



# State Summative Assessments

The Changing Landscape

Education Commission of the States

[www.ecs.org](http://www.ecs.org)

700 Broadway, Suite 810 • Denver, CO 80203-3442 • 303.299.3600 • [ecs@ecs.org](mailto:ecs@ecs.org)

## 50 Ways to Test A look at state summative assessments in 2014-15

Tonette Salazar  
November 18, 2014

A key aspect of the teaching and learning cycle involves checking the progress of student learning along the way. Traditionally, state summative assessments have served as a way to measure student mastery of the knowledge and skills outlined in the learning expectations or standards at the end of the academic year.

As many states began adopting college and career ready standards, such as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), a need arose for new summative assessments. New standards require new assessments measuring the skills and knowledge outlined in the new standards.

The Education Commission of the States has received numerous inquiries for information on where states are in terms of state assessments for the 2014-15 school year. Constituents also request information about federal testing requirements.

This document provides a high-level overview of the two testing consortia and federal testing requirements. The comprehensive chart that follows provides a snapshot of which assessments are planned in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. for the 2014-15 academic year.

### ***Key Takeaways: 2014-15 school year assessments***

- 12 states and Washington, D.C. are administering PARCC assessments in some capacity, with all 12 states testing students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 states testing in any of grades 9 through 12.
- 18 states are administering Smarter Balanced assessments, with all 18 testing students in grades 3 through 8 and 15 states testing in any of grades 9 through 12.
- 20 states either never joined or have left the consortia entirely and are choosing to use state-developed assessments.
- 2 states (Massachusetts and Missouri) will administer a combination of consortium and state-developed assessments.

## *A brief history on the testing consortia*

In 2010, with the creation of the CCSS and the associated need to develop new assessments aligned to the new standards, two multi-state assessment consortia, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced) were created. Both consortia are working with states to create computer-based K-12 assessments in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. PARCC and Smarter Balanced conducted field testing of their assessments with states in the 2013-14 school year and anticipate being ready to administer their assessments during the 2014-15 school year.

Due to the changing political climates, consortia membership has been anything but consistent since the consortia's inception in 2010. During the past four years, more states have migrated out of participation in a consortium.

## *Federal testing requirements*

As the testing debates are playing out in many states across the country, policymakers and the public generally lack a complete understanding about which tests are required by federal law for federal funding, which tests states mandate over and above the federal requirements, and which additional diagnostic, formative and interim assessments school districts, schools and individual teachers are administering.

The Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA), first enacted in 1965 and most recently reauthorized in 2002 as No Child Left Behind, provides legal authority for the federal government's financial support of K-12 education.

The ESEA sets funding limits and establishes legal requirements for state and local agencies, among others, to receive federal funds. ESEA §1111(b)(3)(20 U.S.C. §6311(b)(3)) requires state agencies that receive funds under Title I, part A, to implement in each local education agency in the state a set of high-quality, yearly academic assessments at a minimum in the following subjects and grades:

- Mathematics and reading or language arts in each of grades 3 through 8 and not less than once in grades 10 through 12.
- Science requirements at least once in grades 3 through 5, grades 6 through 9 and grades 10 through 12.
- The statute also details assessments for special populations and the requirements for alternate assessments.

Some states have chosen additional assessments in science, social studies and other areas and in more grades than required under federal law.

The following table provides an overview of statewide summative assessments in grades 3 through 12 in 2014-15. Subject matter includes mathematics, English language arts, writing, science, social studies and other college and career readiness assessments.

All data is based on information available as of Oct. 31, 2014.

## 2014-15 Statewide Assessments Grades 3-12

State	Assessment Consortium Participation 2010	Full Grade-level Consortium Assessment Admin. 2014-15	Grades 3-8	Grades 9-11	Other College and Career Ready (CCR)	End of Course	Science Grade	Social Studies Grade	Writing
Alabama	Both	None	State (Aspire ACT)	ACT Quality Core	Explore, Plan, ACT + Writing, WorkKeys	EOC	5 & 7		
Alaska	None	None	State (Achievement and Assessment Institute at University of Kansas)	State (Achievement and Assessment Institute at University of Kansas) grades 9 & 10	Choice of ACT WorkKeys, ACT or SAT in grade 11		4, 8, 10		
Arizona	PARCC	None	State (American Institute for Research)	State (American Institute for Research)			4, 8, high school		
Arkansas	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	Explore, PLAN		5,7		
California	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11		EOC	5, 8, 10		
Colorado	Both	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	ACT		5, 8, 12	4, 7, 12	
Connecticut	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11	ACT or SAT	EOC	5, 8		
District of Columbia	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC			5, 8 & HS Biology		4, 7 & 10
Delaware	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11 ELA	PSAT, SAT		5, 8, 10	4, 7 & HS History	
Florida	PARCC	None	State (American Institute for Research)	State (American Institute for Research) 9-11 EOC		EOC	5, 8 & HS Biology EOC	Civics & U.S. History EOC	
Georgia	PARCC	None	State			EOC	3-8 & HS Physical Science and Biology	3-8 & HS U.S. History & Economics/ Business/ Free Enterprise	
Hawaii	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11 mandatory; Smarter Balanced 9, 10 & 12 optional	Explore 8, 9; PLAN 10; ACT + Writing 11	EOC	4, 8 & HS Biology		

State	Assessment Consortium Participation 2010	Full Grade-level Consortium Assessment Admin. 2014-15	Grades 3-8	Grades 9-11	Other College and Career Ready (CCR)	End of Course	Science Grade	Social Studies Grade	Writing
Idaho	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11	PSAT, SAT, ACT or Compass		5, 7 & one of grades 9-12 in Biology or Chemistry		
Illinois	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	ACT Plus Writing or WorkKeys	PARCC = EOC	4, 8, 12*		
Indiana	PARCC	None	RFP	RFP					
Iowa	Smarter Balanced	None	State	State--11			5, 8, 11		
Kansas	Smarter Balanced	None	State (Achievement and Assessment Institute at University of Kansas)	State (Achievement and Assessment Institute at University of Kansas) 10 English and Math; 11			4, 7, 11		
Kentucky	Both	None	State (KPREP Pearson)	State (KPREP) 10, 11 English and Math	Explore, PLAN & ACT	EOC	3-8, 10, 11 & HS Biology	3-8, 10, 11 & HS U.S. History	
Louisiana	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC		Explore, PLAN & ACT	EOC	3-8 & Biology (HS)	3-8, U.S. History (HS)	
Maine	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11	Option of PSAT, SAT or Accuplacer		5, 8, 11		
Maryland	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC 9, 10, 11			5, 8		
Massachusetts	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC/State	PARCC/State			3-8 (science and technology/ engineering) & Biology HS		
Michigan	Smarter Balanced	None	State*	State 11*	ACT + Writing, WorkKeys		4, 7, 11	5, 8	
Minnesota	None	None	State (Pearson)	State (Pearson) Reading 10 & Math 11	Explore, PLAN, ACT + Writing, WorkKeys		5, 8 & 10		
Mississippi	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC Alg 1 and English 11 only	ACT		5, 8 & Biology (HS)	U.S. History (HS)	

State	Assessment Consortium Participation 2010	Full Grade-level Consortium Assessment Admin. 2014-15	Grades 3-8	Grades 9-11	Other College and Career Ready (CCR)	End of Course	Science Grade	Social Studies Grade	Writing
Missouri	Smarter Balanced	State/Smarter Balanced	State 5, 8/Smarter Balanced 3, 4, 6, 7		ACT 11	EOC	5, 8 & HS Biology	HS Gov't & Personal Finance	
Montana	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11	ACT + Writing		4, 8, 10		
Nebraska	None	None	State	State			5, 8		
Nevada	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced		ACT + Writing 11	EOC	5, 8		
New Hampshire	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11			4, 8, 11		
New Jersey	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC 11			4, 8		
New Mexico	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC 9, 10, 11		EOC	4, 7, 11		
New York	PARCC	PARCC	State			EOC (Regent Exams)	4 & 8		
North Carolina	Smarter Balanced	None	State	State English & Math 10	Explore, PLAN 10, ACT 11, ACT WorkKeys	EOC	5, 8 & HS Biology		
North Dakota	Both	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11	ACT or ACT WorkKeys		4, 8, 11		
Ohio	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC		EOC	5, 8 & HS	4, 6 & HS	
Oklahoma	PARCC	None	TBD		TBD	EOC	TBD	TBD	
Oregon	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced once in grades 9-12	PSAT		5, 8, 11	5, 8, 11	
Pennsylvania	Both	None	State (Penn. System of School Assessments)			EOC	4, 8		
Rhode Island	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC	PARCC 9, 10, 11			4, 8, 11		
South Carolina	Both	None	State (Aspire ACT)		ACT WorkKeys	EOC	4-8	4-8	
South Dakota	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11			5, 8		
Tennessee	PARCC	None	State	State	Explore, PLAN, ACT or SAT	EOC	3-8	HS U.S. History	3-11
Texas	None	None	State			EOC	5, 8 & HS Biology	8 & HS U.S. History	4, 7

State	Assessment Consortium Participation 2010	Full Grade-level Consortium Assessment Admin. 2014-15	Grades 3-8	Grades 9-11	Other College and Career Ready (CCR)	End of Course	Science Grade	Social Studies Grade	Writing
Utah	Smarter Balanced	None	State (American Institute for Research)	State (American Institute for Research)			3-11		
Vermont	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11			4, 8, 11		
Virginia	None	None	State			EOC	5, 8 & any of HS Biology, Chemistry or Earth Science	Any grade between 4-7; 8, HS U.S. History, Virginia History, World Geography	8
Washington	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 11		EOC	5, 8 & HS Biology		
West Virginia	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced 9, 10, 11	Explore, PLAN, Compass		3-11	3-11	
Wisconsin	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	ACT Aspire 9, 10	ACT + Writing and WorkKeys		4, 8, and 10	4, 8, and 10	
Wyoming	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Smarter Balanced	Explore, PLAN, ACT + Writing		4, 8		3, 5 & 7

\* Portions of Michigan's state summative assessments will include a combination of Smarter Balanced and state-developed test questions.

## Authors

Tonette Salazar is the state relations director for the Education Commission of the States. Contact her at [tsalazar@ecs.org](mailto:tsalazar@ecs.org) or (303) 299.3638. Jennifer Dounay Zinth, director of High School Policy Center and STEM Policy Center, contributed to this report.

© 2014 by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). All rights reserved.

ECS is the only nationwide, nonpartisan interstate compact devoted to education.

ECS encourages its readers to share our information with others. To request permission to reprint or excerpt some of our material, please contact the ECS Information Clearinghouse at 303.299.3675 or e-mail [ecs@ecs.org](mailto:ecs@ecs.org).

Equipping Education Leaders, Advancing Ideas