College or Career Opportunity
Knocking:
A New Assessment System to Identify Career and College Ready Students in Louisiana

Nancy Beben
Louisiana Department of Education

Jeanne M. Burns
Louisiana Board of Regents

Louisiana School Board Association
March 1 & 2, 2012
What is PARCC?
Race to the Top: Assessment Program Competition

- $350 million of Race to the Top Fund set aside for awards to consortia of states to design and develop common K-12 assessment systems aligned to common, college- and career-ready standards.
- The competition asked consortia to design assessment systems that meet the dual needs of accountability and instructional improvement.
- In September 2010, the U.S. Department of Education awarded grants to:
  - Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
  - Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)
- The winning consortia have four years to develop assessments systems, and states participating in either consortium will administer new assessments statewide by 2014-2015.
Assessments

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

- A group of states working together to develop high-quality assessments for grades 3-12 aligned to the Common Core State Standards
- Governing states have agreed to implement the new assessments in 2014-15
- Louisiana is a governing state, which also means we have the opportunity to play a significant role in this work.
Assessments

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
PARCC’s fundamental goal is to increase the rates at which students graduate from high school prepared for success in college (i.e., technical colleges, community colleges, and universities) and the workplace – and, ultimately, to increase their likelihood of college success and completion.

PARCC’s assessment system will help achieve this goal by:

- Creating a high school assessment that indicates whether students are prepared for entry-level, credit-bearing postsecondary courses (e.g., College Algebra, English I).
- Upon implementation of the assessments and verification of the college-ready achievement levels, participating colleges and universities across all PARCC states will use students’ performance on the college-ready assessments as an indicator of their readiness for entry-level, credit-bearing courses.
What Should College and Career Ready Students Be Able to Do?

English
• Students read and comprehend a range of sufficiently complex texts
  – Literature and informational texts
• Students write effectively when using and/or analyzing sources
• Students build and present knowledge through research
  – Analysis
  – Synthesis

Mathematics
• Students solve problems involving the major content for their grade
• Students solve real world problems (modeling practice)
Parents, Schools, Colleges, & Public

Why is PARCC Important to Parents, Schools, and Colleges?

Teachers, School Leaders, District Administrators, and State Officials
- Stakeholders will regularly and quickly have a wider variety of useful performance data

Parents, Students, and the Public
- PARCC’s assessments will, for the first time, give information about student performance relative to children in other states and against achievement standards anchored in college- and career-ready knowledge and skills

Technical, Two-year, & Four-Year Colleges
- Assessments will identify whether students are ready for and prepared to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing postsecondary courses by the time they graduate from high school
Assessments

Build a Pathway to College and Career Readiness for All Students

K-2 formative assessment being developed, aligned to the PARCC system

Timely student achievement data showing students, parents and educators whether ALL students are on-track to college and career readiness

College readiness score to identify who is ready for college-level coursework

Targeted interventions & supports:
- 12th-grade bridge courses
- PD for educators

SUCCESS IN FIRST-YEAR, CREDIT-BEARING, POSTSECONDARY COURSEWORK

ONGOING STUDENT SUPPORTS/INTERVENTIONS

K-2
3-8
High School
Why is PARCC Important to Louisiana?

- About 60% of jobs nationwide will require some type of postsecondary education by 2018\(^1\)

- More Louisiana jobs are requiring a postsecondary education\(^2\); of those:
  - 69% require vocational training, certification, or associate degree
  - 31% require bachelor degree

- Many Louisiana students are ill-equipped to succeed in college
  - Louisiana’s college retention and graduation rates are among the lowest in the Southeast region (SREB) and the nation\(^3\)
  - About one third of first-time freshmen need remediation in college level courses\(^4\)

---

\(^1\) Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, June 2010
\(^2\) Louisiana Workforce Commission, 2009 Job Vacancy Survey
\(^3\) Southern Regional Education Board Fact Book on Higher Education, 2009
\(^4\) LDOE First-Time Freshmen and Developmental Rates, Public School Data, 2007-08
Assessments

High-Quality PARCC Assessments

BEGINNING OF YEAR

Flexible

END OF YEAR

Early Assessment
• Early indicator of student knowledge and skills to inform instruction, supports, and PD

Mid-Year Assessment
• Performance-based
• Emphasis on hard to measure standards
• Potentially summative

Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)
• Extended tasks
• Applications of concepts and skills

End-of-Year Assessment
• Innovative, computer-based items

Formative assessment

Summative assessment for accountability

ELA/Literacy
• Speaking
• Listening
Common Core State Standards
Preparing Students for Careers & College
Overview

• Current state education policy requires regular review and revision to Louisiana content standards “to maintain rigor and high expectations for teaching and learning”

• Must be reviewed at least once every seven years (BESE Bulletin 741, 2301 C)

• Approved by Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)
  – 1997-1998: Standards and Benchmarks
  – 2004: Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs)
  – 2010: Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics
Implementing Standards

State Law and BESE Policy

- State Law – R.S. 17:24.4
  - Instituted LEAP and required the Louisiana Department of Education to develop and implement curriculum standards
  - Applies to traditional public schools and charter schools
- BESE Policy – Bulletin 741, Section 2301
  - Requires each local school district and charter school to adopt and implement curricula aligned with state content standards
- Implementing curriculum aligned with state standards
  - Is mandatory
  - Necessary to ensure that students are being taught in accordance with state content standards
  - Allows students the opportunity to do well on state assessments
Common Core State Standards

What are Common Core State Standards?

• Content standards developed by group of states
  – Development coordinated by National Governors Association and Council of Chief State School Officers
  – In collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts

• States voluntarily choose to adopt
  – 46 states, 1 territory, and D.C. have adopted the CCSS as of 2/20/2011

• More information available at www.corestandards.org
46 States + DC Have Adopted the Common Core State Standards
Common Core State Standards

Why Common Standards?

• Identify what students really need to know to progress each year in K-12 and to be successful in college and in the workplace

• Allow more time for teaching foundational content and increase students’ mastery of it

• Allow comparisons of student achievement across states

• Help students keep pace with an advancing workforce

• Prepare students to compete with their American peers and with students from around the world
Common Core State Standards

Characteristics

• Based on evidence and research
• Aligned with college and workplace expectations
  – Endorsed by Dell, State Farm, U.S. Army, Microsoft, ACT, College Board, Merck, Verizon Communications, Boeing
• Focused and coherent to allow for in-depth learning
• Developmentally appropriate, cumulative progression of skills and understandings
• Rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills
• Incorporate standards of excellence found in high achieving countries
What about Standards for Science and Social Studies?

- **Literacy standards** for science, social studies, and technical subjects are included in CCSS for ELA

- **Science Content Standards**
  - *Next Generation Science Standards* currently under development by national groups
  - Will be reviewed for appropriateness to replace current Louisiana science standards; if acceptable, will be adopted in Summer or Fall 2012 to be implemented in 2014-15

- **Social Studies Content Standards**
  - Revised by committees of state educators in 2010-11
  - To be implemented in 2014-15
Implementation Plan
Implementation Overview

- New assessments and new LCC for **ELA and mathematics** will be phased in over several years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PreK</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 3-8</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>Current</td>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Implementation Plan

Spring 2011

- Create **crosswalk** document between CCSS and current Louisiana standards (completed)

- Analyze crosswalk at each grade level
  - Develop grade-level content comparisons to determine what content will remain the same, be added, or be deleted
  - Determine which CCSS can be phased in prior to full implementation

- Develop and deliver **General Awareness Sessions**
  - General Overview (Awareness Webinar 1)
  - Crosswalk and Grade-Level Content Comparison Reports (Awareness Webinar 2) – Summer/Fall 2011
  - Additional webinars and communications as needed
Implementation Plan

2011-12: Development Year

- Create new *Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum* (LCC) to align with
  - CCSS in ELA and mathematics for grades K-1
  - New Social Studies standards in grades K-12

- Create transitional LCC for grades 2 and higher
  - Delete activities based on GLEs that have no match with CCSS
  - Add activities to address new content required by CCSS

- Create LCC Professional Development Workshops and plan with districts for rollout of both transitional and new LCC

- Review *New Generation Science Standards* (Spring 2012) to determine their appropriateness to replace current Louisiana science standards

- Begin a voluntary district pilot program on the use of formative assessment performance tasks in ELA and math to guide their inclusion in the LCC and professional development
Implementation Plan

2012-13: Transition Year #1

- Implement new LCC aligned to ELA and math CCSS in grades K-1
- Implement transitional LCC in ELA and math for grades 2 and higher
- Begin professional development workshops on the new LCC using a train-the-trainer model
Implementation Plan

2013-14: Transition Year #2

- Implement **new** LCC aligned to ELA and math CCSS in grades PreK and 2

- Continue
  - Use of **transitional** LCC in grades 3 and higher
  - LCC professional development for teachers
Implementation Plan

2014-15: Full CCSS Implementation

- Full Implementation at all grades
  - Common Core State Standards
  - State-revised standards for social studies and science
  - New LCC for all grades and subjects

- LCC professional development continues for teachers
Assessments

Summary of Transition Plan for Louisiana Assessments

- No change to current assessments in 2011-12
- **Transitional** assessments for grades 3-8 and high school in 2012-13 and 2013-14
  - Aligned with transitional LCC
  - Adjust ELA and math assessments by using existing items that best align with CCSS
    - Content focus may change
    - “Cut scores” and level of difficulty will remain the same
    - Omit content that will be discontinued, emphasize existing content that aligns with CCSS
    - New CCSS content will not be added until 2014-15
Stakeholders & Partners
Networks to Address Challenges

- National:
  - PARCC Governing Board
  - PARCC Higher Education Advisory Committee
  - PARCC National Working Groups
  - PARCC Implementation Team
  - PARCC Educator Leader Cadre (Fall 2011)
- Louisiana
  - PARCC State Planning Team
  - School & Campus Teams
PARCC CAMPUS LEADERSHIP TEAMS (2011-2014)

• 8-Member team on two- and four-year campus
• Webinar (July 2011), Statewide Meeting (September 30, 2011), & Other Meetings During 2011-2014
• **Challenges** to address:
  - Identifying a set of core competencies in English and mathematics reflected in the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that signal that a student is on-track to be college-ready
  - Agreeing on college-readiness standards acceptable to all college and universities within Louisiana
  - Helping pre-service teachers prepare to teach to the new Common Core Standards and assessments
  - Identifying types of drill down data needed for new PARCC assessments to help teachers and teacher preparation programs improve practices
Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence (2011-12)

• **Charge:** To prepare students who are career and college ready as new Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments are implemented in Louisiana

• **Challenges** to address:
  - Help new and experienced teachers implement effective practices to teach to the new standards and assessments
  - Help students use their junior and senior years more effectively to prepare academically for college through better interventions
  - Help students who demonstrate early college readiness to enroll in post-secondary courses while in high school
Common Core State Standards, PARCC Assessments, & Partners

Impacting a future generation of college and career ready students
Common Core State Standards
Need More Information from Louisiana Department of Education?

E-mail
commoncore@la.gov

Call Toll Free
1-877-453-2721

LDOE Common Core State Standards Web Site:
http://www.doe.state.la.us/topics/common_core.html

LDOE Common Core Assessments
http://www.doe.state.la.us/topics/common_core_assessments.html

PARCC Website:
Http://www.parcconline.org