Why PARCC Matters

Hint: It’s all about you and your future
What’s going on?

- **FACT**: 55% of Maryland high school graduates need remedial courses when they get to college
- **FACT**: Over 100,000 jobs in Maryland are unfilled because employers can’t find skilled workers
- **FACT**: The U.S. ranks near the bottom internationally on language and math literacy
Maryland has raised standards for what you should learn to get ahead

- Maryland College and Career Ready Standards
- Skills and knowledge you need for college and today’s jobs
- You can apply more of what you learn
PARCC may be tough, but it gets you on track to graduate

“It’s the most stressful thing I’ve done in school”

Student, Capital High School, Santa Fe, New Mexico

- PARCC covers material you’ve already studied
- It’s not what you’ve memorized, it’s what you’ve actually learned
There may be an adjustment period...

Like going from this

Don't be jealous of my cellular telephone.

To this
Test results will provide a better picture of how you’re really doing

“We are more than just data”
Student, Mahwah High School, New Jersey

☐ Know your strengths and weaknesses

☐ See if you’re on track for your next steps
New tests, totally new scores

- PARCC doesn’t look like other tests…
- So you can’t compare it with MSA, HSA scores
- This first year, everyone’s scores are new
Take PARCC seriously

- Results apply toward graduation beginning in 2016-2017
- For the first time: You’ll see if you’re speeding ahead... catching up... or in between
- PARCC tracks your progress toward graduation
Get on track, stay on track

- Get 8-9 hours of sleep before test days
- Avoid junk food
- Drink lots of water
- Do your best:
  It’s all about you—and your future