

# Race to the Top Assessment Overview & Update

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# Topics

- Review Race to the Top Assessment Program Context and Goals
- Consortium presentations
- Discussion

# Before Race to the Top Assessment – 2009 Context

- Each State separately developed academic content standards; performance standards (“cut scores”); and tests.
- State tests were not necessarily designed to show whether students have the knowledge and skills needed for college and careers in a global economy.
- Focus was on summative assessment.

# Race to the Top Assessment Goals

Support States in delivering a system of more effective, valid, and instructionally useful assessments that —

- Provide accurate information about what students know and can do, including for very high/low achievement:
  - Student achievement of standards
  - Student growth from year to year
  - College and career ready by the time of high school graduation
- Reflect and supports good instructional practice
- Are designed from the outset to be an effective measure for all students, including English learners and students with disabilities

# Race to the Top Assessment Goals

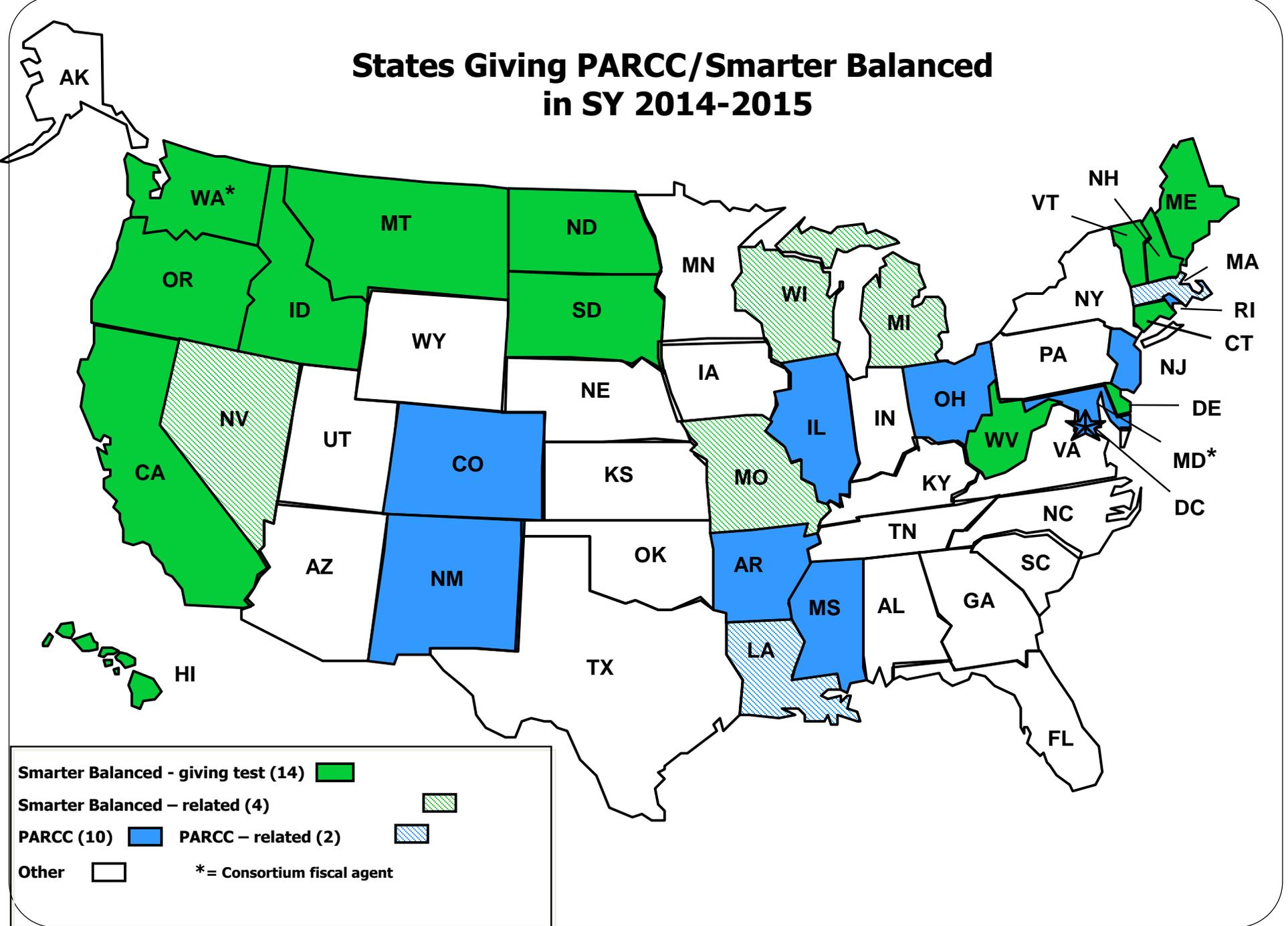
Assessments designed to support:

- Determinations of individual student college and career readiness
- Teaching, learning, and program improvement
- Educator effectiveness and support
- Present data to each audience – students, parents, teachers, administrators, policymakers – in ways that are clear, useful, and actionable

# Program Highlights

- Grants to two groups of States made in 2010—
  - Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
  - Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced)
- Assessments in grades 3-8 and high school in English Language Arts and Mathematics
- Both consortia elected to develop the assessments against the Common Core State Standards
- First operational assessments given this past school year
- Common achievement standard (cut score) within a consortium

# States Giving PARCC/Smarter Balanced in SY 2014-2015



# Race to the Top Assessment Going Forward

- Continued **operational implementations** in school year 2015-2016 and beyond
- Continued iteration of next-generation assessment systems – expanded use of **innovative item types**
- Locally determined use of **diagnostic, formative, and interim/midyear** components
- **Use** of assessment results **for the intended purposes**, including to measure student readiness for college and careers; student growth; school, principal, and teacher effectiveness; principal and teacher professional development; and program improvement

# For More Information

- Race to the Top Assessment: [www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-assessment/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-assessment/index.html)
- PARCC: [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org)
- Smarter Balanced: [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)

Questions?

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