Talking Points: Protecting Privacy and Measuring Student Progress

Student data is protected by strict student privacy rules:

- The Common Core aligned Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment will be fully implemented in 2014-15. The assessment will not collect any additional student information that has not been collected in the past.

- Protecting student privacy is a critical priority. PARCC has taken a number of steps, including adopting a data privacy and security policy, to ensure the information gathered is used for the sole purpose of measuring student progress.

- In January, 2014, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), along with 33 other states, confirmed to Education Secretary Arne Duncan that the NJDOE would not share any personally identifiable student information with the federal government.

The collected data is important to measure student achievement:

- The new PARCC assessment will give teachers and parents timely information on student performance.

- For years, teachers and parents have had to wait months for the results of standardized tests, which meant that students who were struggling were not identified immediately and could fall even further behind.

- The PARCC assessment will allow teachers and parents to receive student test results quickly enough to identify students who may need additional support or who may be ready for additional challenge.

- Through student achievement information, districts will be able to monitor the performance of schools over time and teachers can use the data to identify classroom practices associated with improvements in student achievement.

- The assessment outcome data can be used to compare school and district performance across the state and with other states, which can be used to identify which students and schools would benefit from additional supports and interventions.