STATE OF INDIANA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State House, Second Floor
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Michael R. Pence
Governor

July 29, 2013

Mitchell Chester
Chair of the PARCC Governing Board
PARCC
1400 16th St NW, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Chester:

As you may know, during the most recent legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly, legislators passed HB 1427, a bill to allow for the reconsideration of the Common Core State Standards that were adopted by the State Board of Education in August of 2010. It also curtails the ability of the state of Indiana to participate in a consortium such as the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

In pertinent part, subsection (i) states "[a]fter June 30, 2013, the state or the state board on behalf of the state, may not enter into or renew an agreement with any organization, entity, group, or consortium that requires the state to cede any measure of autonomy or control of education standards and assessments, including cut scores."

Consequently, I am writing to notify you of my intent to withdraw Indiana as a member of PARCC's Governing Board, effective August 12, 2013.

As Governor, I am committed to ensuring that Indiana's educational standards are rigorous, enable college and career readiness, and align with postsecondary educational expectations. I am also committed to ensuring our state implements assessments that align with these high standards. Such standards and assessments should best meet the needs of our state and must be fiscally responsible. Therefore, I support the legislative intent of HB 1427 and its directive for Indiana to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of Common Core State Standards, including the fiscal impact of implementation on our state.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pence
Governor of Indiana

CC: Glenda Ritz, NBCT, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Indiana State Board of Education Members