

# Reporting on Assessment in the Common-Core Era

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***Education Week***

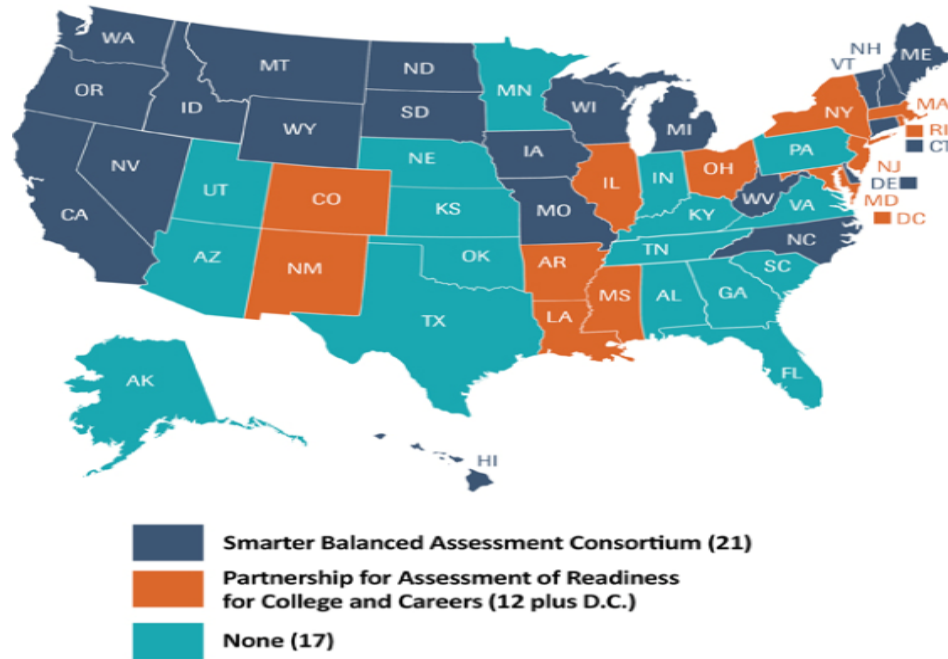
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# What Are The Assessment Consortia?

- **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)**
  - 13 members = 12 states + DC
  - [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org)
- **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium**
  - 22 state members
  - [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)
- Funded with \$360 million in Race to the Top grants – development only, not administration. Grants run out in fall 2014; then states must fund
- Field tests were in 2013-14, operational in 2014-15

# Consortium Membership Now

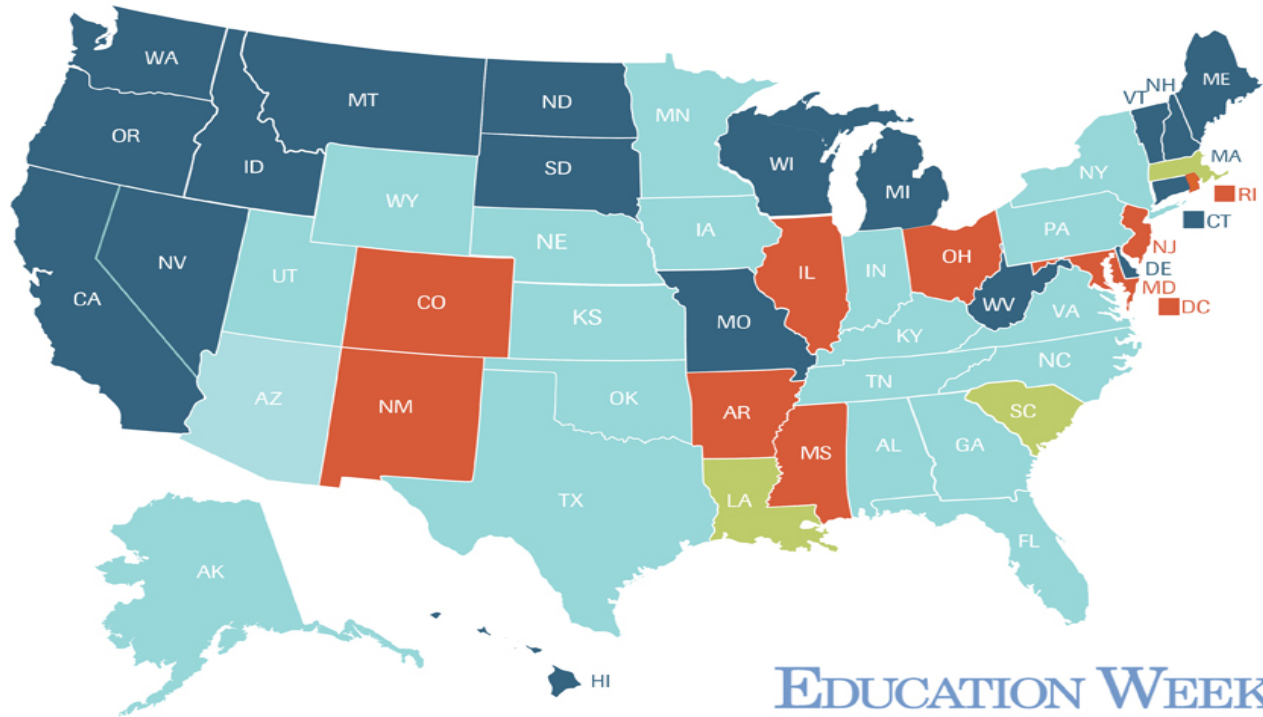
(high point, 2010: 45 states + DC)



SOURCES: Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium;  
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

<http://visual.ly/common-standards-and-assessment-consortia-membership>

## States' Testing Plans



- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (18)
- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (9 plus D.C.)
- Other (20)
- Undecided (3)

○ Indicates state is one of seven using one test for grades 3-8 and another for high school (HS). Hover for more information about state tests.

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thinglink

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/map-the-national-k-12-testing-landscape.html>

# 10 Story Seedlings

- **Which test?** Is your state using PARCC? Smarter Balanced? Some other test? Get & publish sample items. Concrete idea of what's coming.
- **Cost/Time/Benefit.** What is your state paying for its tests? How long do they take? How do those compare to old tests? Payoffs/drawbacks.
- **Score reports:** Rhetoric that CCSS tests scores will be lower because “bar” is higher. Consult experts: comparing 2014-15 scores to those of previous years. NAEP comparison. What proficiency means. What do scores mean for “college readiness?” How determined/measured/validated? Low scores for subgroups: press for info on instruction supports offered.
- **Test opposition.** Chart/profile assessment opposition. Basis of opposition. Too much testing? Stakes attached to testing? Instruction displacement? What are opponents plans/strategies (opt out? Boycott?)?
- **Higher ed.** PARCC/SBAC: higher ed commitment to use test scores for course placement. Does your state have such alignment? Is higher ed on board or just symbolic promise?

- **Accountability.** Is the way your state holds schools/districts accountable changing? What is its system based on? How valid are its measures? Move toward deemphasizing standardized test results.
- **Tested versus taught.** Hang around in classrooms. What's being taught? Is that what's being tested? Tests that reflect instruction versus misaligned tests.
- **Uses of Test Scores:** Teacher evaluation: if, when & how factored into ratings/job decisions. Grade-to-grade promotion: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade gate? High school exit: required for graduation? When? And at what cut point? (i.e. college ready cut point? Few will meet this)
- **Test Burden.** Tests required by state. Tests required/given at district level. What are the purposes, time and cost of each? What's the total impact? Plans to streamline?
- **Performance Assessment:** Demonstrating competency in ways other than non-standardized tests. (Body of work, outside work, dual/college credit, etc) How PA dovetails (or not) with state/federal accountability obligations

## And a Few Tips...

- **Testing primer.** Find someone smart to school you on the types of tests (formative, interim, benchmark, summative) and their purposes.
- **Get experts to help you.** Measurement & evaluation experts. Professors, former state assessment directors, esteemed people from established testing outfits.
- **Work on background:** Explanation/interpretation help. Knowing what to watch for, what to ask about, what to challenge.

# Resources/Light Reading ☺

- [www.edweek.org](http://www.edweek.org) – “Gewertz” + “common standards,” “common assessments.” State policy/controversy: Ujifusa. Tech: Cavanagh, Davis.
- EdWeek blogs – <http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/blogs/index.html> – Curriculum Matters, State EdWatch, Politics K12
- National Testing Landscape Fragments – [http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/05/21/32assessment\\_ep.h33.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/05/21/32assessment_ep.h33.html)
- Early Reports Suggest Few Field Testing Snags – [http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/05/06/30fieldtest\\_ep.h33.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2014/05/06/30fieldtest_ep.h33.html)
- Early visions of consortium tests – <http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2010/02/23/23assessment.h29.html>



## Resources (cont'd)

- The consortia get supplemental RTT grants to do all sorts of related stuff besides summative tests –  
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2011/02/11/21consortia.h30.html>
- Sample consortia items, sense of how the tests will be different –  
Document cloud link to hundreds of pages of items –  
[http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/08/14/01tests\\_ep.h32.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/08/14/01tests_ep.h32.html)