

A Tale of Two Assessments: MCAS & PARCC



The Beginning: 1993



On June 18, 1993, the Massachusetts Education Reform Act was signed into law.

MCAS: Then and Now

- ✓ Tests all public school students in Massachusetts, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, & science/technology/engineering
- ✓ Measures performance based on the Massachusetts Curriculum Framework learning standards;
- ✓ Reports on the performance of individual students, schools, and districts.

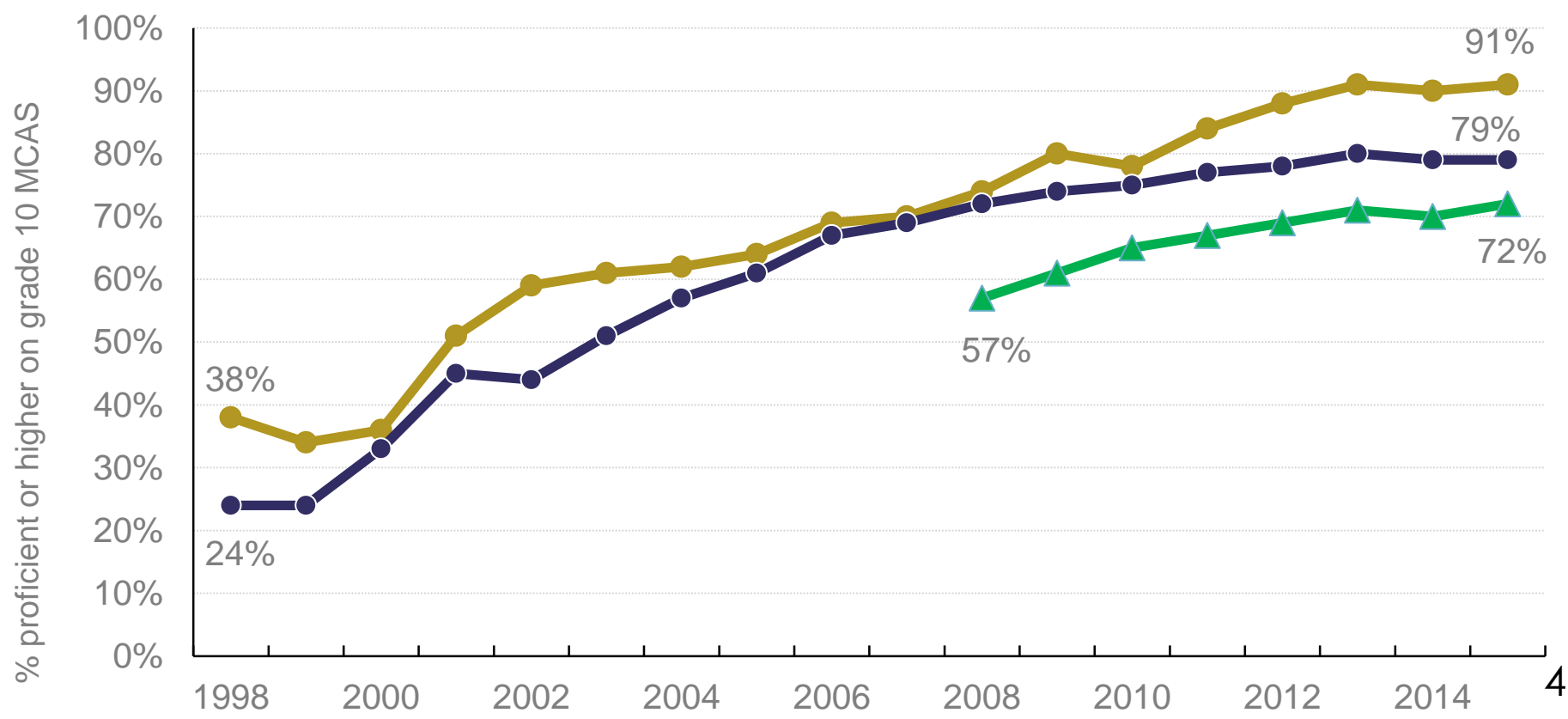


The Boston
Foundation

RESPONDING SEEDING CHANGING

Grade 10 MCAS Results

English Language Arts Mathematics Science and Technology/Engineering



Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, September 2015

Highlights of 2015 MCAS Results

✓ More students met the graduation requirement on their first try
88% of 10th graders met the state's MCAS graduation standard on their first attempt in ELA, mathematics & science and technology/engineering.

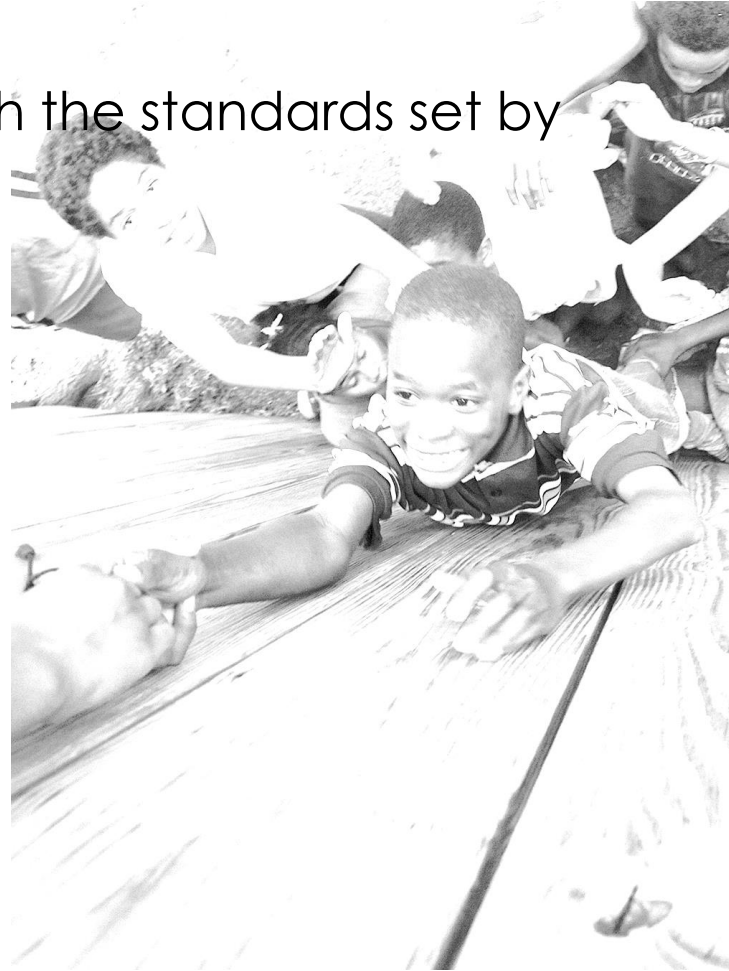
✓ Achievement gaps are closing
In ELA & Mathematics: Between 2007-2015, the gap between white students & African American/black students & between white students & Latino students narrowed in all grades.

In many ways, MCAS has worked

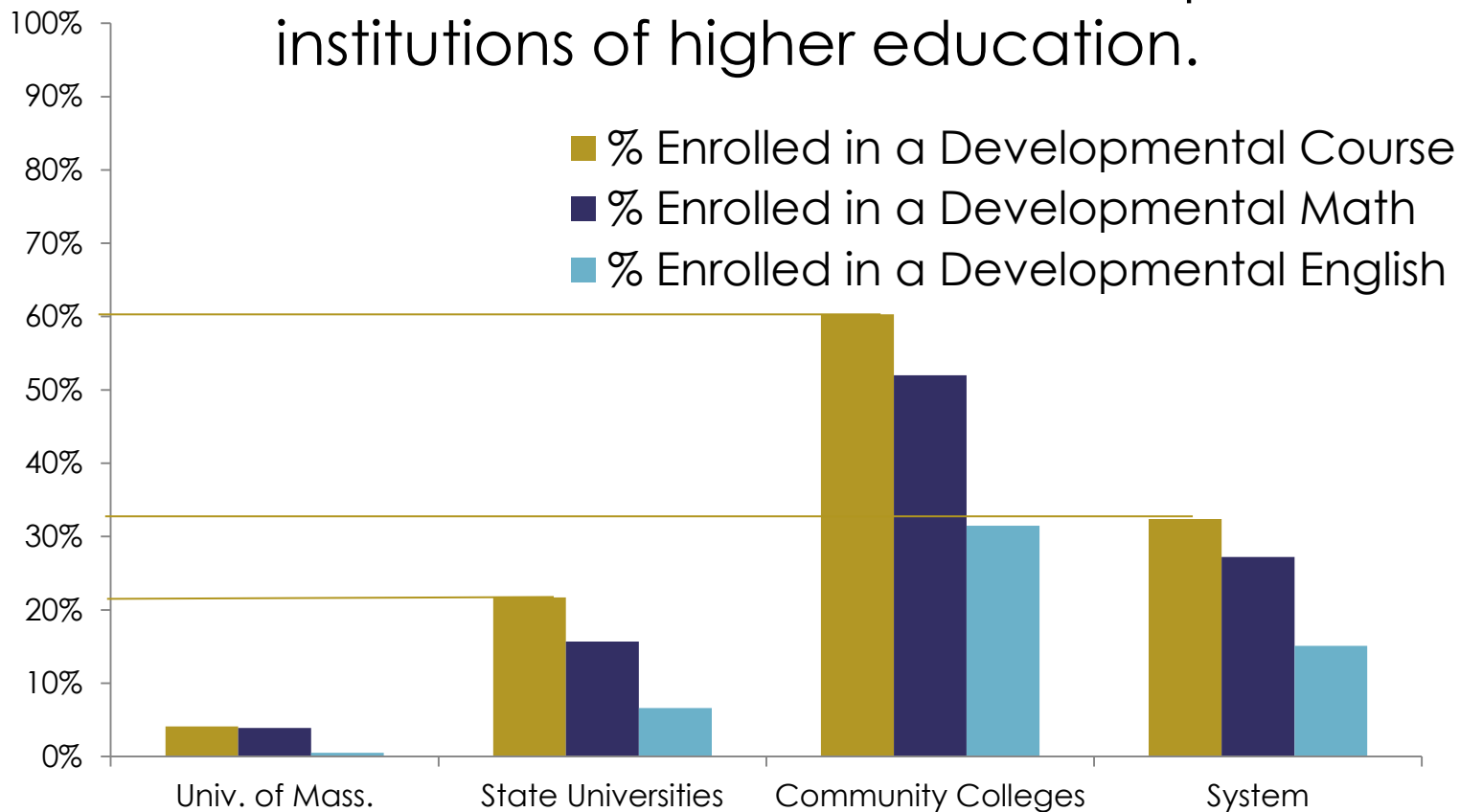
- ✓ More & more students reach the standards set by MCAS each year
- ✓ (Some) achievement gaps closing

On multiple measures,
Massachusetts students:

- ✓ Lead the nation
- ✓ Globally competitive



And yet...In 2014, nearly 40% of public high school graduates placed into Developmental education in one of Massachusetts' public institutions of higher education.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, 2015

What is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is **a multi-state consortium working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in ELA & math.**

PARCC states work together to:

- ✓ Build a pathway to college and career readiness for all students;
- ✓ Give students a 'college/career ready' score indicating they are prepared for credit bearing college courses
- ✓ Create high-quality assessments that measure the full range of the Common Core State Standards;
- ✓ Support educators in the classroom;
- ✓ Make better use of technology; and,
- ✓ Advance accountability at all levels.

The logo for PARCC, consisting of the letters "PARCC" in a white, serif font centered within a solid purple rectangular background.

PARCC Governing Board Members

Governing Board Chair

Commissioner Mitchell Chester — Massachusetts

Members

Commissioner Robert Hammond —Colorado

Commissioner David Hesse — New Jersey

Superintendent Hanseul Kang — District of Columbia

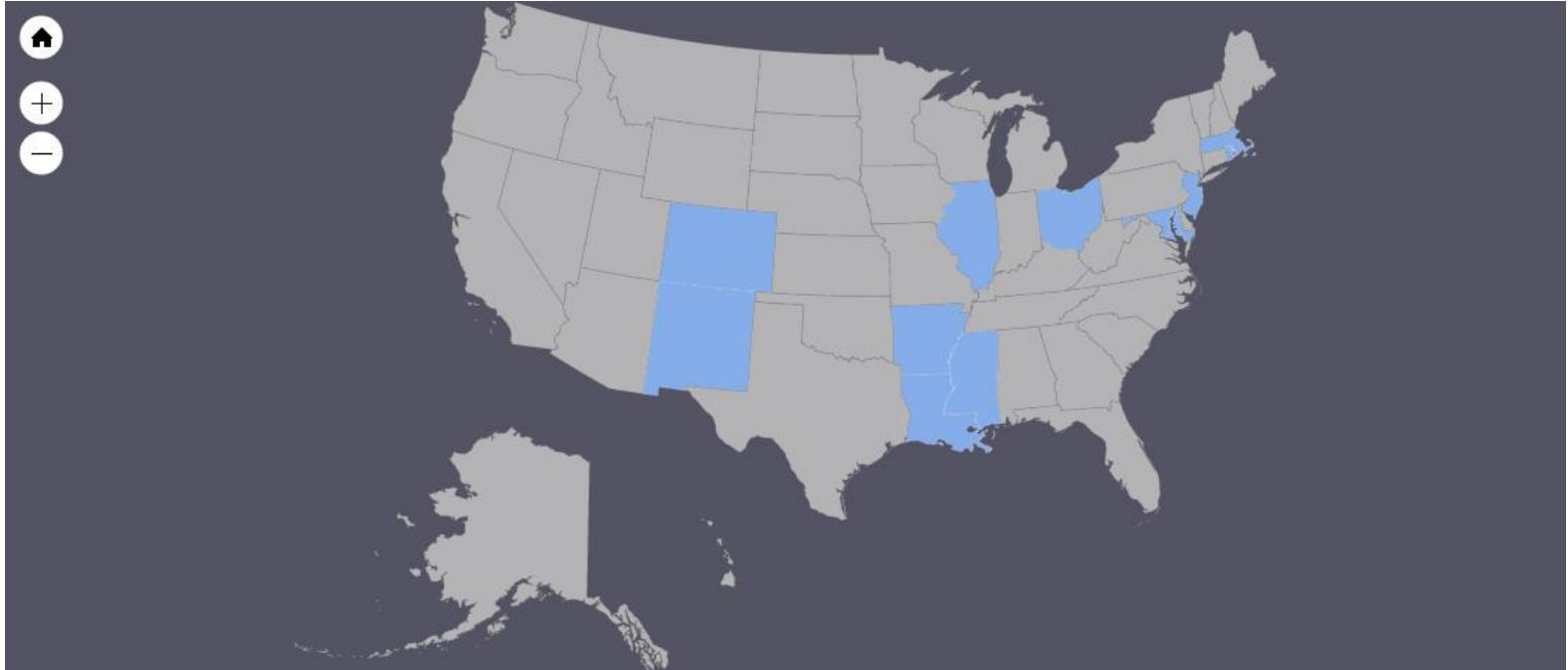
Superintendent Lillian Lowery — Maryland

Secretary Hanna Skandera — New Mexico

Superintendent Tony Smith —Illinois

Commissioner Kenneth Wagner —Rhode Island

Last year, 5 million students in 11 states & the District of Columbia took PARCC



PARCC: Massachusetts' 2 Year Test Drive

To evaluate PARCC's quality, rigor, and efficacy, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education planned a two-year "test drive" of the assessment in 2013.

In November 2015, the Board will vote on whether to adopt PARCC.

Assessment Choices, Spring 2015

Spring 2015	# of districts	MCAS			PARCC		
		# of districts	% of districts	# of students	# of districts	% of districts	# of students
Grades 3-8	350	165	46%	202,000	194	54%	229,500
PARCC for Grade 9 &/or 11 (optional)	295	n/a	n/a	n/a	69	23%	22,500

Spring 2015	Enrolled	Tested	Part. Rate
MCAS Grades 3-8	202,000	200,000	99%
PARCC Grades 3-8	229,500	223,500	97%
MCAS Grade 10	71,500	70,000	98%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2015

PARCC: On Paper or Computer?

Grades	# of Districts Administering PARCC	PARCC: Paper-Based Tests		PARCC Computer-Based Tests		PARCC Mix of Paper & Computer	
		# of districts	%	# of districts	%	# of districts	%
Grades 3-8	194	61	31%	97	50%	36	19%
Grade 9 &/or 11 (optional)	69	19	27%	44	64%	6	9%

Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2015

Looking Ahead: what's next?

On Tuesday, November, 17 the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is scheduled to vote on whether to adopt PARCC as a next generation replacement for MCAS.

To guide this decision, they may consider:

- ✓ Instructional Impact
- ✓ Technical Quality
- ✓ Design and Feedback
- ✓ Governance and Operational Viability

For More information:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/>

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/parcc/>

<http://www.parcconline.org/>

