

State Summative Assessments: 2015-16 school year

Implementation of new state standards and aligned assessments has presented both an opportunity and a challenge as states work to find the right combination of assessments to improve student learning. Decisions on how to best assess student learning continue to be tested as debates play out across the nation. In just the past year, at least 15 states have made significant changes to their assessment systems.

To keep policymakers and education leaders current on the continually shifting assessment landscape, Education Commission of the States today released [State Summative Assessments: 2015-16 school year](#).

The report includes a 50-state comparison chart that provides an overview of the state summative assessments being administered in grades 3-12, how states are meeting minimum assessment requirements, the name of assessment vendors and state-specific assessments.

“State leaders want to know which assessments other states are giving and when. This chart gives leaders the ability to see that information quickly and easily,” said Julie Rowland Woods, a researcher for Education Commission of the States. “We’re seeing a lot of continuous movement in testing right now, with many state leaders struggling to find the right balance and seeking as much information about what other states are doing as they can get.”

Some important takeaways from this report:

- Six states and Washington, D.C., plan to administer the full Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment in 2015-16.
- Fifteen states remain members of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortia, and all but one plan to administer the full assessment in grades 3-8 math and English/language arts.
- At least 25 states will administer a state-specific assessment in grades 3-8 math and English-language arts

This new report updates [50 Ways to Test: A look at state summative tests in 2014-15](#), published by Education Commission of the States in November 2014.