Implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and transition to the new PARCC assessments presents a unique opportunity to revolutionize student achievement with next-generation approaches to curriculum, instruction and professional development. Yet, in order for this to occur, it is critical that the new standards not just sit on a shelf, but are fully utilized and inform classroom instruction. This requires strong collaboration between states, districts, schools and key stakeholders; open lines of communication; and public engagement to ensure everyone is fully informed and on the same page.

The US Department of Education awarded PARCC an additional $15.86 million to support states’ transition to the CCSS and common assessments. PARCC’s top priority for the use of these funds is to ensure the standards reach the classroom and that teachers understand the assessments and their implications for instruction.

**Collaboration on Development of Instructional Tools**
Schools and districts need new instructional tools aligned to the new standards and PARCC has a unique opportunity to develop as a consortium what no single state can do on its own. Ten PARCC states have considerable resources from Race to the Top state grants to develop instructional tools tied to the Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments. Those states have agreed to look at ways to leverage and coordinate these investments to enable the development of a coherent and complete set of implementation tools from which all PARCC states can benefit.

PARCC will produce a robust set of high quality instructional tools—including model content frameworks, model instructional units, sample tasks and items, and an instructional resource library—that will support good teaching, help teachers develop a deeper understanding of the CCSS and their instructional implications, and provide early signals about the types of student performance and instruction demanded by the PARCC assessments. The tools will be developed and rolled out over the four-year PARCC effort so that they can support ongoing efforts to help educators understand and deliver instruction aligned to the CCSS and better prepare themselves and their students to participate in the 2014-2015 PARCC assessments.

**Multi-State Support for Transition and Implementation Strategic Planning**
To support states’ implementation and transition efforts, PARCC will create a mechanism for bringing teams of state and local education leaders together to map out strategies for introducing the new standards and assessments into the schools. These institutes will allow for cross-state problem solving, efficient dissemination of tools and other resources, and provide access to national experts. PARCC states’ strategic planning work will be guided by a common framework that identifies the essential elements of a successful implementation strategy, including key milestones for states to monitor their progress towards statewide implementation of the CCSS and PARCC assessments by 2014-15, to identify critical state-specific challenges, and to create opportunities for cross-state collaboration and problem-solving.

**Multi-State Support to Build Educator Leadership Cadres**
To help each state build and expand the number of educators who understand, support and feel ownership for the successful implementation of the CCSS and PARCC assessments, PARCC will bring together teams of K-12 educators from across the consortium states to develop their expertise on the CCSS and PARCC, to help them become ambassadors for the CCSS and PARCC among their peers, and train them in the use of the PARCC tools as they are developed and released. States and districts will be able to deploy these educators as leaders in their own capacity building and professional development programs. Over time the goal will be to help each state increase the size and impact of its educator leadership cadre.