

OVERVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION INVOLVEMENT WITH THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS) AND PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER (PARCC) FROM 2010 TO 2014

Prepared by Louisiana Board of Regents

Higher education in Louisiana has supported the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) during the last four years. The Louisiana Board of Regents and university systems first voiced support of CCSS and PARCC on June 10, 2010 when the Commissioner of Higher Education and four university system heads submitted a letter of support to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan for higher education in Louisiana to be involved in activities through a multi-state consortium to develop new PARCC assessments. This was done by higher education to support the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education who had adopted the Common Core State Standards and planned to participate as members of the PARCC consortium.

Once Race to the Top funds were awarded to the consortium, Dr. E. Joseph Savoie was nominated by the State to represent all university/college chancellors/presidents in Louisiana to serve on a PARCC Advisory Committee on College Readiness. Along with previous State Superintendent Paul Pastorek and current State Superintendent John White, Dr. Savoie has participated in PARCC Governing Board meetings and used input from campuses in Louisiana when voting on PARCC policies during the time period of 2011 through the present.

Dr. Jeanne Burns was selected to represent the Louisiana Board of Regents as a PARCC Higher Education Lead. Since 2011, she has participated in bi-monthly PARCC conference calls with higher education leads from other states and has coordinated higher education activities in Louisiana to support the Common Core State Standards and PARCC. Jared Avery (doctoral intern) and Linda Marino (policy specialist) have supported the implementation of the Board of Regents activities. Those activities have included:

- Creating a CCSS/PARCC One Stop Shop on the Board of Regents web site to provide campuses with direct access to current information about PARCC and CCSS from a national and Louisiana perspective (<http://regents.la.gov/onestopshop>);
- Convening all university chancellors/presidents and their leadership teams during August 2011 to provide information about CCSS/PARCC and discuss their roles in the implementation of the new standards and assessments;
- Communicating updates about CCSS/PARCC at joint meetings of the Louisiana Board of Regents and Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (2011 – Present);
- Creating PARCC Campus Leadership Teams at two-year colleges and universities to help disseminate information about CCSS and PARCC, gather input from team members regarding the development of the new PARCC assessments, and support campuses as the new standards and assessments are implemented (2011 – Present);
- Convening PARCC Campus Leadership Team members during September 2011, March 2012, June 2012, April 2013, and March 2014 for statewide meetings to provide current information about the CCSS/PARCC and have cross-state discussions about the development of the new assessments;
- Securing Core to College (Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors) grant funds to provide State and campus funding to disseminate information and provide professional development regarding the CCSS/PARCC (2012 – Present);
- Convening of college/university leaders and faculty to provide training to adapt content and strategies to integrate the CCSS/PARCC into the teacher preparation curriculum when preparing new teachers (2011 – Present); and
- Creating a “Communications Page for State Higher Education Leaders” on the BoR “One Stop Shop” that contains facts and accurate information for higher education leaders to use when communicating to the public about the CCSS and PARCC. <http://regents.louisiana.gov/communications-page-for-state-higher-education-leaders/>