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News Release

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PARCC Selects New Meridian Corporation to Implement Innovative New Approach for Next Phase of Assessment System

WASHINGTON (April 28, 2017) – The state education leaders who make up the Governing Board of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) embark on a new approach for the assessment system with the selection of New Meridian Corporation, a nonprofit education organization, as the Management Vendor. This represents a significant step in a multi-year process undertaken by the Governing Board to respond to the desires of states for greater flexibility and additional options for accessing high-quality tests and testing items. It's an important milestone in the evolution of the summative assessment system by this group of state leaders who are committed to providing an exceptional quality of test content to as many students as possible.

New Meridian will implement and manage a new approach for the assessment system, including a [tiered licensing structure](#), that allows all states to continue to create high-quality assessments and content collaboratively, while offering greater flexibility and increased access to that content for any state seeking to strengthen its summative assessment. An Intent to Award was issued following a Request for Proposal process.

In November 2015, the Governing Board announced a new offering of a tiered system for states to access high-quality summative content, followed by a Request for Information process in early 2016 to gather input from stakeholders on the new model. The Request for Proposals was released in December 2016 and led by the state of Rhode Island, on behalf of the Governing Board. New Meridian will begin work in July 2017.

Hanseul Kang, State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia, stated, “We have achieved our goal of engaging in an RFP process to transparently seek and fairly evaluate potential vendors for the next phase of the PARCC assessment. We look forward to working with New Meridian to ensure sustainability of the assessment system with more options and increased flexibility in the future.”

New Meridian envisions “a nation in which every student develops the critical thinking and reasoning skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly complex, dynamically changing world.” Arthur VanderVeen, Ph.D., President/CEO of New Meridian, is partnering with the PARCC affiliate states due to his “longstanding belief in PARCC’s mission to measure deeply the skills that matter for students’ success in college and career.” New Meridian’s Board and executive team have deep experience in operational assessment management and policy and program design for increasing students’ college and career readiness. New Meridian has partnered with experienced entities to deliver on the requirements of the new model, including Pearson, the National Center for the Improvement of Assessment, the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO), and Odell Education.

Hanna Skandera, New Mexico Secretary of Education, speaking on behalf of the PARCC Governing Board said, “We’ve talked about creating more access and flexibility for states and are delivering on that promise. The Governing Board will work with New Meridian to implement the new approach and ensure the needs of individual states are met. The selection of New Meridian represents an important step for the PARCC assessment system as it evolves for the future.”

The current, full PARCC test and other PARCC instructional supports will continue to be available to states and this process will not disrupt the administration of the PARCC test in the coming weeks or in the 2017-2018 school year and beyond.

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The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers is a consortium of states working together to develop a set of mathematics and English language arts assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in the next academic work and, ultimately, in college and their careers. The Governing Board of PARCC established the governance structure for the consortia and it is responsible for the major policy and operational decisions about the design, administration and scoring of the PARCC test. The Governing Board is made up of state education leaders from the following states: Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico and the District of Columbia.