



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
Office of Assessment Policy, Development and Administration

October 2011

TO: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Public and Nonpublic Schools,  
Principals of Public, Charter, and Nonpublic Schools

FROM: David Abrams *David Abrams*

RE: Proposed Technology Requirements for Computer-Delivered Assessments

As part of the Regents Reform Agenda, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is planning for the implementation of computer-delivered assessments statewide starting in the 2014-15 school year. This memo is the first in a planned series of correspondence that will help school districts to prepare for a statewide movement toward computer-delivered assessments.

New York State is a member of the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). This 24-state consortium is charged with developing the next generation of assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics aligned to the Common Core State Standards. If adopted by the Board of Regents, PARCC assessments in New York State would begin in the 2014-15 school year. More information on PARCC may be obtained at [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org).

As a first step in preparing for these assessments, the Department suggests that all School Districts work together with their District technology coordinators and/or Regional Information Center (RIC) technical support staff to conduct an assessment of current network and bandwidth capabilities.

There are many factors that affect statewide readiness for computer-delivered assessments. Based on PARCC's recommended draft specifications, NYSED recommends the following as a guideline for **minimum** specifications in equipment purchase:

- Processor Speed 1.3 GHz
- RAM 1 GB
- Hard drive 1 GB with at least 512 MB available
- Resolution 1024x768

Any computer that takes a noticeably long period of time (e.g., more than 10 seconds) to start and run applications should not be used for computer-delivered assessments.

Some states are already using computer-delivered assessments. Information about their practice will help guide decision-making about future needs in New York State. NYSED will continue to provide updated information on the development and planned implementation of computer-delivered assessments statewide. For more information, please contact the Office of Assessment Policy, Development and Administration at [EMSCACCESSINFO@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:EMSCACCESSINFO@mail.nysed.gov). Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of the students of New York State.

c: Ken Slentz