What's Happening?

Who's Doing It?

We've been given learning targets (Common Core ELA/Lit. & Math) that are going to require some shifts in our thinking about how to get students ready for life after school, (CCCR-College, Career and Citizenship Ready)

Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and **National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices** (AGA) released Common Core State Standards (CCSS), June 2010

- The new Common Core State Standards (CCSS) aim to provide clear, consistent academic benchmarks with "fewer, clearer and higher" academic standards for essential learning and skills. The standards were developed while considering the standards of top performing countries and the strengths of current state standards in the areas of literacy and math.
- The CCSS provide benchmarks for academic progress (skills and knowledge) that students should have at the conclusion of each grade level. This will allow teachers to establish the best approach to help their students meet those standards.
- THE CCSS will help students and parents clearly understand the knowledge students are expected to attain **each year**..

Check out the FAQs http://www.corestandards.org/frequently-asked-questions

They worked with Achieve, Inc., (Project Mtg. Partner), ACT, College Board, National Association of State Boards of Education, Alliance for Excellent Education, Hunt Institute, National PTA, State Higher Education Executive Officers, American Association of School Administrators, and Business Roundtable.

The NGA Center and CCSSO will not be developing standards in other subjects. However, other groups are working on standards in the arts, world languages, CTE and science. See back for more details.

People are working on figuring out how to 'measure' student growth and success against the learning targets (Common Core ELA/Lit. & Math), early and often in a student's school experience.

SMARTER Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Partnership	**Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC)**
A 24 state-led consortium developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate high school college- and career-ready, received federal Race to the Top funding (175.8 million). Includes Alabama, California*, Connecticut*, Delaware *, Hawaii*, Idaho*, *Iowa*,* Kansas*, Maine*, Michigan*, Missouri*, Montana*, Nevada*, New Hampshire*, North Carolina*, North Dakota, Oregon*, Pennsylvania, South Carolina*, South Dakota*, Vermont*, Washington*, West Virginia*, * and Wyoming. *Denotes Governing State.* *They work with WestEd and* Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the National Council of Teachers of English and others (Look on back for more information about SBAC)	A consortium of 23 states plus the U.S. Virgin Islands working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. The PARCC states include: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Tennessee. PARCC received a $186 million grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top assessment competition to support the development and design of the next-generation assessment system. They work with Achieve, Inc., Education First, Education Delivery Institute (EDI), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and others. (Look on back for more information about PARCC)

NOTE: Other testing organizations and consortiums are working as well to align to the Common Core; (e.g. Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA), American College Testing (ACT), Iowa Testing Programs (ITP)at the University of Iowa, *Iowa*) and to promote the use of formative assessments and accommodate special needs learners, (e.g., Alternate Assessment Consortia: the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Consortium, *Iowa* and the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Consortium, and An English Language Proficiency (ELP) Assessment Consortium:, and the Assessment Services Supporting English learners through Technology Systems (ASSETS). The Iowa DE is working with FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers, IGDI (Individual Growth and Development Indicators and TIES (Technology & Information Educational Services to provide Universal and Progress Monitoring -PK-6 Reading measures by Fall'13, *At this time, it is our understanding that these will be an option for your second assessment. When we know more, we'll update this document.*

People are working on figuring out how to articulate, teach and assess the learning targets (Common Core ELA/Lit. & Math) in their units of study, at every grade level.

MISIC staff has organized a list of user-friendly sites and resources by topics:

- Understanding the CCSS in ELA/Literacy,
- Understanding the CCSS in Math,
- Curriculum Development and Implementation,
- Resources for Math,
- Resources for ELA/Literacy and
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

The resources referenced on the MISIC website are from multiple organizations including; CCSSO's *Common Core State Standards, PARCC, the National PTA, the Northwest & WestEd Educational Labs, the Tri-State Consortium, the Hunt Institute (Teaching Channel), Achieve, Inc., Education First, Engage New York, Tulare County, …to mention a few.*
To access these resources, go to http://misiciowa.org, click on Meeting Handouts, (when prompted for user name, type in *misic* and for password, type in *together*), scroll down to Spring 2012 Regional Meetings, click on any of the live links or to find more, click on the title, "Common Core Resources and Links".

MISIC has partnered with various groups to create tools and access resources that bring understanding and integrity to the implementation of the CCSS. Tools include Curriculum Manager, StandardsInsight Tool, Teacher Bookmarks, Model Content Framework Planning by Grade Level Templates. Critical Thinking Hand Book, Instructional Strategies Booklet and others. Contact: 515.827.9010.
MISIC encourages and recommends using the tools/resources along with content expertise from the DE and AEAs to enable teachers to embrace the challenge of implementing the CCSS.

How are SBAC and PARCC alike:
-both *aligned* to CCSS (PARCC in grades 3-11) and (SBAC in grades 3-8, 11)
-both *administers* assessments on computers
-both *use* open-ended items rather than relying on multiple-choice to measure reading, writing including research and essay writing, math reasoning
-both *are developing* materials for teachers to use
-both *include* formative assessment item pool that encourages assessments of learning and assessment for learning
-both *include* performance based assessments for accountability (measurement of readiness for college and careers)
-both are *designing* reports that will indicate growth, and whether students are on track to meet college and career readinness, facilitating responsive interventions.

To learn more about how the Iowa DE is rolling out their planned 2014-2015 launch of Smarter Balanced, English Language Proficiency Assessment 21, Dynamic Learning Maps, online Iowa Assessments and RtI-FAST and IGDI go to http://educateiowa.gov/, search School Leader Updates or watch their webinar at http://iowa.adobeconnect.com/p107080vsai/

HOW ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

Smarter Balance (SBAC)	Attributes	Partnership for Assessment of Readiness (PARCC)
SMARTER has a traditional "end-of-year" approach, with summative assessments administered during the last 12 weeks of the school year. SBAC has interim assessments that can be used at any time of the year to inform instruction, but they are less oriented toward teacher evaluation.	**1. Summative Assessments**	PARCC envisions a "though-course" model of summative assessment for accountability, which will require participating states to administer quarterly assessments in both ELA and mathematics. Each of these quarterly assessments will be included in summative scores for accountability determinations. PARCC has a midyear test very much like the end-of-year test, which means that schools can use the test to measure students' progress and, as a result, a teacher's performance..
SMARTER requires testing only once in high school (in the 11th grade).The SMARTER consortium will develop assessments for grades 9 and 10, but these assessments are optional for states.	**2. High School assessments**	PARCC requires tests in grades 9-11.
SMARTER assessments will be computer-adaptive—a method of test administration that adjusts in real time an assessment's level of difficulty based on individual students' responses. So, that means the questions posed to students are based on their previous answers. They get easier or harder depending on how the student performs. This means that schools who use the SBAC will have robust information about their students' performances at all levels, not just at the proficient level.	**3. Computer-adaptive vs Computer-based**	PARCC assessments will be computer-based but adhere to a single form for all students. So, that means PARCC is delivered on the computer but is fixed in terms of the questions students will have to answer. Every test-taker gets an equivalent set of questions.
SMARTER will set initial cut scores in the summer of 2014, following the field testing of its assessments but before the first full-scale administration of the assessment system in all consortium states.	**4. Cut Scores**	PARCC will finalize assessment standards and set cut scores only after full-scale administration in 2014-2015
SMARTER has features that cater to a wider range of learning needs. For example, there are sound files for all the texts so that they can be read to the students. What that means is a broader range of students, including special-education students, can participate in taking the test.	**5. Learner Accommodations**	PARCC test has features that can be manipulated such as font size
Initial analysis of the content and structure of the CCSS was conducted from December 2010 to February 2011. Assessment design and item writing will be conducted through 2012. Field test development and pilot testing will take place in 2012–13. Field testing will take place 2013–14. Beginning with the 2014–15 school year, the SBAC 's tests will be ready to use as federal accountability assessments.	**6. Timeline**	**2010-11:** Launch and design phase **2011-12**: Development begins **2012-14:** Pilot/field testing and related research and data collection **2014-15 School Year**: Full operational administration of PARCC assessments **Summer 2015:** Set achievement levels, including college-ready performance levels
Link to FAQs- http://www.smarterbalanced.org/resources-events/faqs/#2298 & sample items- http://www.smarterbalanced.org/2012/10/sample-items-and-performance-tasks ,and tech requirements, SB tech link	**More Info**	Link to FAQs- **FAQs - PARCC**, sample items- www.**parcc**online.org/initial-set-test-**items**-and-task-prototypes-released , and tech requirements, PARCC tech requirements

NOTE: MISIC will be watching for new advances in other subject areas and keep members updated.

Arts: The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards is leading the revision of the National Standards for Arts Education. http://www.arteducators.org/news/national-coalition-for-core-arts-standards-nccas

Science: The National Research Council, the National Science Teachers Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Achieve are working together on Next Generation Science Standards. http://www.nextgenscience.org/.

World languages: First published in 1996, the National Standards for Learning Languages is now in its third edition. In April 2012, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages published an alignment of the National Standards for Learning Languages with the ELA Common Core State Standards. http://www.actfl.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=1

CTE: The Common Core Career Technical Standards and Practices, published June 17, 2012 by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASCDTEC). http://www.careertech.org/career-technical-education/cctc/info.html