




MEMORANDUM

TO: LEA Leaders
FROM: Jesús Aguirre 
State Superintendent of Education
DATE: July 28, 2014
SUBJECT: PARCC Technology Readiness Site Visit Survey

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has recently initiated a project to determine the gap between the PARCC technology requirement and the current technology available in each school. Given that a number of LEAs participated in the PARCC field tests, and each component of PARCC will be computer delivered and will leverage technology to incorporate innovations by 2017, we request your support in order to ensure the highest degree of technology readiness within our schools.

We appreciate the voluntary participation of a number of LEAs in the field tests. The field tests are critical to the continued development of high quality items and tasks, and ensuring that PARCC administration protocols are clear and efficient and we appreciate the efforts of all participants. The purpose of the PARCC field tests was to evaluate the quality of items and tasks that have been developed by the PARCC consortium of states, with input from local educators in PARCC member states. Data from the field tests are helping to determine which items will appear on PARCC's first operational assessments in school year 2014-2015.

To extend from these field tests, during July through September of this year, OSSE representatives will visit each school and gather the requisite information OSSE needs to develop high quality differentiated support for schools, and school-specific reports outlining the current technology available and the technology gap to be filled before the first operational next-generation, common-core-aligned assessment in school year 2014-2015.

The goal of the site visit is to tour each school and examine the areas/classrooms to be used for PARCC assessments along with the computers available and the internet bandwidth, and to answer any questions you may have. OSSE representatives have all signed an approved Data Sharing Agreement, will be fully badged with DC Government credentials and will have successfully completed an official background check with results from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

A representative from OSSE will schedule a site-visit for each school between July 23, 2014 and September 30, 2014, and we kindly ask for your assistance in the smooth facilitation of this initiative. We will attempt to be as flexible as possible with scheduling but our goal is to canvas the city in the most methodical and economical manner possible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance during this data collection effort. As valued partners in the District's education system, I want to thank you for your continued support and commitment to ensuring we maintain high standards of integrity and achievement for our students. OSSE believes that by addressing the technology gap now we will be better prepared to support the migration to the computer-based next generation assessments, including PARCC.

If you have any questions about the PARCC technology readiness assessment, please contact Jessica Enos at 202-(202) 286-9028 or (202) 535-2651 or via email at jessica.enos@dc.gov.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our collective effort to provide quality education for the students of the District of Columbia.

