



STATE OF ARKANSAS

ASA HUTCHINSON  
GOVERNOR

June 22, 2015

Dear Commissioner Key:

Please direct the Department of Education to withdraw the State of Arkansas from the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Consortium in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated September 20, 2010 as amended.

As we have discussed Paragraph VII B of the MOU provides:

*"Recommitment to the Consortium*

*In the event that the governor or chief state school officer is replaced in a Consortium state, the successor in that office shall affirm in writing to the Governing Board Chair the State's continued commitment to participation in the Consortium and to the binding commitments made by that official's predecessor within five (5) months of taking office."*

I was sworn in as the newly elected governor of Arkansas on January 13, 2015, and since I took office there has been no action by the Governor or the Commissioner of Education to reaffirm the State's continued commitment and participation in the PARCC consortium. On the contrary, I have publicly expressed my support for withdrawing from PARCC.

Based on actions during the regular session, it is clear that legislators want to move away from PARCC. It should also be noted that the number of other states participating in PARCC has dropped substantially, a trend that could make the prospect of cross-state comparability difficult in the future. To ensure the highest standards, we want to know how Arkansas' students compare with those across the nation.

The issue here is how we can provide a high-level assessment for students and bring long-term stability to the schools. In my judgment, ACT and ACT Aspire are the right assessment tools to accomplish the goal of national comparison of student achievement and long-term stability. I recognize the role of the State Board of Education in assessment selection and that certain steps are required to make a change. Please coordinate with the State Board of Education to select a new assessment provider.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Asa Hutchinson".

Asa Hutchinson