CONSORTIA DOLLARS FOR COMMON-CORE TESTING

The two main consortia designing common-core tests—the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium have collectively received \$360 million in federal Race to the Top funds to develop the exams.

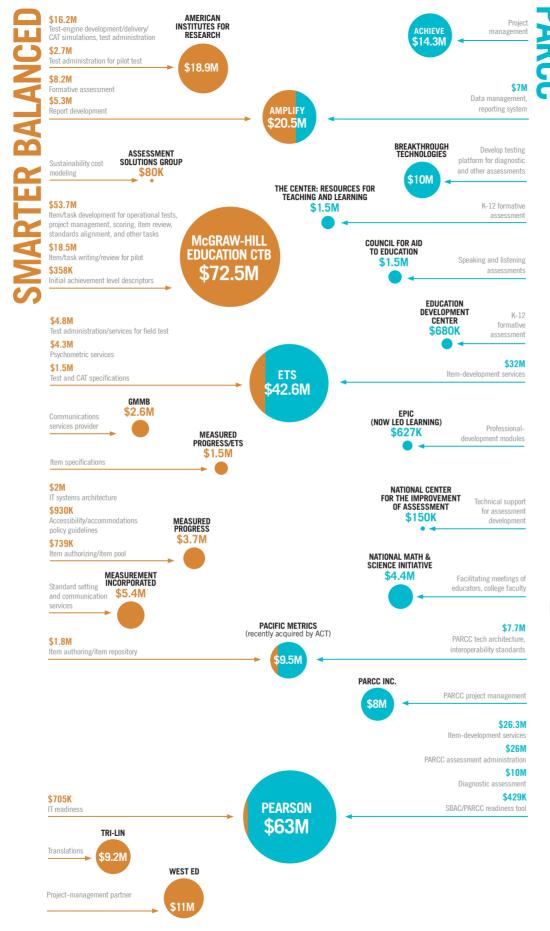
The two consortia estimate that they have awarded a combined \$305 million of that money to testing vendors and other organizations to date. This chart shows prime contracts awarded to companies and organizations with federal funding, but does not show subcontractors hired to help carry out that work.

NOTES

NOT SHOWN IN THE CHART: The potentially huge amount of testing work being paid for by the 24 states, at last count, that are either not giving consortia tests or are undecided about the tests they will give. The chart also does not include contracts given by individual Smarter Balanced states for administering those exams work the consortium has chosen to leave to individual states.

Dollar figures were provided by PARCC/ Smarter Balanced, as were, in most cases, brief contract descriptions; vendors' actual duties may go well beyond descriptions provided. Contract amounts can change over time if the consortia require more work. Dollar figures have been rounded.

SOURCE: *Education Week*, PARCC, and Smarter Balanced.



The terminology of testing is complex. *Education Week*, with input from Smarter Balanced and PARCC officials, has created simpler definitions of some terms used by either consortia in its contract descriptions.

Item Authoring: In this case,

creation of software application

and store questions, as well as

related information such as

IT Readiness: In this context,

creation of software application

schools to submit information about

provide reports on preparedness to

give the test

factors

computing devices and networks, and

Item Specifications: Guidance for

writing test questions based on

content specifications and other

Tech/Systems Architecture: In

general, work on the design of

features and functions and how

Psychometric Services: Research

and data analysis required for test

plans that show various tech

they operate together

development.

allowing states, districts, and

used by question writers to create

questions' alignment to standards.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Achievement Level Descriptors: Text descriptions of what students know and are able to do at each achievement level; used to support students, teachers, and parents in interpreting test results.

CAT Specifications/Simulations: Creation of specifications for computer-adaptive testing (CAT) software; process of testing and readjusting question-selection process within software.

Diagnostic Assessment: In this context, tests providing teachers with real-time data throughout the school year on student strengths and weaknesses, to shape instruction.

Formative Assessment: Often described as tests designed to provide teachers with information so they can adjust instruction to improve student learning throughout the school year.

Item/Task Writing: Development of individual test questions and performance tasks that appear on exams.

RESEARCH

PENDING: Pearson won a potentially

enormous PARCC contract,

awarded through the state of New Mexico for a wide range of

work in test development and

administration. The contract

award is being challenged

in court by AIR.

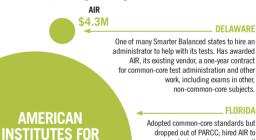
PEARSON

\$32M

\$18.6

STATE AWARDS TO VENDORS

Independent of the contracts awarded through the consortia using federal funds, individual states that adopted the common core have made large and small awards to vendors for a variety of services, including test design and administration.



Adopted common-core standards but dropped out of PARCC; hired AIR to design and manage overall state testing for \$220 million. AIR

_____ MAINE

Has hired AIR for Smarter Balanced test administration through the end of 2015 for a contract with option to renew.

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL TESTING AND EVALUATION

\$2.4M

_____ KANSAS

Adopted common core but dropped out of Smarter Balanced. Has a contract with the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation, affiliated with University of Kansas, to develop tests.

___ WYOMING

Smarter Balanced state, but not giving consortium test this academic year. Has hired ETS for test administration, with much smaller contracts to AIR and ACT.

___ NEW YORK

PARCC state; still determining whether to use consortia's test. Pearson has a contract over five years to develop grade 3-8 common-core tests; high school exams developed in-house.

EDUCATION WEEK