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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D. *lmfowery*

**DATE:** April 23, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Working Session - PARCC Assessments

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**PURPOSE:**

To provide information and to offer recommendations regarding the implementation of the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessments beginning in the school year, 2014-2015.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

In June, 2010, the State of Maryland agreed to participate in a consortium of states, commonly referred to as PARCC, to support the development of a new assessment system to measure student knowledge and skills against a common set of college and career ready standards in mathematics and English language arts. These assessments tied to the Common Core State Standards provide an accurate measure of student achievement across the full performance continuum for students in grades 3-8 and high school mathematics and English Language Arts. The assessments will measure the performance of all students including English Language Learners and students with disabilities. Additionally, the assessments will measure and document students' college and career readiness by the end of high school. Students who meet the standards will be eligible for placement into entry-level credit bearing, rather than remedial, courses in public two and four year postsecondary institutions.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The following are recommendations for discussion and approval:

- Maryland will administer the PARCC assessments in grades 3-11 beginning in 2014-2015.
- At the elementary and middle school levels, the tests include mathematics and English Language Arts in grades 3-8.
- At the high school level, the tests include: English 9, 10, 11, Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.
- High School graduation requirements related to state assessments will remain the same. **Students must pass Algebra I, English 10, Government and Biology to meet graduation requirements in the state of Maryland.**

- The College and Career Determination Policy (CCD) as adopted by the PARCC governing board established five performance levels for the PARCC assessments. Students meeting the college and career readiness standards and to become eligible for placement into entry level credit-bearing courses in public two and four year postsecondary institutions **MUST** pass the English 11 and Algebra II assessments with a CCD score no lower than 4 on a 5 point scale.
- Students in the graduating class of 2017 will follow the High School Assessment graduation plan, except for English 10 PARCC beginning in the school year, 2013-2014.
- Students in the graduating class of 2018 and beyond will follow the PARCC Assessment graduation plan beginning in the school year, 2014-2015.
- The Maryland State Department of Education will roll out a PARCC communication plan to students, parents and community stakeholders during the 2013-2014 school year.

**ACTION:**

For discussion.

Attachments