DENVER — Has the frenzy around Common Core State Standards impacted decisions on which state summative assessments are being administered this year? That’s the question on many minds as we approach spring testing time.

As many states began adopting college and career ready standards, such as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), there became a subsequent need to develop new summative assessments — tests that measure the new skills and knowledge outlined in the new standards.

In 2010, 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 to develop new assessments aligned to the new standards. State participation in the consortia has varied since 2010.

Published today by the Education Commission of the States, 50 Ways to Test: A look at state summative assessments in 2014-15, provides an overview of the two testing consortia and federal testing requirements. The report also includes a comprehensive table with a breakdown of the state summative assessments being administered in grades 3-12 in all 50 states during 2014-15.

A quick look at the numbers:

- 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 do state-developed assessments.
- 2 states (Massachusetts and Missouri) will administer a combination of consortium and state-developed assessments.

“Based on the magnitude of inquiries we’re receiving, ‘who’s giving what test and for what grades’ is a question being asked around the country,” said Jeremy Anderson, president of ECS. “The fluctuating political climate surrounding new standards and assessments keeps the conversations around these issues active.”