Good morning, everyone!

Recently, my colleague Callie Riley from PARCC Inc. informed me of a new opportunity that I wanted to share with you. I will let Callie explain it herself:

**Assessing Mathematics Through Competition**

My experience in my former life as a classroom teacher and, more recently, working with teachers and local leaders in the PARCC states has shown me that a great tool can lead to more than just a shift in the classroom, it can lead to a collective shift in thinking and productive conversations among peers.

To date, PARCC educators have collaborated to develop a number of valuable tools, such as the [Teaching Channel videos](#), which focus on connecting good instruction and good assessment. But these has still been a call for a user-friendly tool that will allow teachers to connect with one another, talk about test practice, and develop items aligned to the standards.

Enter the [Item Writers Algebra Readiness competition](#). This competition is the first in a series that will focus on innovative, open source item development for formative use, and was developed with the guidance of educators who are currently in the classroom. The competition will provide an interactive platform for educators to communicate with one another during the development process. Darren Burris, a PARCC Educator Leader Fellow in Massachusetts and a high school mathematics teacher, has served as an advisor on this project and will serve as one of the expert judges alongside several national and state mathematics experts.

The competition is a large-scale event where educators around the country face an online item editor and builder and can not only provide feedback, advice and expertise to one another, but also get feedback from a wide range of experts in the field. The goal of this competition is to create collections of items that can be used by educators in the field to aid with formative assessment, and also identify educators who know the standards well and are able to translate the standards into complex and thoughtful tasks. The competition will also create a community of learners who are engaged in the process of changing the lives of students. Ultimately, the winning task sets will be available to all educators as open education resources and readily available on the PARCC Partnership Resource Center, set to debut later this year. [More >>](#)
Thanks for all you do!

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