



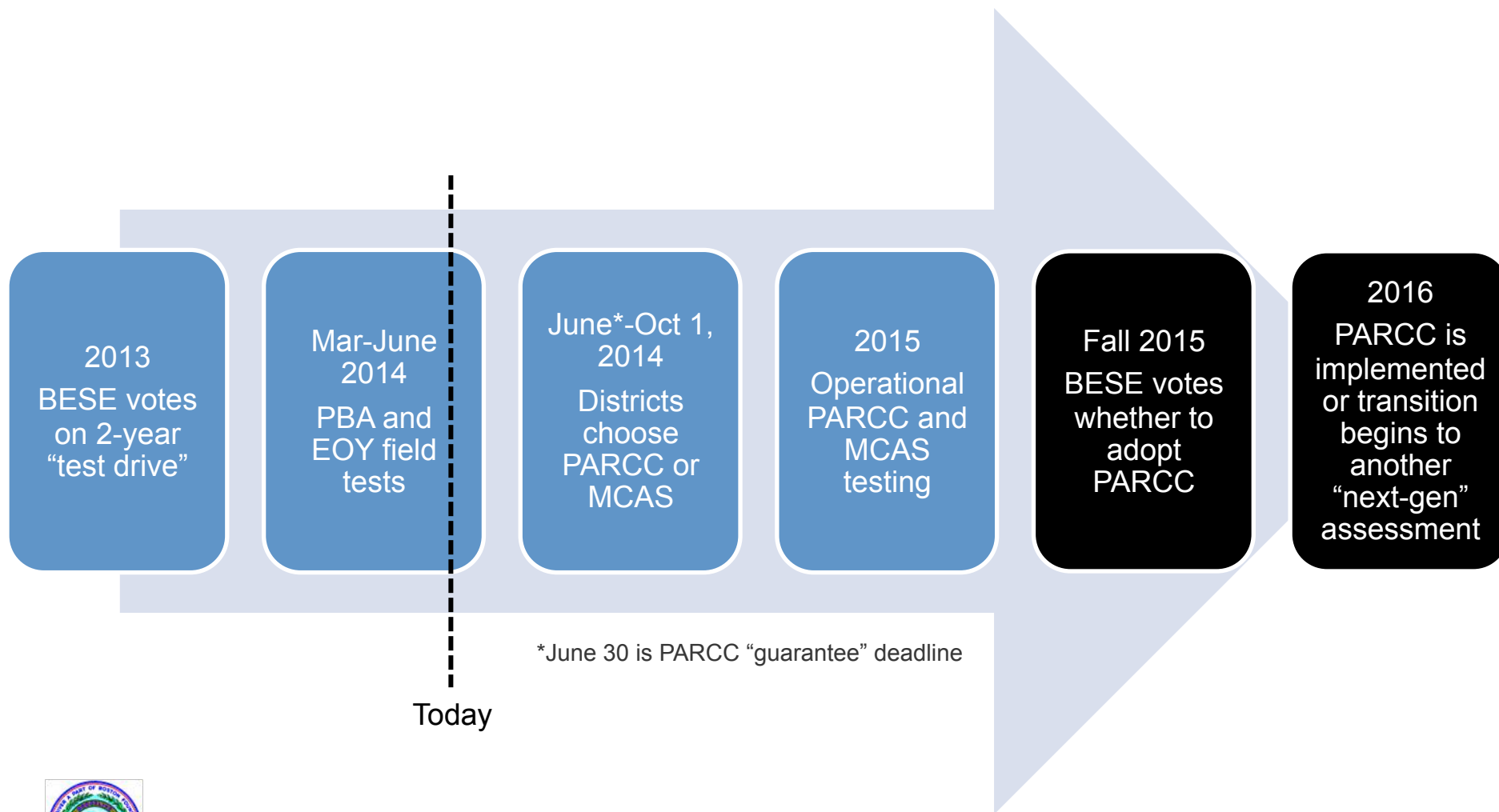
# State Assessments 2015: MCAS or PARCC?

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Superintendent of Schools  
Thursday, May 22, 2014



The Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts

# Massachusetts Plan for a Two Year “Test Drive” of PARCC



# Spring 2014 Field Test

- Allowed students to experience the new computer-based testing format before it counts;
- Allowed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to determine the fairness, validity, and accuracy of test questions – and refine the test before it becomes operational next year; and
- No student, school, or district results will be reported.



# Participation in PARCC Field Testing (2014)

- Most schools in Massachusetts are participating
  - Public schools and charter schools
  - Approx. 81,000 students in 1,050 schools (345 districts)
- Students in grades 3–11 (grade 10 EOY only)
- Representative random sample
  - Most students were selected for either PBA or EOY
  - Subset selected for both PBA and EOY
  - Approx. 1/3 taking paper and 2/3 taking online
  - A small number of districts opted to consolidate participation (all students took only PARCC in 17 schools)



# Brookline Field Test (2014)

- March & April, 2014: All K-8 schools participated in PARCC Field Testing (PBA).
- Feedback was collected from all school-based staff involved in the Field Testing:
  - Technology
  - Computer-based Testing Environment
  - ELA Content
  - Math Content
  - Teacher Preparation
  - Student Preparation
  - Accommodations



# Preliminary Field Test Findings (Brookline)

- Technology worked well but we will need more computers for full school testing in the future.
- Pearson will need to improve their “in-app” tools for testing.
- Students experienced challenges with the following in particular:
  - Dragging & dropping
  - Scrolling & tabbing through reading passages
  - Formatting test
  - Keyboarding/typing
- Many students reported being excited to take the tests on computers.



# Preliminary Field Test Findings (Brookline)

## English Language Arts

- Students were unclear about how much they were expected to write.
- The vocabulary used in instructions & questions was often above grade level.
- Students seemed to have difficulty incorporating the content of videos into their responses.

## Mathematics

- Questions were wordy and often above grade level.
- Students seemed to have difficulty in typing their answers to math problems.
- Questions had multiple parts, which seemed to cause confusion for many students.



# Preliminary Field Test Findings (Brookline)

- Teachers are seeking information on how writing prompts will be scored, to better prepare themselves and students.
- Students seemed calm, relaxed, and hard-working throughout the tests, though many did become tired by the third day of testing.
- Observers noted great variability in the strength of students' typing skills, particularly in lower grades.
- Students completed an online tutorial, but there is a need for a more kid-friendly, comprehensive tutorial.





# Current Status (Brookline)

- End of Year tests at Lincoln, Lawrence, and Heath are underway and will continue through the first week of June.
- We are planning for and confirming our technology needs and capacity.
- We continue to collect feedback from teachers, administrators, parents, and students.
- We continue to share feedback with PARCC, Pearson, and DESE.
- We are listening carefully to the messages from Commissioner Chester regarding PARCC for 2015.



# District Choices for 2015

- **Question #1:** Will your district administer PARCC or MCAS tests for grades 3 through 8 in ELA and Mathematics?
  - Choose all PARCC or all MCAS tests for all grades (grades 3–8), and for both subjects



# If Brookline chooses PARCC ...

- **Question #2:** Indicate the percentage of students who will take computer-based (CBT) and/or paper-based (PBT) PARCC tests.
  - Choose all CBT or all PBT by school.
  - Indicate the percentage of students in grades 3 through 8 who will be taking the test online.



# What can districts choose in 2015 for grades 9 and 11?

- Will your district administer PARCC tests in ELA and Mathematics in grade 9 and/or 11 (if funding is available)?
  - Can be separate from grades 3–8 decision
  - Can make separate decisions for ELA and Mathematics
  - Can make separate decisions for gr. 9 and for gr. 11
  - *ELA*
    - grade 9 ELA test, grade 11 ELA test
  - *Mathematics*
    - Integrated Mathematics I test, Integrated Mathematics II test, Algebra I end-of-course test, Algebra II end-of-course test, Geometry end-of-course test



# High School Considerations

- Grade 11 ELA, Integrated Math III and the Algebra II tests will qualify students to take credit-bearing courses in all state colleges
- The current Competency Determination requirements (MCAS) are in place through the class of 2018.



# Other Factors

- All students in grades 5, 8, and high school will participate in MCAS Science and Technology/Engineering tests; and
- PARCC participation includes both the Performance Based Assessments (PBA) and End of Year (EOY) portions for both Mathematics and ELA.



# Recommended Number of Devices (PARCC)

School Type	Minimum number of devices	Recommended number of devices
For a school with three tested grades (e.g., a school with grades 3–5, 6–8, or 9–12)	<b>One device for every two students</b> in the largest tested grade	<b>One device per student</b> for the largest tested grade
For a school with six tested grades (e.g., a K–8 school)	<b>One device per student</b> for the largest tested grade	<b>One device per student</b> for the <u>two</u> largest tested grades



# Spring 2015 PARCC Testing Dates (Massachusetts)

- Performance-based assessment (PBA)
  - March 16 to April 10 for computer-based testing
  - March 23 to April 3 for paper-based testing
- End-of-year assessment (EOY)
  - May 4 to 29 for computer-based testing
  - May 11 to 22 for paper-based testing

Note #1: Remember that a school participating in PARCC must take both the PBA and EOY portions.

Note #2: These dates do not include the MCAS window for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science or the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Competency Determination testing.





# PARCC Test Administration Considerations

- PARCC is a timed test.
  - Extended time for students with disabilities and ELL students
- Districts can administer computer-based and/or paper-based tests.
- Similar accommodations for students with disabilities as MCAS accommodations
  - MCAS-Alt for students who need an alternate assessment in 2015
- Additional supports for ELL students
  - Example: general directions can be read in student's native language



# “Hold Harmless” Approach for Schools Administering PARCC

- Will accountability reporting be different in 2015?
  - Yes, but only for schools that administer PARCC. Their level will stay the same or improve from 2014, but cannot decline. Protocols will be followed that ensure PARCC 2015 results do not disadvantage school accountability classifications in 2016, 2017, and 2018 as well.
  - Schools administering MCAS will be classified into a level as usual, and will not be held harmless.



# “Hold Harmless” Approach for Schools Administering PARCC

- Will data be reported for a school that chooses PARCC?
  - Yes, ESE will report assessment and accountability data for all schools, whether they administer MCAS or PARCC
  - Using a representative sample, ESE will use “equipercentile linking” to compare and publish achievement levels and CPI scores based upon 2015 MCAS and PARCC results for each school
  - ESE will calculate reliable student growth percentiles (SGPs) for schools that administer PARCC



# Timeline for 2015 Decisions

Date	Event
Monday, May 19	District superintendents receive instructions and a pass code via email for registering the district's choice via an online tool
May 19 to June 30	District superintendents register decision
Monday, June 30	Deadline to register early decision
Wednesday, Oct. 1	Deadline for decision (pending availability)



# Year 1 (2014 Field Test) and Year 2 (2015 Operational Test)

	Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test	Spring 2015 PARCC Operational Test
<i>Choice of PARCC or MCAS</i>	Districts were randomly sampled to participate. Districts taking the Performance-Based Assessment had a choice to also take MCAS, or exempt students from MCAS.	Districts will choose either PARCC or MCAS, not both. Separate choices will be made for Grades 3-8 and for grades 9 & 11. Grade 10 MCAS continues to be required.
<i>Student Participation</i>	In participating districts, students from a small number of classrooms were randomly selected to take parts of the ELA or Mathematics test, not the entire test.	All students in grades 3-9 and 11 selected to participate will take the complete PARCC tests in both ELA and Mathematics.
<i>Test Format</i>	Schools were assigned to take either the paper version or the online version of the assessments.	Districts administering PARCC will have the opportunity to select whether students will take the paper or online version of the assessments.
<i>Performance Results</i>	No district, school, or student-level results were produced.	District, school, and student-level results will be produced and publicly reported.
<i>Student Rosters</i>	District or school personnel were required to load classrooms of students into PearsonAccess using the student data upload process.	The Department will upload all students enrolled as of the October 2014 SIMS. Schools will only need to add or remove any students who were not reported on the October 1 enrollment report.
<i>Technology</i>	Online delivery: TestNav 8.0 (1st administration).	Online delivery: TestNav 8.0 (with more functionality to enhance usability and accessibility).

# Recommendation and Process

- Given the move by the Commonwealth to PARCC (or another “next generation” test) for 2015-2016, we recommend utilization of the PARCC assessment in Spring, 2015 for grades 3-9 and 11.
- Process
  - Public Hearing on this Recommendation:  
Thursday, June 5, 2014
  - School Committee Action:  
Thursday, June 19, 2014

