The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers
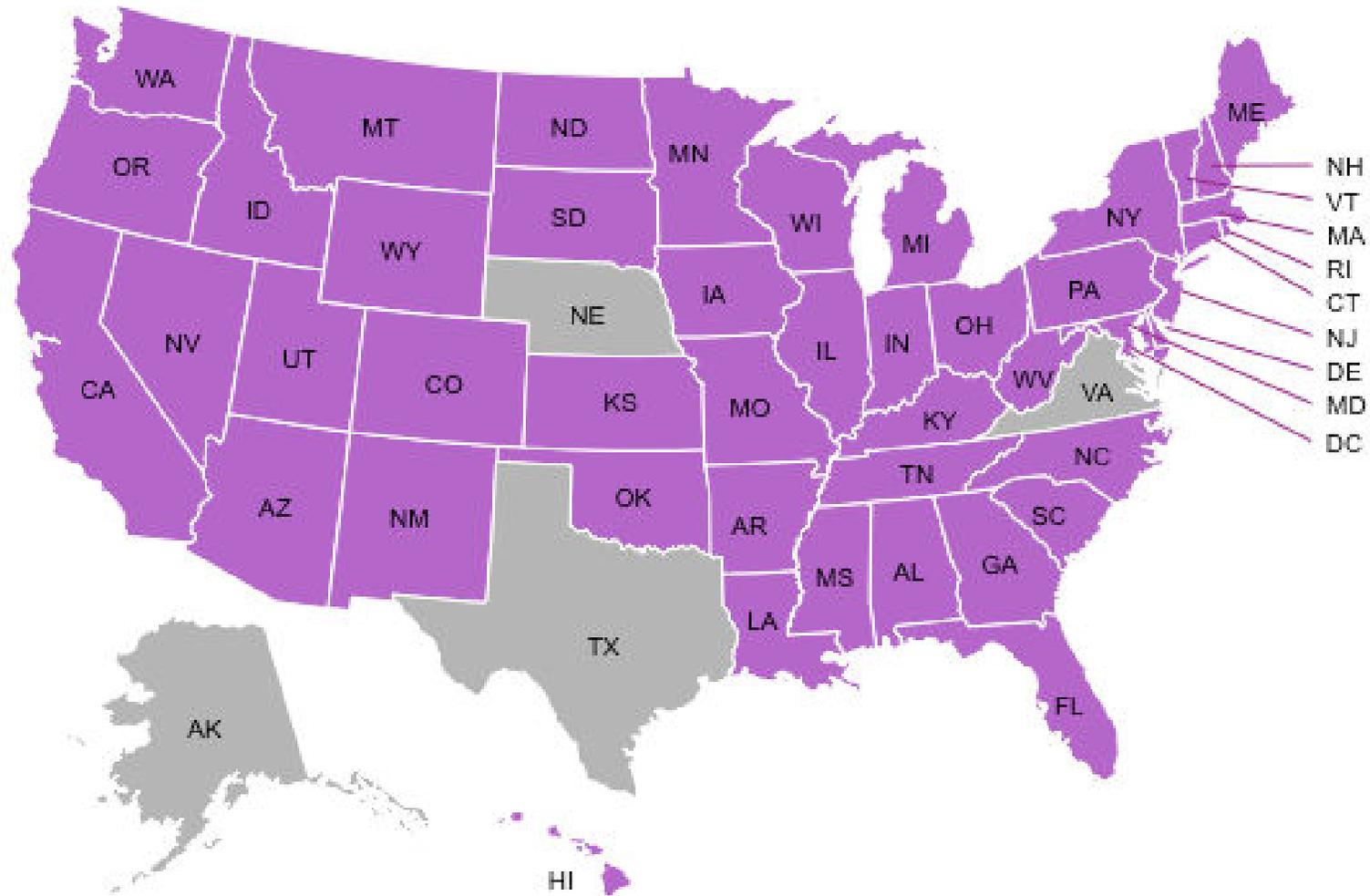
September 2013

A Strong Foundation:
The Common Core State Standards

- Nearly every state in the nation is working individually and collectively to improve its academic standards and assessments to ensure students graduate with the knowledge and skills most demanded by college and careers

- The Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics were created by educators around the nation

46 States + DC Have Adopted the Common Core State Standards

*Minnesota adopted the CCSS in ELA/literacy only

Key Advances of the Common Core

MATHEMATICS

Focus, coherence and clarity: emphasis on key topics at each grade level and coherent progression across grades

Procedural fluency and understanding of concepts and skills

Promote rigor through mathematical proficiencies that foster reasoning and understanding across discipline

High school standards organized by conceptual categories

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERACY

Balance of literature and informational texts; focus on text complexity

Emphasis on argument, informative/ explanatory writing, and research

Speaking and listening skills

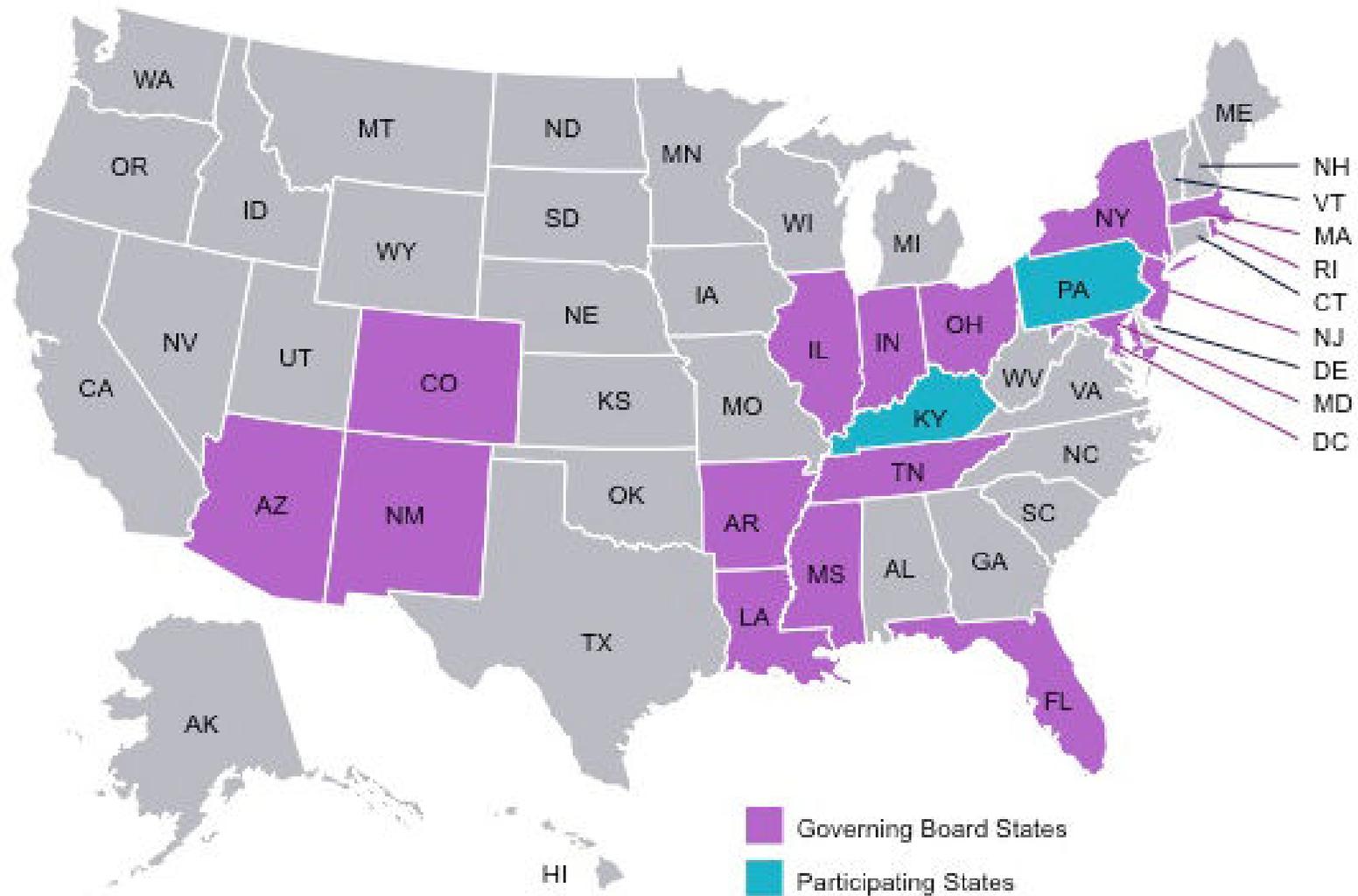Literacy standards for history, science and technical subjects

ANCHORED IN COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

- **Common Core State Standards** are critical, but it is just the first step

- **Common assessments** aligned to the Common Core will help ensure the new standards truly reach every classroom

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

Governing Board States

Participating States

K-12 Educators & Education Leaders

- Educators are involved throughout the development of the PARCC assessments and related instructional and reporting tools to help ensure the system provides the information and resources educators most need

Postsecondary Faculty & Leaders

- Nearly 750 institutions and systems covering hundreds of campuses across PARCC states have committed to help develop the high school assessments and set the college-ready cut score that will indicate a student is ready for credit-bearing courses

The PARCC Goals

1. Create high-quality assessments

2. Build a pathway to college and career readiness for **all** students

3. Support educators in the classroom

4. Develop 21st century, technology-based assessments

5. Advance accountability at all levels

6. Build an assessment that is sustainable and affordable

Goal #1: Create High Quality Assessments

Priority Purposes of PARCC Assessments:

1. Determine whether students are college- and career-ready or on track

2. Assess the full range of the Common Core Standards, including standards that are difficult to measure

3. Measure the full range of student performance, including the performance high and low performing students

4. Provide data during the academic year to inform instruction, interventions and professional development

5. Provide data for accountability, including measures of growth

6. Incorporate innovative approaches throughout the system

Goal #1: Create High Quality Assessments

- To address the priority purposes, PARCC will develop an assessment system comprised of **four components**. Each component will be computer-delivered and will leverage technology to incorporate innovations.
    - Two *summative, required assessment components* designed to
        - Make "college- and career-readiness" and "on-track" determinations
        - Measure the full range of standards and full performance continuum
        - Provide data for accountability uses, including measures of growth
    - Two *non-summative, optional assessment components* designed to
        - Generate *timely* information for informing instruction, interventions, and professional development during the school year
        - An additional third non-summative component will assess students' speaking and listening skills
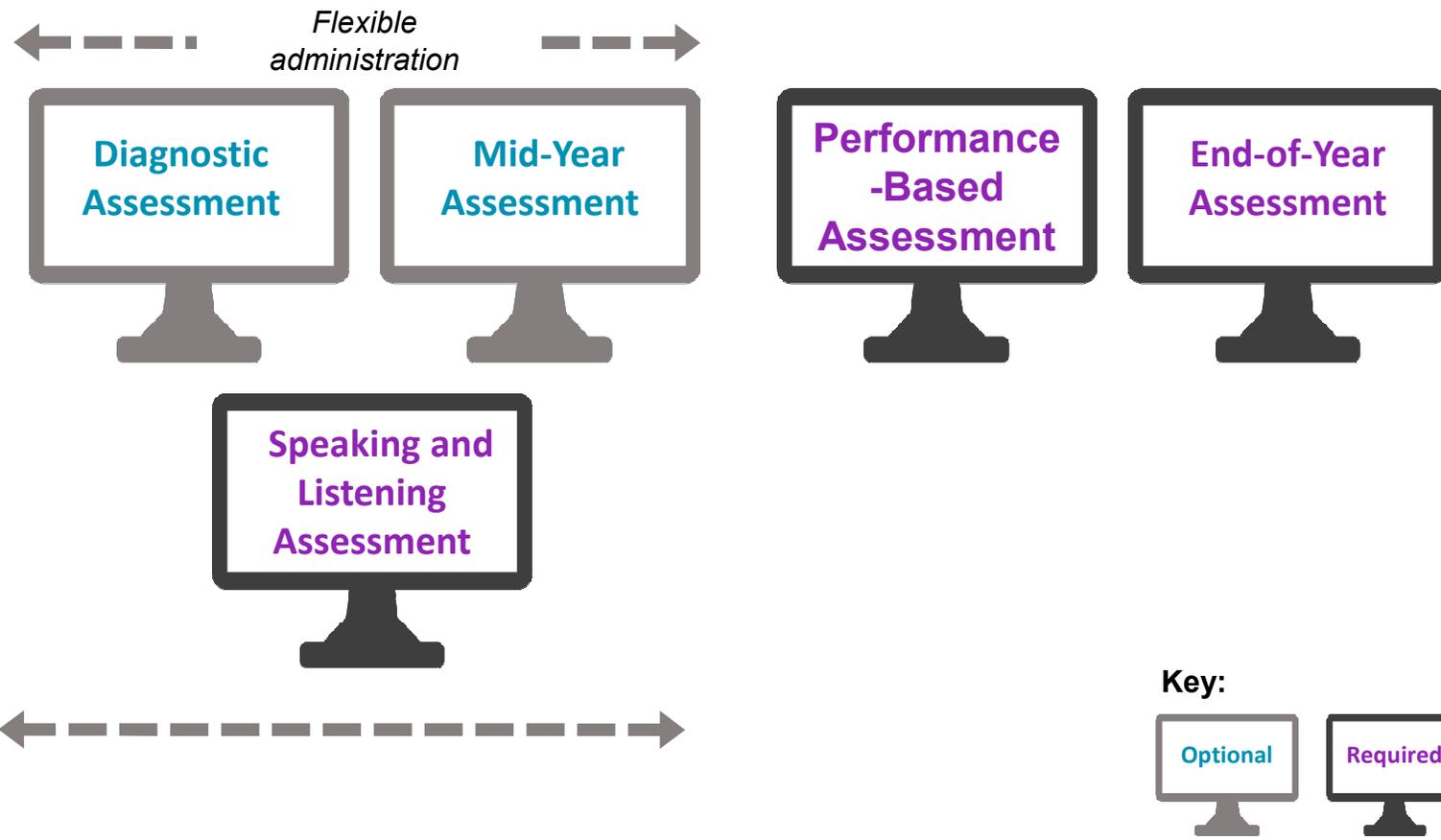
Goal #1: Create High Quality Assessments

- ## Summative Assessment Components:
  - **Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)** administered as close to the end of the school year as possible. The ELA/literacy PBA will focus on writing effectively when analyzing text. The mathematics PBA will focus on applying skills, concepts, and understandings to solve multi-step problems requiring abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance, and strategic use of tools
  - **End-of-Year Assessment (EOY)** administered after approx. 90% of the school year. The ELA/literacy EOY will focus on reading comprehension. The math EOY will be comprised of innovative, machine-scorable items

- ## Non-Summative Assessment Components:
  - **Diagnostic Assessment** designed to be an indicator of student knowledge and skills so that instruction, supports and professional development can be tailored to meet student needs
  - **Mid-Year Assessment** comprised of performance-based items and tasks, with an emphasis on hard-to-measure standards. After study, individual states may consider including as a summative component

PARCC Assessments
ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3–11

Flexible administration

Diagnostic Assessment

Mid-Year Assessment

Performance-Based Assessment

End-of-Year Assessment

Speaking and Listening Assessment

Key:

Optional

Required

Higher Expectations

ELA/Literacy

- Read sufficiently complex texts independently

- Write effectively to sources

- Build and present knowledge through research

Math

- Solve problems: content and mathematical practice

- Reason mathematically

- Model real-world problems

- Have fluency with mathematics

Goal #2: Build a Pathway to College and Career Readiness for All Students

K-2 formative assessment being developed, aligned to the PARCC system

Timely student achievement data showing students, parents and educators whether ALL students are on-track to college and career readiness

College readiness score to identify who is ready for college-level coursework

Targeted interventions & supports:
- 12th-grade bridge courses
- PD for educators

K-2

3-8

High School

SUCCESS IN FIRST-YEAR, CREDIT-BEARING, POSTSECONDARY COURSEWORK

ONGOING STUDENT SUPPORTS/INTERVENTIONS

Goal #3: Support Educators in the Classroom

INSTRUCTIONAL TOOLS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODULES

K-12 Educator

TIMELY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

EDUCATOR-LED TRAINING TO SUPPORT "PEER-TO-PEER" TRAINING

Goal #4: Develop 21st Century, Technology-Based Assessments

PARCC's assessment will be computer-based and leverage technology in a range of ways:

- Item Development
  - Develop innovative tasks that engage students in the assessment process

- Administration
  - Reduce paperwork, increase security, reduce shipping/receiving & storage
  - Increase access to and provision of accommodations for SWDs and ELLs

- Scoring
  - Make scoring more efficient by combining human and automated approaches

- Reporting
  - Produce *timely* reports of students performance throughout the year to inform instructional, interventions, and professional development

16

Goal #5: Advance Accountability at All Levels

- PARCC assessments will be purposefully designed to generate valid, reliable and timely data, including measures of growth, for various accountability uses including:

  - School and district effectiveness

  - Educator effectiveness

  - Student placement into college-credit bearing courses

  - Comparisons with other state and international benchmarks

- PARCC assessments will be designed for other accountability uses as states deem appropriate

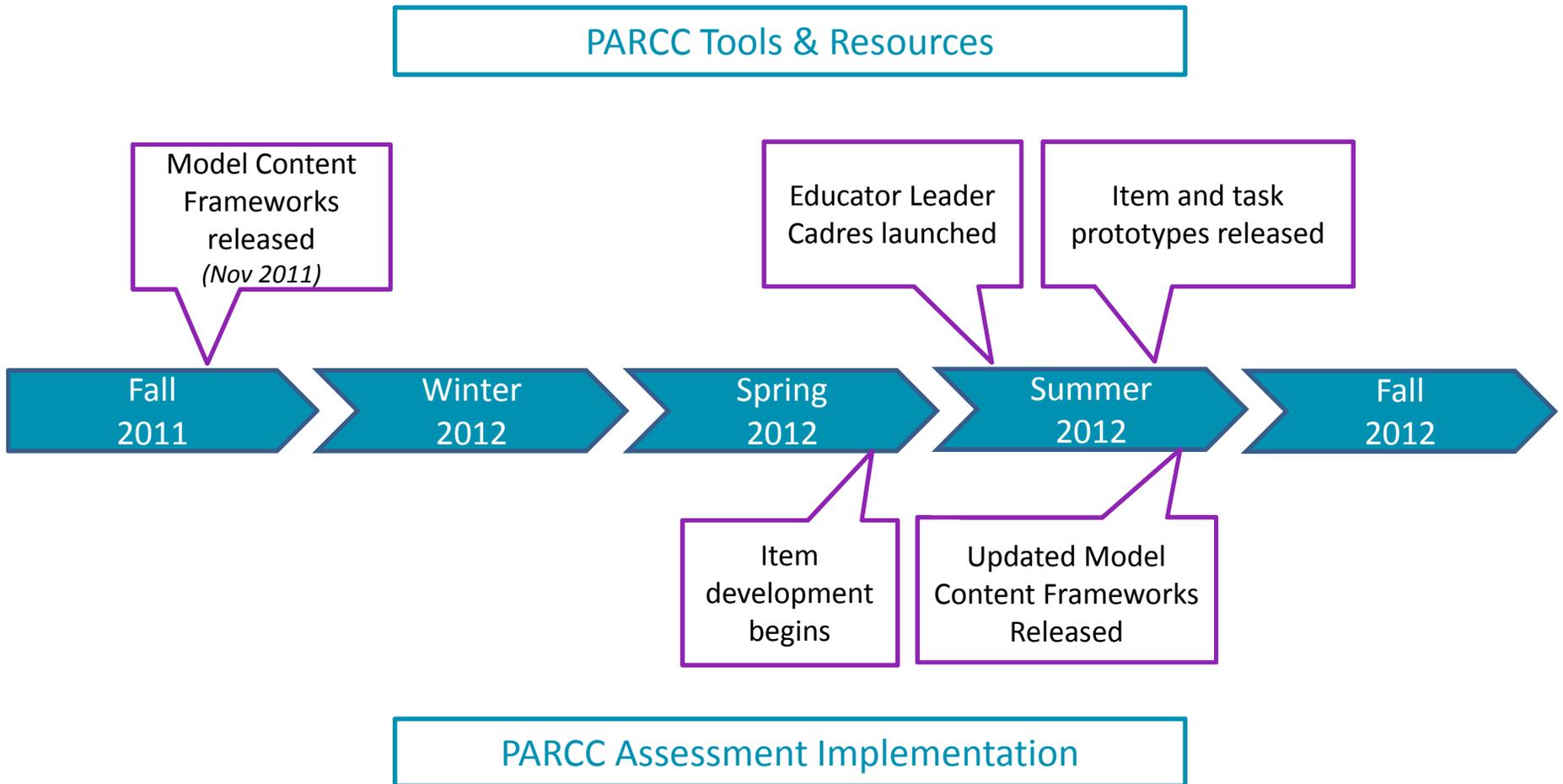# Implementation and Instructional Support & Next Steps

PARCC's Implementation Support & Stakeholder Engagement

To support state efforts to **implement and transition** to the Common Core and next generation assessments, PARCC will facilitate:

- *Strategic planning and collective problem solving* for the implementation of CCSS and PARCC assessments

- Collaborative efforts to develop the highest priority *instructional and support tools*

- Multi-state support to build *leadership cadres of educators*

- Multi-state support to engage the *postsecondary community* around the design and use of the assessments

Major Milestones through 2011-12

PARCC Tools & Resources

Model Content Frameworks released *(Nov 2011)*

Educator Leader Cadres launched

Item and task prototypes released

| Fall 2011 | Winter 2012 | Spring 2012 | Summer 2012 | Fall 2012 |

Item development begins

Updated Model Content Frameworks Released

PARCC Assessment Implementation

Major Milestones 2012-13

June 2012	✓ Minimum Technology Specifications, version 1.0 ✓ Item Development Begins
August 2012	✓ Item and Task Prototypes
September 2012	✓ Principles for Comparability with SBAC
October 2012	✓ College- and Career-Ready Determination Policy
November 2012	✓ Item Tryout and Field Testing RFP
December 2012	✓ College- and Career-Ready Assessments in Mathematics ✓ Retest Policy ✓ Minimum Technology Specifications, version 2.0
March 2013	✓ Assessment Administration Capacity Planning Tool ✓ Estimated Time on Task ✓ Item Development Research
April 2013	✓ Draft Performance Level Descriptors ✓ Draft Accommodations Manual ✓ Test Blueprints

Looking Ahead

June 2013	• Guidance on Participation in Field Test and Practice Tests • Final Subject- and Grade-Level Performance Level Descriptors Adopted • Final Accommodations Manual Adopted
Summer 2013	• Additional Sample Items • Estimates for Assessment Cost • Notification to Schools/Districts Selected for Field Test
Fall 2013	• Design of Student Score Reports • Minimum Technology Specifications, version 3.0 • Training for IEP Writing Teams Based on Accommodations Manual • Sample Items Re-Released in PARCC Technology Platform
Spring 2014	• Field Test Administration and Practice Test
Fall 2014	• Operational Assessment Administration Manual
SY 2014-15	• Operational Administration of PARCC Summative Assessments
Summer 2015	• Standard Setting
Throughout 2013-14	• *Additional Guidance to Districts on Assessment Administration*

Areas of Focus for Transition to PARCC

Technical

- Developing an interoperable technology platform
- Transitioning to a computer-based assessment system
- Developing and implementing automated scoring systems and processes
- Developing effective, innovative item types

Implementation

- Estimating costs over time, including long-term budgetary planning
- Transitioning to the new assessments at the classroom level
- Ensuring long-term sustainability

Policy

- Student supports and interventions
- Accountability
- High school course requirements
- College admissions/ placement
- Perceptions about what these assessments can do

PARCC Highlights:
The Work is Underway

- Quarterly Governing Board meetings where major decisions have been made around assessment design, procurement schedule, committee structure and by-laws

- Contracts awarded to support development of items and tasks and execute item tryouts and field testing

- Consortium-wide and in-state meetings, including first two Transition & Implementation Institutes, each attended by 200 state and district leaders

- Release of final by-laws, Model Content Frameworks, procurement schedule, and launch of PARCC website (www.parcconline.org)

- Direct engagement with over 2,000 educators, K-12 and postsecondary leaders and state and local officials in nearly all 19 PARCC states

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

September 2013

Website: www.PARCConline.org

Sample Items: http://www.parcconline.org/samples/item-task-prototypes

Twitter: @PARCCPlace

PARCC

Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers