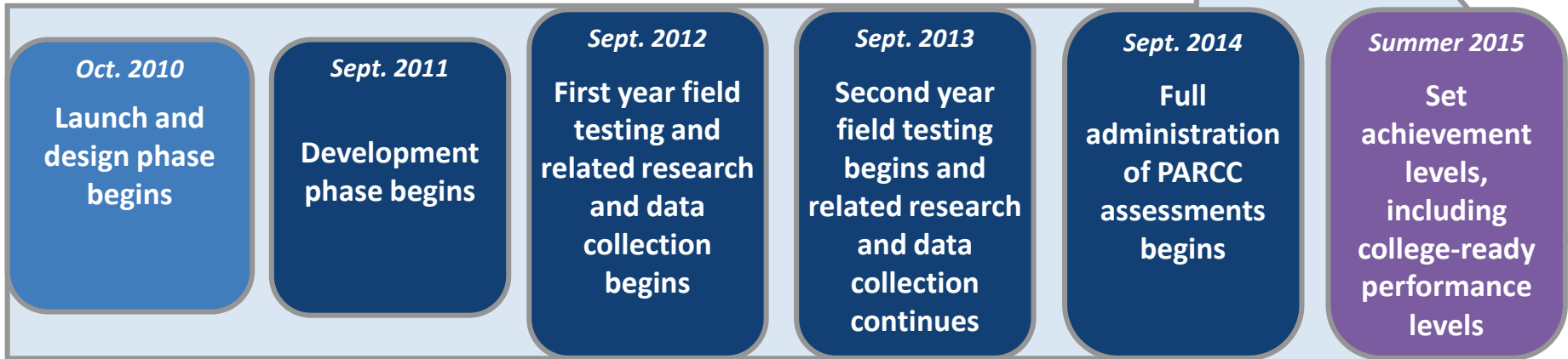
Expected Outcomes of Higher Education Involvement



- ◆ Better alignment of high school curricula with first-year college courses.
- ◆ Development of “bridge courses” and exploration of dual enrollment policies.
- ◆ Targeted college readiness supports to help students make the transition.
- ◆ Alignment of exit standards in high school with placement expectations of postsecondary systems.



PARCC Timeline





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Readiness for College and Careers*

<http://www.fldoe.org/parcc/>