**ABOUT PARCC**

* The Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of 25 states committed to building a next-generation assessment system for kindergarten through high school based upon the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This assessment system will culminate in assessments that indicate whether students are prepared for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses—including credit-bearing courses that lead to credentials, technical certificates, associate and bachelor degrees. Therefore, the postsecondary community will play a significant role in shaping these assessments.
* K-12 leaders and postsecondary system and institution leaders in PARCC states have agreed to collaborate on the development of college- and career-ready assessments given in high school that can be used to signal whether students have acquired the prerequisite knowledge and skills for success in entry-level, credit-bearing postsecondary courses.  Teachers, parents, and students will know whether or not students are college- and career-ready by the end of high school, and, critically, whether they are “on-track” to college- and career-readiness in earlier grades. If students are not considered “on-track”, educators can use this information to recommend the appropriate interventions to ensure students are college- and career-ready by high school graduation. The new assessments will be ready for field-testing in 2012-2013 and for full statewide administration in the 2014‐2015 school year.

**ABOUT POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION’S ROLE**

* PARCC will regularly engage with teams of K-12 and postsecondary leaders in each state (K-12 chiefs and boards, SHEEOs, system leaders and boards) to keep them informed of progress towards the development of the PARCC college- and career-ready assessments and the supports and interventions that will accompany them.
* Engagement with postsecondary leaders will begin with the formation of the Advisory Committee on College Readiness (ACCR), which will consist of key postsecondary leaders from PARCC states as well as nationally recognized leaders in the postsecondary community (system leaders, presidents, etc.).  They will provide overall guidance to the PARCC consortium’s work and serve as ambassadors for PARCC with their postsecondary peers around the country. Additionally, each state will identify a postsecondary lead, who will work with project management staff and ACCR members to develop and lead the day-to-day PARCC outreach and engagement efforts.
* Under the guidance of state postsecondary leads, PARCC states will build postsecondary leadership cadres to help address policy and practice issues critical to the success of the transition to common assessments in each state. These cadres (higher education commissioners, college and university faculty, P-20 council members, etc.) will convene, virtually and in-person, on a regular basis to engage state postsecondary stakeholders from two- and four-year colleges and universities and technical systems in the PARCC development and implementation process.
* Faculty from mathematics, English, composition and other relevant disciplines will join their K-12 colleagues to design and develop PARCC’s high school assessments.  They will review the CCSS to determine what it means to be ready for entry-level courses in their institutions; help develop and review assessment items that measure those standards; participate in scoring pilot items and field tests, develop scoring rubrics and choose anchor papers; and participate in a robust, research-based process to set the college- and career-ready achievement levels.
* 186 postsecondary systems and institutions committed to participate in PARCC’s development of college- and career-ready high school assessments in mathematics and English language arts/literacy that will indicate whether students are prepared for entry-level, credit-bearing college courses.  Upon implementation of the assessments and verification of the college- and career-ready achievement levels, participating postsecondary institutions will use PARCC’s college- and career-ready assessments as an indicator of students’ readiness for placement into entry-level, credit-bearing courses. This will clearly signal to students that the assessments they take in high school measures what matters for success after high school.