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BILL: House Bill 1373  
TITLE: Education – Assessments – Administration  
DATE: March 9, 2018  
POSITION: Oppose  
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means  
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House Bill 1373 prohibits the administration of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers assessment in the State; requiring the administration of the California Achievement Test as an assessment that satisfies the requirements of the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act beginning in the 2018-2019 school year; etc.

PSSAM strongly **opposes** House Bill 1373. Local superintendents do not support the use of the California Achievement Test as a replacement for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC).

PARCC assessments were developed by a consortium of states of which Maryland is one of the leaders. The assessments are aligned to the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards and they assess students' mathematics and literacy skills. The PARCC assessments require students to demonstrate their ability to read complex texts, express ideas through writing, solve mathematics problems, and use critical thinking skills. Maryland's local school systems administered the PARCC tests for the first time in the 2014-15 school year. The fourth administration of PARCC will be conducted in the spring of 2018. Local superintendents continue to support the administration of the PARCC assessments, which have received high marks from education experts for their quality and rigor.

In addition, local school superintendents support the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). MCAP will provide students, parents, educators and the community with better student information at a faster pace. The goal of MCAP is to gather information that helps local school systems improve instruction and student performance.

MCAP will continue to assess the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards in Reading and English Language Arts. Maryland's Mathematics and English Arts Assessment will continue to use test items developed by the PARCC consortium. All Maryland State Assessments, including the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, High School Assessments in Social Studies and High School Science, Government and Biology, as well as the fifth and eighth grade Science Assessments, will be part of MCAP.

For the reasons stated above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 1373 and urges an unfavorable committee report.