



NEWS STATEMENT

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PARCC Releases ITN To Develop New Assessments

Major milestone met for first test administration in 2014-2015

WASHINGTON, D.C. [December 30, 2011](#) – The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a 24-state consortium working together to create next generation assessments in English language arts and mathematics, [today](#) released through the Florida Department of Education, PARCC's fiscal agent, the Item Development Invitation to Negotiate (ITN). The ITN lays the foundation for the major components of the PARCC assessment system as it will procure the development of English language arts/literacy and mathematics items, tasks and related materials for the mid-year, performance-based, and end-of-year assessments. The procurement will generate a large bank of items to support the construction of assessments for grades 3-11 which will be given in PARCC states beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

"The procurement itself is an innovative document that presents a fresh approach to working with vendors on realizing a high-quality assessment," said Florida Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson. "The phases of the procurement strategy will allow the consortium to review products and choose the best to construct a 21st century test."

"Every good assessment program has at its disposal a bank of robust test items that measure the skills and knowledge students are expected to demonstrate," said Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester, who chairs the PARCC Governing Board. "PARCC is in the unique position to draw on the vast experience and expertise of its member states in developing the next generation of assessments. Our goal is to set every child on a path toward college and career readiness, and that starts with developing high quality test items and supporting materials."

The development of computer-based assessments by like-minded states is based on cutting-edge, evidence-centered design principles in which claims about student performance are well supported with evidence elicited carefully from what we observe students say, do, or produce. The consortium, through the ITN, seeks to develop assessment tasks that use technology to promote

student access and engagement and allow for authentic and direct measures of what students know and can do.

PARCC items will adhere to Universal Design principles so they will be accessible to all students, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design. The item review process will involve key stakeholders to ensure that the assessments are free of bias; sensitive to the needs of various student groups, including students with disabilities and English learners; well-aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS); and error free.

PARCC items and tasks must measure important college- and career-ready content and skills such as developing written arguments based on multiple sources of information and applying mathematical concepts to solve real-world problems and to express mathematical arguments.

The unique structure of PARCC's ITN outlines a two-phase contract that could be awarded to multiple companies in each subject area. Multiple contractors will develop 50% of the test items in the first phase. The second phase will include contractors from the first phase who have shown the ability to work collaboratively and deliver high quality, innovative assessment items and tasks on deadline.

This strategy ensures that competition among vendors does not stop when the first phase of the contract is awarded and that no single contractor will have sole responsibility for the entire item pool.

Both the design of the assessments and the procurement strategy are designed to reduce operational costs for states. The large bank of items developed will allow the consortium to measure the full range of the CCSS and reduce costs for multiple administrations of the assessments.

Vendors will have until [January 17, 2012](#) to submit questions about the ITN through Florida's procurement office. PARCC's evaluation committee will begin evaluating the proposals in [February 2012](#) to determine which proposals move to the negotiation phase. A negotiation team will meet with those vendors in [March 2012](#). Contracts will be awarded in [April/May](#) with work commencing immediately.

For more information or questions about the ITN and the procurement process, please contact the Florida Department of Education as the fiscal agent for the PARCC consortium. The Item Development ITN can be found at http://myflorida.com/apps/vbs/vbs_www.search.criteria_form. To learn more about PARCC, visit www.parcconline.org or follow the consortium on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/PARCCPlace>.

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ABOUT PARCC

PARCC is an alliance of states working together to develop common assessments serving nearly 25 million students. PARCC's work is funded through a four-year, \$185 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Partners include about 200 higher education institutions and systems representing hundreds of campuses across the country that

will help develop the high school component of the new assessment – and then put it to good use as an indicator of student readiness. PARCC is led by its member states and managed by Achieve, a nonprofit group with a 15-year track

record of working with states to improve student achievement by aligning K-12 education policies with the expectations of employers and the postsecondary community. PARCC's ultimate goal is to make sure all students graduate from high school college- and career-ready. For more information, visit www.parcconline.org.

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