



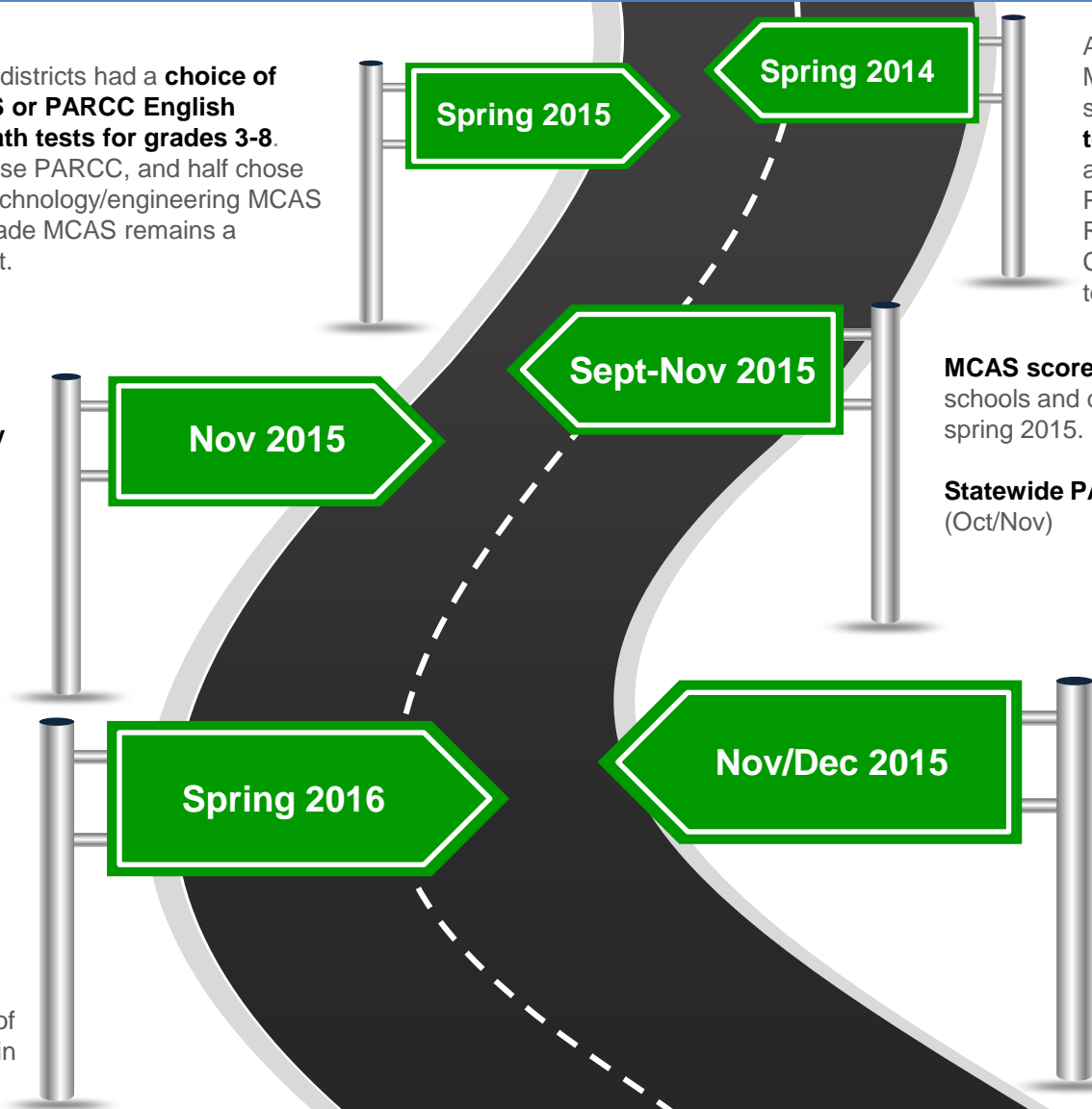
# The 2-Year PARCC "Test Drive": What to Expect for the 2015-16 School Year

The 2015-16 school year will mark the end of Massachusetts' **two-year test drive of PARCC**, an assessment developed in collaboration with a group of states looking to measure how students are performing academically based on more rigorous college- and career-ready standards. Massachusetts is a member of PARCC's governing board, and Massachusetts educators were deeply involved in developing the assessment. **The Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will decide whether to adopt PARCC** or pursue other means of updating the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test.

Massachusetts school districts had a **choice of whether to use MCAS or PARCC English language arts and math tests for grades 3-8**. Approximately half chose PARCC, and half chose MCAS. Science and technology/engineering MCAS continues, and 10th grade MCAS remains a graduation requirement.

**Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education votes on whether to adopt PARCC.**

**Depending on the Board's vote, all grade 3-8 students statewide take either PARCC or MCAS math and English language arts tests.** MCAS continues for science and technology/engineering and for 10th grade. The 10th grade MCAS will remain a graduation requirement through the class of 2019 (the freshmen who enter in fall 2015).



Approx. 81,000 of Massachusetts' nearly 1 million students participate in a **field test** of math or English language arts tests developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, a consortium of states to which Massachusetts belongs.

**MCAS scores released** for students, schools and districts that took MCAS in spring 2015. (Sept/Oct)

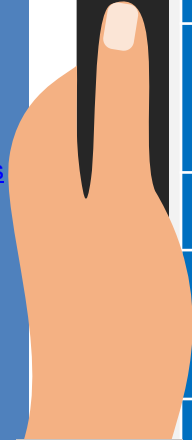
**Statewide PARCC scores released.** (Oct/Nov)

**Families receive individual student PARCC scores.** Timing is later, because this is the first year of the test. Students' achievement may appear lower in some grades on PARCC than on MCAS, because PARCC is designed to be a more rigorous test.

# What information will I receive this year about my child's performance on statewide assessments?

When to expect your child's scores, and in which subjects

Child's grade in 2014-15 (last school year)	English language arts and math		Science & technology/ engineering
	If your school used MCAS	If your school used PARCC	(MCAS only)
K-2	<i>(None. Students in K-2 do not take MCAS or PARCC.)</i>		
3-4	Sept/Oct	Nov/Dec	
5			Sept/Oct
6-7			
8			
9		If your school administered a 9th grade PARCC test voluntarily, you will receive that score in Nov/Dec	Sept/Oct
10	Sept/Oct		
11		If your school administered an 11th grade PARCC test voluntarily, you will receive that score in Nov/Dec	
12			



This depends in part on whether your district chose to administer PARCC or MCAS tests for English language arts and math in grades 3-8. A small number of students in grades 9 and 11 also participated in PARCC.

To find out which, ask your child's principal or see the link to the list on this page:  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.aspx?id=13541>.

**Individual students' MCAS scores will be available in late September or early October. Individual students' PARCC scores will be available in November or December.**

PARCC scores are later than MCAS this year because of the technical aspects involved with administering a test for the first time. Students' achievement is likely to be lower on PARCC than MCAS, because PARCC is designed to be a more rigorous test.