

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

RECEIVED
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
2013 JUN 21 11:16 AM
Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

June 21, 2013

State Ethics Commission
One Ashburton Place, Room 619
Boston, MA 02108

Re: G.L. c. 268A, § 6 Disclosure and Determination by Appointing Authority

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 268A, § 6, enclosed please find Commissioner Chester's disclosure form, and the related determinations signed by Matthew H. Malone, Secretary of Education, and Maura O. Banta, Chair of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Steenland".


Deborah Steenland
Associate General Counsel

Enc.

**DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED STATE EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
AND DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 6**

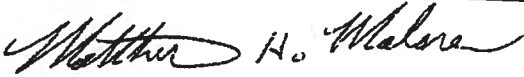
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2013 JUN 24 AM 10:19

STATE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION	
Name:	Mitchell D. Chester
Title or Position:	Commissioner
State Agency:	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Agency Address:	75 Pleasant Street, Malden MA 02148
Office Phone:	781 338-3100
Office E-mail:	mchester@doe.mass.edu
	My duties require me to participate in a particular matter, and I may not participate because of a financial interest that I am disclosing here. I request a determination from my appointing authority about how I should proceed.
PARTICULAR MATTER	
Particular matter E.g., a judicial or other proceeding, application, submission, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest, decision, determination, or finding.	Please describe the particular matter. Pursuant to state law, and as delegated to me by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, I am responsible for updating, improving and refining K-12 student assessments that are used in public elementary and secondary schools in Massachusetts. My work on the development of student assessment systems includes Massachusetts' involvement with a multi-state consortium (PARCC). Please see the attached Exhibit A for additional information relating to PARCC.
Your required participation in the particular matter: E.g., approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, rendering advice, investigation, other.	Please describe the task you are required to perform with respect to the particular matter. I advise the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and direct the work of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on the development and implementation of student assessments. Among other things, I will make a decision about whether to recommend to the Board that the K-12 student assessments that are being developed by PARCC and PARCC, Inc. should be used in Massachusetts. Please see the attached Exhibit B regarding that determination. In addition, as the chief state school officer in Massachusetts, I will have a leadership role with PARCC, Inc. and in that capacity will be involved with decisions concerning the development and implementation of student assessments using the funds that PARCC and PARCC, Inc. receive from various sources including federal government and non-profit entities. This will include accepting, using and disbursing funds on behalf of PARCC, Inc.

	<p style="text-align: right;">RECEIVED STATE ETHICS COMMISSION</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7013 JUN 21 AM 10:19</p>
Write an X by all that apply.	<p>FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE PARTICULAR MATTER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My immediate family member has a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My business partner has a financial interest in the matter.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I would become an officer, director or trustee of a business organization, and the business organization will have a financial interest in the matter. Please see attached.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am negotiating or have made an arrangement concerning future employment with a person or organization, and the person or organization has a financial interest in the matter.</p>
Financial interest in the matter	<p>Please explain the financial interest and include a dollar amount if you know it.</p> <p>It is anticipated that PARCC, Inc. will receive grants from non-profit entities to support PARCC, Inc.'s work in developing and implementing new assessment systems. It is also anticipated that PARCC, Inc. will receive Race to the Top grant funds directly from the United States Department of Education to implement activities under the Race to the Top grant.</p>
Employee signature:	
Date:	February 13, 2013

DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING OFFICIAL

	APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION
Name of Appointing Authority:	Matthew H. Malone
Title or Position:	Secretary of Education
Agency/Department:	Executive Office of Education
Agency Address:	One Ashburton Place, Room 1403, Boston, MA 02108
Office Phone:	(617) 979-8340
Office E-mail	mmalone@massmail.state.ma.us
	DETERMINATION
Determination by appointing authority:	<p>As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 6, I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified above by a state employee.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am assigning the particular matter to another employee, or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am assuming responsibility for the particular matter, or</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Commonwealth may expect from the employee.</p>
Write an X by your selection.	

Appointing Authority signature:	 <div style="text-align: right;"> RECEIVED STATE ETHICS COMMISSION 2013 JUN 24 AM 10:19 </div>
Date:	June 12, 2013
Comment:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.

File copy with:

State Ethics Commission, One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108

Form Revised February, 2012

Exhibit A

RECEIVED
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

2013 JUN 24 AM 10:19

PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) is a multi-state consortium working together to develop next-generation K-12 student assessments in English and math.

In June 2010, Massachusetts signed a Memorandum of Understanding with other member states to join the PARCC consortium. The MOU was signed by Governor Patrick, Commissioner Chester and Maura Banta, Chair of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The MOU provides that the states that are signatories to the MOU are members of a consortium that have organized themselves to apply for and carry out the objectives of a grant program (known as the Comprehensive Assessment Systems grant) that was available through the U.S. Department of Education.

PARCC successfully competed for and, in September 2010, was awarded a \$186 million Comprehensive Assessment Systems grant through the U.S. Department of Education's Race to the Top assessment competition. The grant is designed to support the development of new assessment systems that measure student knowledge and skill against a common set of college and career ready standards in mathematics and English language arts.

In his capacity as the chief state school officer in Massachusetts, Commissioner Chester currently serves without compensation as Chair of the Governing Board of PARCC. He has had this role since PARCC'S inception. The attached August 2012 press release illustrates the kind of work the PARCC consortium is doing on behalf of the member states and their school districts.

PARCC now anticipates the need to create a nonprofit corporation, PARCC, Inc. While the Consortium was an appropriate organizational structure to apply for the Race to the Top grant funds, the Consortium believes that using a nonprofit organization to develop and implement the new assessment system will be more efficient and effective. Commissioner Chester will continue to have a leadership role in this project by serving without compensation as a Director and President of PARCC, Inc.

**DISCLOSURE BY NON-ELECTED STATE EMPLOYEE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST
AND DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING AUTHORITY
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 6**

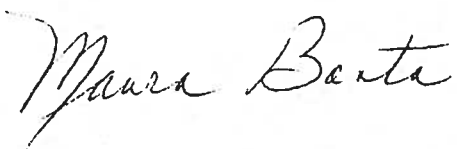
RECEIVED
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION	
Name:	Mitchell D. Chester
Title or Position:	Commissioner
State Agency:	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Agency Address:	75 Pleasant Street, Malden MA 02148
Office Phone:	781 338-3100
Office E-mail:	mchester@doe.mass.edu
	My duties require me to participate in a particular matter, and I may not participate because of a financial interest that I am disclosing here. I request a determination from my appointing authority about how I should proceed.
PARTICULAR MATTER	
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Employee signature:	<p><i>Maura Banta</i></p>
Date:	<p>February 13, 2013</p>

DETERMINATION BY APPOINTING OFFICIAL

	APPOINTING AUTHORITY INFORMATION
Name of Appointing Authority:	Maura Banta
Title or Position:	Chair
Agency/Department:	Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Agency Address:	75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148
Office Phone:	
Office E-mail	maura.o.banta@state.ma.us
	DETERMINATION
Determination by appointing authority:	As appointing official, as required by G.L. c. 268A, § 6, I have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified above by a state employee.

Write an X by your selection.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am assigning the particular matter to another employee, or <input type="checkbox"/> I am assuming responsibility for the particular matter, or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the Commonwealth may expect from the employee.
Appointing Authority signature:	<div style="text-align: right;">RECEIVED STATE ETHICS COMMISSION 2013 JUN 24 AM 10:19</div> 
Date:	February 15, 2013
Comment:	

Attach additional pages if necessary.

File copy with:

State Ethics Commission, One Ashburton Place, Room 619, Boston, MA 02108

Form Revised February, 2012

Exhibit A

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2012 JUN 26 4:10 PM

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For Immediate Release

Monday, August 20, 2012

Contact: JC Considine 781-338-3112

PARCC Releases Initial Set of Item and Task Prototypes and Updated, Interactive Model Content Frameworks

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First glimpse into the connection between the Common Core State Standards and new, innovative assessments being developed by the 23-state consortium

MALDEN - The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) today released its first set of item and task prototypes.

"The prototypes are a first step in demonstrating what is possible with new assessment technology that captures students' application of knowledge and skills that are essential to success in the 21st century," said Massachusetts Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Mitchell Chester, chair of the PARCC Governing Board. "The prototypes are illustrative of the next-generation PARCC assessment system that reflects the Common Core State Standards." The 2011 Massachusetts curriculum frameworks in English language arts and mathematics are based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

PARCC is a 23-state consortium, of which Massachusetts is a member, working together to create new assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics planned for administration beginning in 2014-2015.

The primary purpose of sharing item and task prototypes is to provide information to educators and to support them as they transition to the CCSS and the PARCC assessments. The dynamic, online prototypes presented on the PARCC website demonstrate that core shifts at the heart of the CCSS are also integrated into the design of PARCC's technology-based assessments.

Educators will find more than just sample test questions. Every item and task prototype is annotated with the standard being measured, the type of assessment on which it would appear, and a link to the revised PARCC Model Content Frameworks, which serve as a bridge between the CCSS and the PARCC assessments.

In addition to the released item and task prototypes, the website provides other ancillary materials developed to build understanding of how the prototypes illuminate the richness of the CCSS. These materials include:

- PowerPoint presentations to explain the advances planned for the PARCC assessments in English language arts/literacy and mathematics
- Item-specific information, including a description of how items are aligned to the standards and how items will be scored

This initial release of 26 prototypes is just the beginning. Over the next two years, additional prototypes and rubrics will be released to represent the full range of assessment tasks that will be included on actual PARCC assessments beginning in 2014-2015. These new additions will help to paint a more complete picture of the PARCC assessment design in each content area and at each grade level.

The PARCC Leadership Team directed the development and review of this collaborative effort through its managing partner, Achieve, and through contracts with Student Achievement Partners, the University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Learning, the University of Texas at Austin's Dana Center, Illustrative Mathematics and Bill McCallum of the University of Arizona, ETS, and Pearson.

Funding for the development of the prototype website was made possible by a grant to Achieve from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

In addition to the release of the prototypes, PARCC is releasing updated versions of the Model Content Frameworks for ELA/literacy and mathematics. PARCC held a public comment period in June 2012 asking educators and other stakeholders to provide suggestions on areas in the frameworks that needed additional specificity or clarity. The Model Content Frameworks for mathematics now include a revised high school section that provides assessment guidance for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and for Mathematics I, Mathematics II, and Mathematics III.

In order to make the frameworks more accessible and user friendly, with the support of the GE Foundation, PARCC developed a searchable online version of the Model Content Frameworks. The site includes a search browser, an online glossary, and direct references back to the standards.

To view the prototypes and the Model Content Frameworks, please visit www.parcconline.org.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE • ROOM 1403
BOSTON, MA 02108

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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

S. PAUL REVILLE
SECRETARY

TEL: (617) 979-8340
FAX: (617) 727-0049
www.mass.gov/education

June 14, 2010

Mike Cohen, President
Achieve, Inc.
1775 Eye Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Thank you for coordinating and leading the work of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). We are very pleased to be a part of this important work and appreciate your support, as well as that of the PARCC member states.

We are submitting this letter to accompany the attached Memorandum of Understanding in order to clarify Massachusetts' position in two important areas. First, we want to emphasize that Massachusetts will not adopt any set of standards that are not at least as comprehensive and rigorous as, if not more than, our current standards. We have been participating in the Common Core Standards development effort and have set out a timeline for considering them, but we cannot commit to adoption until we are satisfied that they maintain or exceed the high standards that have been developed in Massachusetts over the past 17 years.

Second, it is our intention to use the assessment system that is developed by the PARCC to the extent it serves the best interests of students and teachers. Similar to our above-stated position with respect to standards, we cannot commit to adopting any new system of assessments until it is developed and we can ensure it is as comprehensive and rigorous as, if not more than, our current system. We are excited about the opportunity for Massachusetts to play a key role in the development of the assessment system, both as a governing state in the consortium and through the work of Commissioner Chester, who will serve as chair of the consortium for its first year. Once the new system is developed and we are able to make the determination that the new assessment system is at least as comprehensive and rigorous as our current system in Massachusetts, we will then work to implement it.

With that said, we are committed to working in partnership with the Consortium, leveraging the expertise and experience of other states in this area, and to sharing our own expertise and experience. We are eager to participate in all aspects of this vital work and strongly believe the Consortium's efforts offer tremendous promise for students and families.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Paul Reville
Secretary of Education

Mitchell D. Chester
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education