



PARCC Governing Board Meets, Appoints PARCC Chief Executive Officer

Washington, D.C. - September 26, 2013 - During its quarterly meeting yesterday, the Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) made several key decisions to support the long-term sustainability and success of the consortium.

In a unanimous vote, the Governing Board appointed Laura McGiffert Slover as the Chief Executive Officer of the PARCC nonprofit, which the member states of PARCC formed to carry on the work of the consortium in developing next-generation Math and English Language Arts/Literacy tests.

The PARCC Governing Board is made up of the chief state school officer from each of the PARCC Governing States. Governing States have each committed to administer the PARCC assessments in the 2014-2015 school year.

As CEO of the PARCC nonprofit, Slover will work with educators and policymakers from each of PARCC's states to continue the work that is already well under way toward bringing the new computer-based tests, which will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards, to schools for field testing this spring and operational use in the next school year.

Slover previously served as senior vice president at Achieve, a bipartisan education reform organization, which is serving as the project manager for PARCC. Setting up the new PARCC nonprofit - led by a CEO and staff, and with strong engagement of PARCC states - is an important step in creating long-term sustainability for PARCC and its effort to deliver the kind of tests students need to be successful in the 21st century.

"I am pleased to continue working with states in our combined effort to help ensure that all students graduate high school prepared for college, careers and citizenship," Slover said. "As a former teacher, I know educators want an assessment system that provides the kind of meaningful and timely information they can use to support their students in reaching a higher bar. As a parent, these are the kinds of engaging and meaningful assessments I want for my child."

"From the outset, Laura Slover has provided exceptional leadership in managing this state-led effort to build a next-generation assessment system that will provide us with a better signal of students' readiness for college and careers," said Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester, who chairs the PARCC Governing Board. "In her new role as CEO, Laura will ensure that we successfully field test PARCC next spring and

remain on track to administer the first operational tests in 2014-15."

"PARCC's gain is Achieve's loss," said Mike Cohen, President of Achieve. "Laura has been a key member of the Achieve team for the last 15 years, leading Achieve's participation in the development of the Common Core State Standards. She also led the development of the American Diploma Project's Algebra I and II exams, the first multi-state initiative to develop a standards-based exam that can serve as an indicator of college readiness."

Cohen said, "Achieve is committed to PARCC's success, and I look forward to working closely with Laura as she takes on this exciting new role. "

Also yesterday, the governing board of the multi-state group discussed a draft data privacy and security policy designed to ensure the most rigorous protections are in place for the security of student assessment data. Similar to current practice with existing state assessments, the proposed policy ensures that states and local districts retain responsibility for and control over their data; states must also grant permission to PARCC and its contractors in order for them to have access to data for specific purposes authorized by the states. PARCC will not collect personal information from students, nor will it pass on student assessment data to any other entities, such as the federal government.

The Governing Board also approved the translation of the PARCC mathematics assessments into languages other than English for those states that need it. The costs of translation and administration of translated tests will be shared by the PARCC states that use them.

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PARCC is an alliance of states working together to develop common assessments. PARCC's work is funded through a four-year, \$185 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Partners include over 200 higher education institutions and systems representing hundreds of campuses across the country that will help develop the high school component of the new assessment - and then put it to good use as an indicator of student readiness. For more information, visit www.parcconline.org.