

2016 Back-to-School Update

Next-generation MCAS and updating our learning standards

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION

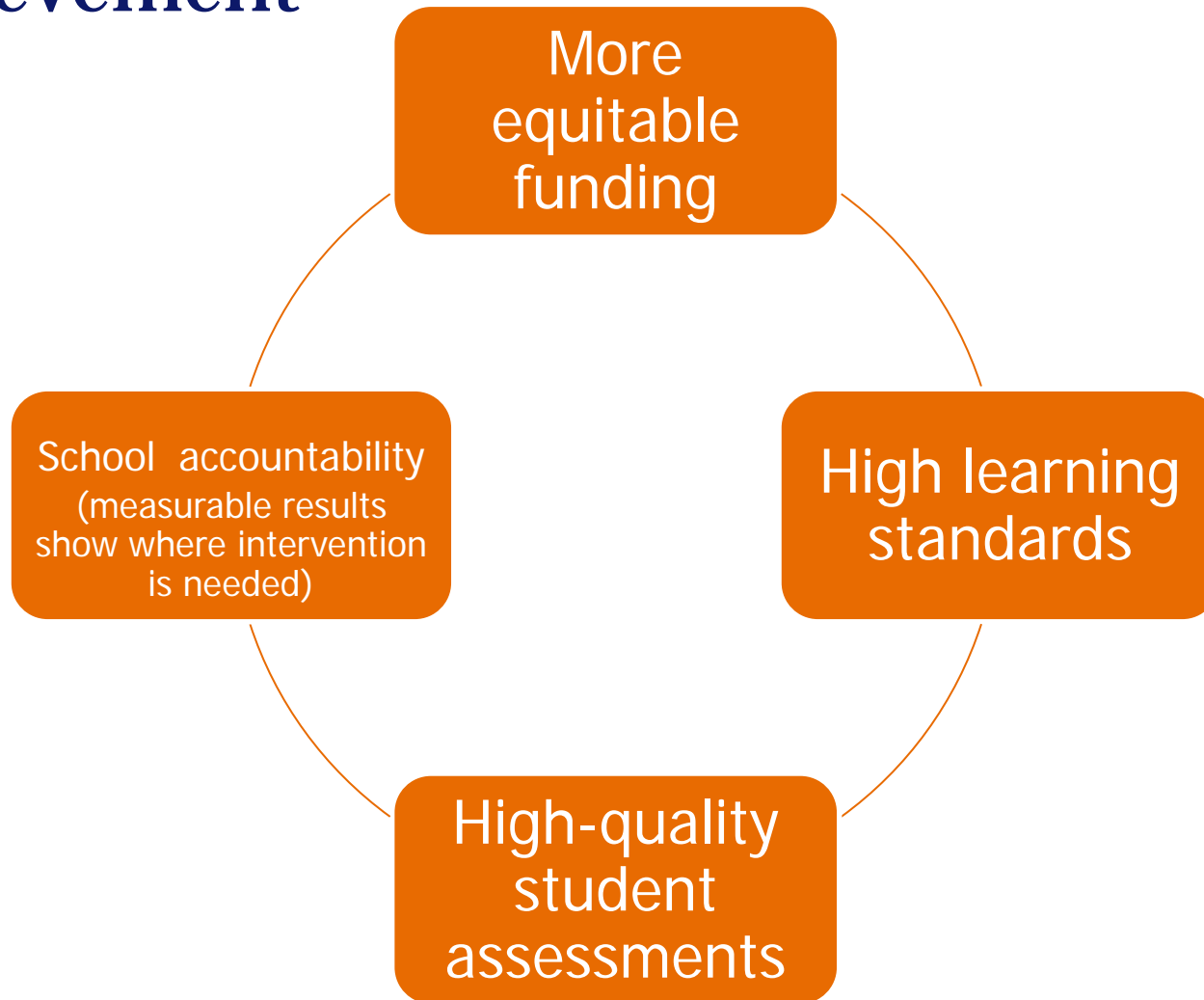


Today's update includes:

- ★ Why Mass. is developing the next-generation MCAS
- ★ How Mass. educators and ESE are updating statewide learning standards
- ★ Project timelines and advisory workgroups
- ★ Highlights of workgroup recommendations
- ★ The process for finalizing the recommendations
- ★ How to learn more



1993 Mass. Ed. Reform Act: “Grand bargain” increased accountability & led to gains in achievement



Statewide assessments (MCAS) help inform:

Curriculum
improvements
(local level)

School and district
accountability levels
(state level)

Parents' and teachers'
monitoring of student
progress

In addition:

- In high school, MCAS is a graduation requirement.
- Student progress on statewide assessments over time is one of many factors that inform educator evaluations.



The need to align assessment with college- & career-ready standards

- ★ Current MCAS designed to measure readiness to graduate from high school, not readiness for college and career

- ★ More than 1/3 of Mass. students who enroll in Mass. public colleges are placed in remedial courses



State Board of Education vote to develop next-generation MCAS

Mass. "test drove" PARCC, an assessment created by the multi-state PARCC consortium. Some Mass. districts used PARCC instead of MCAS, and some used the computer-based format, introducing Mass. to a computer-based assessment aligned to college- and career-ready standards.



Mass. Board voted in November 2015 to move forward with a Mass.-specific assessment that will include new material and elements of both MCAS and PARCC while maintaining Mass. control. The new assessment is the next-generation MCAS.

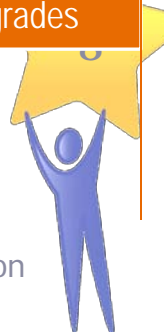
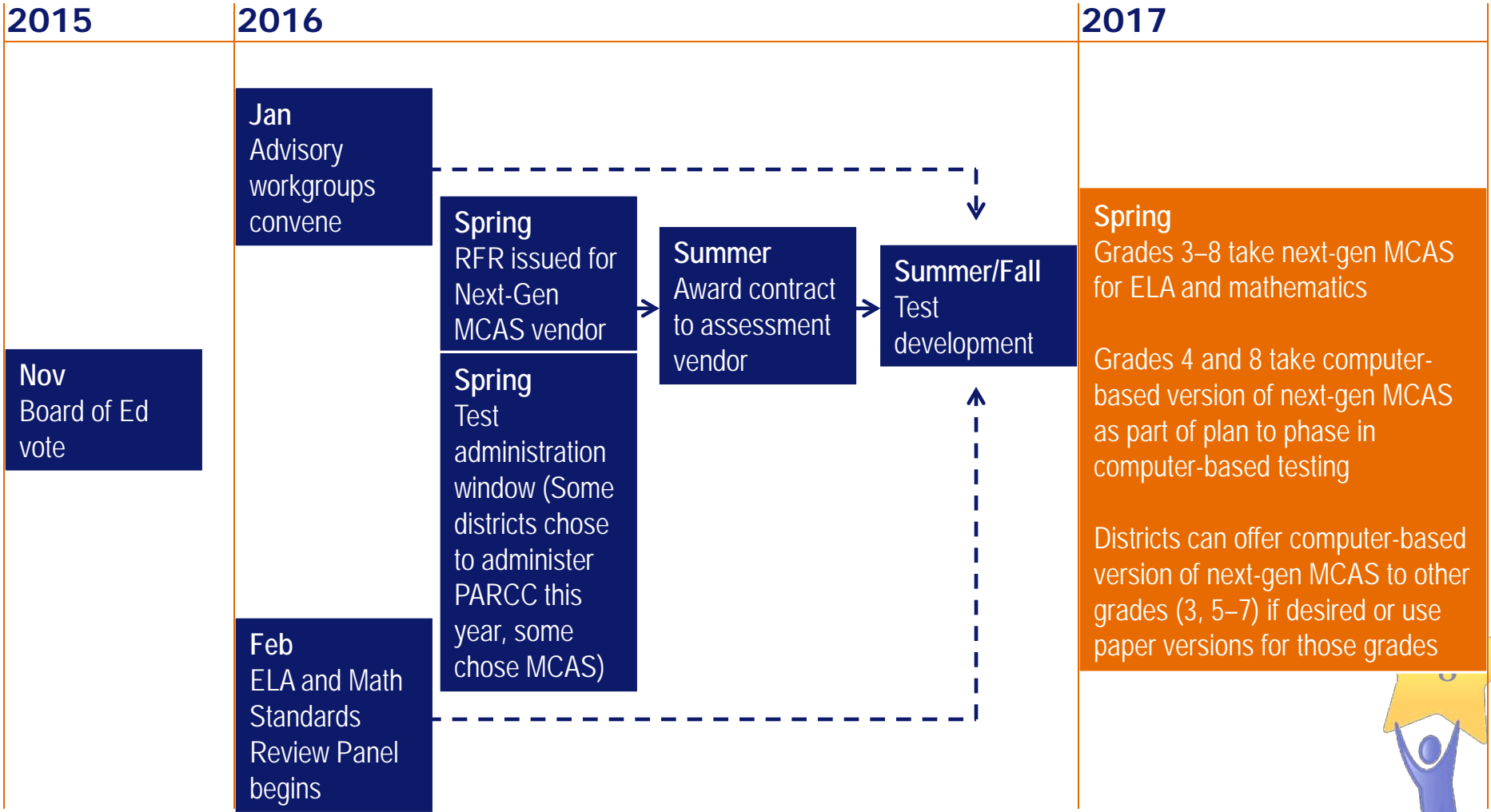


Background: Spring 2016 assessments bridged old and new

- ★ Exposure to next-generation test items and questions
 - ★ 72% of Mass. students in grades 3–8 took PARCC for English language arts and math
 - ★ English language arts and math MCAS tests for grades 3–8 included PARCC items, which have been scored for diagnostic purposes only
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- ★ Administration of PARCC computer- vs. paper-based tests
 - ★ 44% of districts administered PARCC on the computer
 - ★ 39% used the paper version
 - ★ 17% of districts administered a mix of paper and computer-based tests



Timeline to update MCAS and the state's learning standards



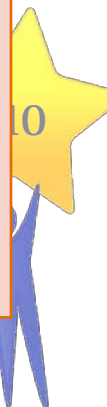
Highlights of workgroup activities and recommendations

- ★ All workgroup recommendations are preliminary and are under review. Some would require Board approval to be enacted.

Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bid responses from American Institutes for Research and Measured Progress▪ Review panel included K–12/higher ed educators and ESE staff
High School Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Legacy MCAS remains graduation requirement through the Class of 2019 (sophomores in September 2016); recommendation to extend to Class of 2020▪ Considering possible grade 11 college-and-career ready assessment

Highlights of workgroup activities and recommendations

English Language Arts/Math Standards Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review panel includes over 40 K–12/higher ed educators▪ Over 700 public comments submitted to panel▪ Standards viewed as good, suggestions offered for specific areas of refinement▪ <i>(Note: This work was at risk from a proposed Common Core ballot question, but a Supreme Judicial Court ruling removed the question from the ballot.)</i>
History/Social Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Panel of K–12/higher ed educators selected; expected to convene in January 2017▪ Panel will review 2003 standards and recommend assessment options▪ Public comments form to be posted online in fall 2016



Highlights of workgroup activities and recommendations

Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ With computer-based format, more accommodations available to all students▪ Paper-based tests and added features for students with disabilities and English language learners
Technology (Digital Learning Advisory Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ EducationSuperHighway partnership offers districts free broadband connectivity consultation▪ Federal E-rate program provides technology discounts to schools▪ Statewide procurement provides special K–12 pricing for bundled technology▪ MSBA approves \$50 million loan program to support district technology readiness



Highlights of workgroup activities and recommendations

Test Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ESE will phase in computer-based testing to make the transition more manageable for districts▪ Grades 3–8 English language arts and math tests will remain untimed in spring 2017▪ In spring 2017, English language arts tests for grades 3–5 will be administered in three sessions instead of the traditional two sessions
Test Content and Standard Setting	<p>Convening in September 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Assessment Development Committees, Bias and Sensitivity Committee, and Standard Setting Policy Committee



Process for finalizing workgroup recommendations

Jan-May 2016
Workgroup
recommendations

Apr-Jun 2016
Analysis of
recommendations and
refinements

**Summer/Fall
2016**
Public
comment

**Fall/Winter
2016**
Final
recommendations to the
state Board of
Education



More information

Write MCAS2.0@doe.mass.edu

Visit www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/nextgen/

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