



DC Assessment Update: Sept. 25, 2014

Dear Local Education Agency Leaders and Communities:

The District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is happy to share several important updates regarding the District-wide assessments in the 2014-15 school year:

### **Elementary and Secondary Education Act/Statewide Accountability for school year 2014-15**

With the inaugural administration of the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) assessment and other Next Generation assessments this year, is it OSSE's intent to apply no negative accountability consequences to schools and LEAs based on any of the new assessments. We will; however, have a mechanism for schools in FOCUS and PRIORITY statuses to demonstrate their progress toward exiting those statuses. This plan is subject to the U.S. Department of Education and the District of Columbia State Board of Education (SBOE) approval. As we know more about these assessments and the data that result from them, OSSE will facilitate broader public conversations on accountability in the near future.

### **PARCC High School Required Assessment Policy ([see memo](#))**

With the transition to PARCC for math and ELA in 2014-15, we have determined that for high schools will be required to administer the English Language Arts/Literacy II assessment, and the Geometry or Integrated Math II assessments. These assessments will replace the DC CAS 10<sup>th</sup> grade math and reading requirement. Students should take the assessments as they are appropriate to your high schools' curricula and course progression. The other PARCC high school assessments (*English Language Arts/Literacy I and III; Algebra I and II; and Integrated Math I and III*) are not required, but will be made available at no charge to schools that choose to administer them.

### **Eighth Grade Math Options**

Our initial goal was that LEAs that offer Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade could offer the Algebra assessment to applicable eighth grade students. However, other states with the same intent have struggled to gain approval from the U.S. Department of Education for this substitution, and some states are looking at double testing those students. Our strong preference and continued intent is to **not** have eighth grade students taking algebra take both the PARCC Algebra I assessment and the eighth grade PARCC math assessment.

### **PARCC Estimated Time on Test**

PARCC recently released [testing times](#) for the 2014-15 PARCC assessment. PARCC is a timed, but not speeded test, which is a change from the DC CAS (*currently untimed*). After much work with the PARCC consortium, we feel the time on test allowances, which were determined based on the field test, are generous and will allow our students to effectively demonstrate what they know and are able to do on the PARCC. Unit testing times (*formerly "sessions" on DC CAS*) range from 60-90 minutes, depending on grades and subjects, but data from the field test suggest that most students will not need the full time to complete the tests. Estimated time on task is included to give educators an idea of the time most students will need to spend on the test. Students who finish before the unit time is complete may resume their regular school day. Students with extended time accommodations on an IEP/504/ELL plan will still be allowed the extra time they need.





### PARCC Window Extension

We are excited to share that PARCC and Pearson (PARCC test vendor) have been able to extend the available windows for the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and End of Year (EOY) components! New dates for the windows are: **PBA: March 2-May 8, 2015**; and **EOY: April 13-June 5, 2015**. LEAs that have already submitted surveys and plans to us confirming their selected test window will receive an email from the Assessment division with a process to officially change their test window if they so choose in light of the additional window availability provided.

### Technology Readiness

We are gearing up for technology readiness! By now, LEAs should have completed a survey from the Assessment division regarding testing modality and windows, and may have also received a technology audit visit. Technology audit visits will be drawing to a close at the end of September; if you have not received a visit, but would like to, please contact our Chief Information Officer, Tom Fontenot ([Thomas.fontenot@dc.gov](mailto:Thomas.fontenot@dc.gov)) to arrange for an audit. Additionally, technology funds will be available to LEAs who enrolled students in 2013-2014 in the beginning of fiscal year 2015. These funds will be distributed on a proportional, per-student basis via the Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS). With the audit process and the available funding, we strongly encourage LEAs and schools, if at all possible, to transition to computer based testing beginning in 2014-15. Schools planning to test on paper should have submitted a technology readiness plan that outlines how the LEA is preparing to successfully administer computer based tests before 2017-18, when paper based assessment will no longer be available (with the exception of those students who require a paper based assessment per an IEP or 504 plan).

### Science and Health Assessments

Along with the PARCC assessments, DC will introduce new science and health assessments in 2014-2015. The new science assessment will be based upon the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adopted by DC early this year. These assessments will be administered to the same grades as in previous years (5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and once in high school, aligned to biology and high school health and physical education content). These assessments will be available in both computer and paper based versions, and technological specifications for these assessments will align with the PARCC as much as possible. Further administrative guidance around these assessments will be available to LEAs and schools later this fall.

### National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

2015 is a NAEP administration year! Schools identified for the NAEP sample will receive notification shortly of their selection and next steps. If you have any questions about NAEP, please contact Swea Hart, NAEP State Coordinator ([swea.hart@dc.gov](mailto:swea.hart@dc.gov)).