

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1661
Ways and Means

(Delegate Reilly, *et al.*)

Task Force to Study Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and
Careers (PARCC) Testing Time

This bill establishes the Task Force to Study Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Testing Time. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must provide staff for the task force. The task force must submit to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2018, and a final report by December 31, 2019. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018, and terminates June 30, 2020.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MSDE can staff the task force using existing resources. Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The task force must:

- study ways to reduce the PARCC assessment testing time;
- study alternative assessments to the PARCC assessment that have shorter testing time but produce the same results; and
- make recommendations regarding the findings of the task force.

Current Law/Background: The most recent reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, requires annual assessments of all students in grades 3 through 8 and at least once in high school in reading/language arts and mathematics; the law also requires students to be tested in science at least once in grades 3 through 5, 6 through 8, and 9 through 12. In Maryland, PARCC is used for these requirements in reading and math.

States are required to use assessments that measure the depth and breadth of its state standards. MSDE advises that the PARCC assessment program is currently the only state assessment program aligned to the Common Core Standards, to meet all 29 Critical Elements defined as part of the federal requirements. Over the past four years, the PARCC consortium has reduced testing time significantly in both content areas and continues to seek ways for reducing testing time further.

The spring 2018 testing times for the PARCC assessments are shown in **Exhibit 1**. PARCC requires local school systems to choose a 30-day testing window to administer the PARCC assessments. In 2018, Maryland’s testing window is April 9 through May 18 for paper assessments and April 9 through June 8 for assessments taken by computer.

Exhibit 1
Spring 2018 PARCC Testing Times

Grades	ELA	Math
Grade 3	Unit 1 - 75 minutes Unit 2 - 75 minutes Unit 3 - 75 minutes	Unit 1 - 60 minutes Unit 2 - 60 minutes Unit 3 - 60 minutes Unit 4 - 60 minutes
Grades 4-5	Unit 1 - 90 minutes Unit 2 - 90 minutes Unit 3 - 90 minutes	Unit 1 - 60 minutes Unit 2 - 60 minutes Unit 3 - 60 minutes
Grades 6-8	Unit 1 - 90 minutes Unit 2 - 90 minutes Unit 3 - 90 minutes	Unit 1 - 80 minutes Unit 2 - 80 minutes Unit 3 - 80 minutes
Grades 9-12	Unit 1 - 90 minutes Unit 2 - 90 minutes Unit 3 - 90 minutes	Unit 1 - 90 minutes Unit 2 - 90 minutes Unit 3 - 90 minutes

ELA: English/Language Arts

Note: Math for grades 9-12 includes Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Integrated Mathematics I, II, III.

Source: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

Change to the Assessment Program

MSDE advises that any significant change to the assessment program may require the State to have to resubmit the program for federal peer review compliance purposes. MSDE further advises that any alterations in testing time will directly impact the continuity and meaning behind student performance and test scores.

PARCC Consortium

PARCC is a multi-state consortium. The requirements and testing period for each segment of the assessments are set by PARCC. Maryland is one of only four states remaining in the consortium (the Department of Defense and the District of Columbia also participate) using the full PARCC assessments. PARCC now also offers a licensing agreement for states to access the assessment content. Under a licensing agreement, states may use the test design (including time-limits) and administration vendor of their choice. However, altering the test design requires a state to do its own analysis of the test design, which can be expensive. Testing analysis includes an assessment of cultural bias, the determination of cut scores, and an analysis of item order.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education; Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers; Department of Legislative Services

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