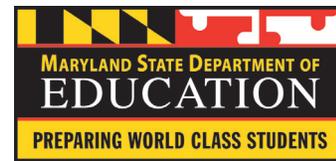
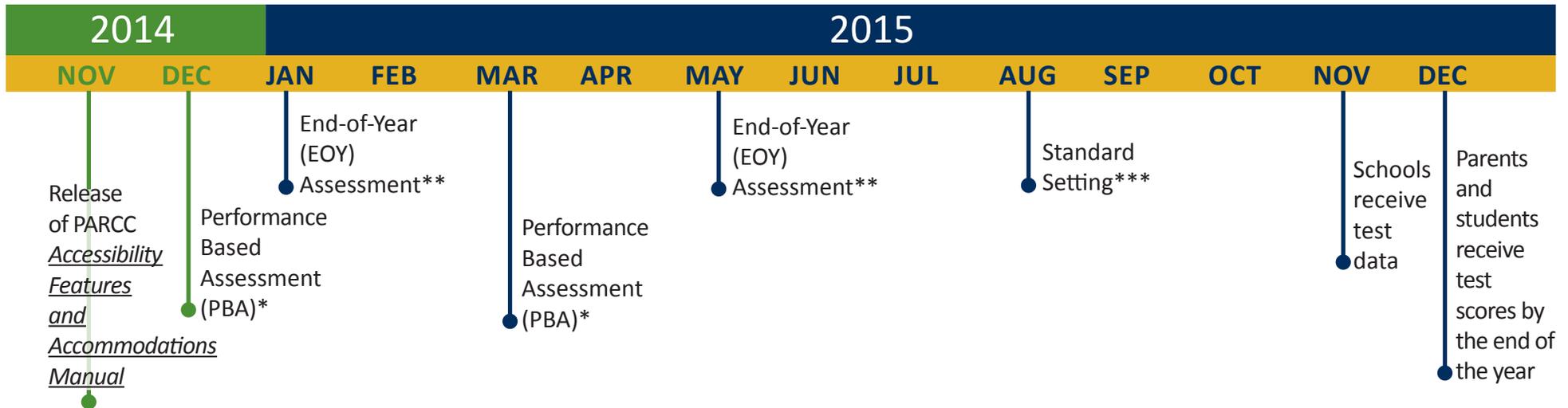


Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Maryland's New State Tests in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics for Grades 3-11



What Is Happening Over the Next Year?



*Performance Based Assessment (PBA)

The PBA component of PARCC is given approximately 75 percent of the way through the school year or course. In English language arts/literacy, the PBA focuses on both reading comprehension and writing when analyzing texts. The mathematics PBA focuses on reasoning and modeling, and includes questions that require both short and extended responses.

**End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment

The EOY component of PARCC is given approximately 90 percent of the way through the school year or course. The English language arts/literacy EOY focuses on reading comprehension. In mathematics, the EOY asks students to demonstrate a solid understanding of math concepts and demonstrate mathematical fluency.

***Standard Setting

Standard setting is the process used to define the performance levels on an assessment and the “cut scores” corresponding to those levels. *(A cut score is the score that defines the minimum performance required for a particular level of achievement on an assessment.)*

Student results on the **PBA** will be combined with their results on **EOY** assessment to produce overall PARCC scores in each content area.

The PARCC Assessments

Maryland's New State Tests in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics for Grades 3-11



Background

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career, or PARCC, is a group of states working together to develop the next generation of assessments, aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

The Common Core Standards were developed by the nation's governors and state education chiefs to provide a higher, more rigorous set of common education goals for what students should know and be able to do in English language arts/literacy and mathematics at the end of each grade. Recognizing the need to raise standards for all students, Maryland voluntarily adopted the Common Core Standards in 2010, along with 45 other states and the District of Columbia.

Maryland then took the Common Core Standards and adapted them to fit the needs of its students, creating the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards; and local teachers, and school and district leaders developed new, aligned curriculum, lesson plans, and coursework. The Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards were implemented in all schools across the State in 2013.

As a member of PARCC, Maryland has helped lead the development of the tests that will measure student learning on the new standards. The PARCC tests will assess students' critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, and will provide timely information about whether a student is on track to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school, or if they need extra support along the way.

Beginning in school year 2014-15, students in grades 3-11 will take the PARCC assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics, which will replace the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) and the High School Assessment (HSA) in those subject areas.

PARCC Graduation Requirements

Under the plan approved by the State Board of Education, beginning in school year 2014-15 students enrolled in English 10 and Algebra I for the first time must pass the course and participate in the PARCC assessments for those courses as part of their graduation requirements. Passing the PARCC assessments in English 10 and Algebra I will not become a graduation requirement until the 2016-17 school year.

