PARCC and Smarter Balanced: Comparison of Features

Similarities

- Two summative components given during final weeks of school year
- Online delivery
- Mix of item types
- Use of both electronic and human scoring, with results expected within 2 weeks
- Approximate cost of $20 per student per year for summative assessments

Differences

- PARCC: fixed test forms; optional interim Diagnostic and Mid-year assessments
- Smarter: adaptive delivery; optional adaptive interim assessment system with locally determined number, scope and timing

Unique Elements

- PARCC: K-2 tasks, College-readiness tools for Grade 12
- Smarter: Customizable interim system; Exemplary instructional modules
The Larger Inflection Point

Major trends impacting education and learning:

- State-specific K-12 standards & tests ➔ CCSS and consortia = aggregated demand, increased innovation, investment, sharing, competition
- paper ➔ digital (The Long Tail, C. Anderson, 2006)
- 1-size fits all ➔ adaptive, personalized
- silos of curriculum/assessment ➔ aligned and integrated systems to support learning
- school days for learning ➔ anytime, anywhere
- rare and episodic feedback loops ➔ continuous, embedded feedback loops to student, teacher, program, system (oli.web.cmu.edu)
- adequate (?) funding ➔ reduced budgets with increased demands