

Key Similarities and Differences of the Comprehensive Assessment Consortia

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Key Similarities	
<p>Summative Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online assessments for Grades 3-8 and high school, ELA and mathematics • Use of a mix of item types including selected response, constructed response, technology-enhanced and complex performance tasks • Two components, both given during final weeks of the school year • Use of both electronic and human scoring • Delivery supported on computers, laptops and tablets and a limited variety of operating systems 	<p>Other Assessments, Resources, and Tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online practice tests by grade/course • Optional diagnostic/interim assessments • Professional development modules • Formative items/tasks for classroom use • Online reporting suite • Digital library for sharing vetted resources and tools • State ownership and control of all individual student data, as is currently the case for state assessments
Key Differences	
PARCC	Smarter Balanced
Summative Assessments for Accountability	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summative assessments for Grades 3-11 • End of year test: Fixed-form delivery (students take one of several fixed, equated sets of items and tasks) • Performance-based assessment: 3 ELA performance tasks and 1 or more mathematics tasks • Reporting results: Student performance will be reported as one of five Performance Levels • Language translations to be provided at additional cost • One retake opportunity for Grades 3-8 and up to three for high school, with state approval • Estimated total testing time for combined ELA and mathematics, spread over nine testing sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Grade 3 8 hours ◦ Grades 4-5. 9 hours and 20 minutes ◦ Grades 6-8. 9 hours and 25 minutes ◦ Grades 9-10. 9 hours and 45 minutes ◦ Grade 11 9 hours 55 minutes • Paper-and-pencil version available as accommodation and, for the 2014-15 school year, for schools approved by their state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summative assessments for Grades 3-8 and 11 (states can add Grades 9, 10 and/or 12 at an additional cost per student tested) • End of year test: Adaptive delivery (students see an individually tailored set of items and tasks) • Performance tasks: 1 ELA performance task and 1 mathematics performance task • Reporting results: Student achievement will be reported as one of four Achievement Levels • Language translations provided at no additional cost in Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, Tagalog, Ilokano, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, and Ukrainian • One retake opportunity, but only for instances of a test administration irregularity • Estimated total testing time¹ for combined ELA and mathematics, spread over several testing sessions, over several days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Grades 3-5. 7 hours ◦ Grades 6-8. 7 hours and 30 minutes ◦ Grade 11 8 hours and 30 minutes • Paper-and-pencil version available as accommodation and for three years for schools not ready for online delivery

¹ The summative assessments are untimed, so these estimates are descriptive only.

Key Differences (continued)	
PARCC	Smarter Balanced
Assessment Delivery	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States and districts select from a set of 4-week testing windows, one for the performance-based assessments and one for the end-of-year assessments • A vendor delivery platform will be used through 2014-15 (TestNav), after which a PARCC-developed, open source or fully documented delivery system will be available to member states and their contractors • All system components delivered and operational in the 2014-15 school year with the exception of K-1 formative tools, diagnostic assessments, speaking/ listening assessment, and PARCC test delivery platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States establish one 12-week testing window for Grades 3-8 and one 7-week testing window for Grade 11 for the summative assessments • An open source delivery system is being developed and will be made freely available to states and vendors for delivery of Smarter Balanced assessments and other assessment applications • All system components delivered and operational in the 2014-15 school year
Other Assessments, Resources and Tools	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diagnostic assessment (Grades 2-8) and a mid-year assessment (Grades 3-11), with the latter made up primarily of tasks similar to the summative performance-based tasks (optional use) • A speaking and listening assessment for Grades K-12 (required for Grades 3-8 and high school but not used for accountability), locally scored • K-1 formative performance tasks (optional use) • (Future) Item bank with released summative items and tasks • State-developed formative and diagnostic tools will be added to the Partnership Resource Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim assessments for Grades 3-8 and 11 (optional) will be computer adaptive and include multiple item types, including performance tasks. The number, timing and scope (all standards or clusters of standards) can be locally determined. Item bank can be accessed by educators for instructional and professional development uses (optional use). • Exemplar instructional modules, three per grade level in ELA/ literacy and mathematics, with teacher training resources; additional instructional resources submitted by educators that meet quality criteria • Formative tools, processes and practices available in digital library
Sustainability Model	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent nonprofit organization governed by Chief School Officers of PARCC states, PARCC, Inc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affiliation being established with CRESST at UCLA
Costs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$29.50 per student for summative assessments in 2014-15 includes centralized delivery and scoring • Cost of optional resources to be announced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$22.50 per student for summative assessments in 2014-15 includes estimated costs for state-determined delivery and scoring • Additional \$4.80 per student annually for optional resources

For more information about the six multi-state assessment consortia, go to
www.k12center.org

About the Center for K–12 Assessment & Performance Management at ETS: Created by Educational Testing Service (ETS) to forward a larger social mission, the Center for K–12 Assessment & Performance Management at ETS has been given the directive to serve as a catalyst and resource for the improvement of measurement and data systems to enhance student achievement.