



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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This FAQ sheet will provide teachers, parents and students with relevant information and resources about the upcoming PARCC assessment.

What is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of twelve (12) states, plus the District of Columbia, which are collaborating to develop English and Math assessments for Grades K-12. [Resource: PARCC website <http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>]

What are the Common Core Standards?

The Common Core State Standards are a national effort to coordinate states delivering a rigorous, college- and career-aligned K-12 curriculum in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. What is most evident in the standards is the clarity of expectations for student learning at each grade level. [Resources: Common Core Standards Video <http://vimeo.com/51933492> and Common Core Standards website <http://www.corestandards.org/>]

How are the Common Core State Standards different from previous standards?

There are three major shifts in both **English Language Arts** and **Mathematics**:

English Language Arts: Reading:

- Increase in reading informational texts (at least 50%)
- Increased text complexity
- Increased vocabulary expectation (general and content specific)

English Language Arts: Writing:

- Shift from narrative to informational and persuasive expression
- All writing is grounded in reading or text

Mathematics:

- Focus – fewer topics per grade level, but greater depth of understanding
- Coherence – develops a learning progression by grade level through major topics
- Rigor – balanced instructional approach including conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency, and application with equal intensity

[Resources: For **ELA**, see the website [Achieve the Core ELA](#) and for **Math**, see [Achieve the Core Math](#)]

How is PARCC connected to state testing?

Members of the PARCC consortium developed assessments aligned with the Common Core State Standards. [Resource: PARCC website <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-assessment>]

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When are the PARCC test scheduled to be administered?

The spring of 2015 (March and May) will be the first time students will participate in the PARCC assessments.

What grade levels will participate in the PARCC assessment?

The PARCC assessment will be administered to all Grade 3-11 students in the spring of 2015.

What are the differences between the NJASK/HSPA and the PARCC assessments?

NJASK/HSPA:

- Paper/pencil-based-assessment
- Spring administration
- Test ELA and Math in Grades 3-8 and 11
- Test Science in Grades 4, 8 and 11
- Single administration assessment:
 - Grade 11 in March
 - Grades 3-8 in May

PARCC:

- Computer-based assessment
- Spring administration
- Test ELA and Math in Grades 3-11
 - Grades 9-11: English I, English II, English III, Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry
- Two-component administration assessment:
 - Performance Based Assessment (PBA) 75%
 - End-of-Year (EOY) assessment 90%

How long are the PARCC tests?

The testing time varies by grade level and content area. Please see the chart below for more specific testing times. Overall, the PARCC assessments are 1.5-2 hours longer when compared to the NJASK and less testing time than the HSPA.

Grade Level	Estimated Time on Task*	Unit Testing Time*
3	6.5 hours	9 hours, 45 minutes
4-5	6 hours, 45 minutes	10 hours
6-8	8 hours	10 hours, 50 minutes
High School ELA	3 hours, 50 minutes	5 hours, 45 minutes
Algebra I/Geometry	3 hours, 40 minutes	5 hours 20 minutes
Algebra II	3 hours, 40 minutes	5.5 hours

***Estimated Time on Task** is the approximate amount of time, based on the field test, in which the majority of students may complete a unit. It is provided for informational purposes only.

***Unit Testing Time** is the amount of time any student who needs it must be provided to complete the unit. It is the amount of testing time the school must schedule for each unit.



How are students being prepared for a computer-based assessment?

All students in the tested grades are provided an opportunity to visit the PARCC online website and participate in a practice test for the purpose of experiencing the computer features of the assessment.

Will accommodations be available for students?

As a computer-based assessment, a variety of accommodations are available for our Special Needs and English Language Learners (ELL). Our Child Study Teams, 504 Coordinators and ELL Supervisor are working with our District Test Coordinator to identify the appropriate accessibility features and accommodations for individual students. A Personal Needs Plan (PNP) is developed for all special needs, ELL and 504 students.

Why must my child participate in the PARCC assessment?

State assessment data is used to analyze broad trends in the district by building and grade level, as well as demonstrate student strength and areas which require additional focus.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requires a 95% participation rate per building for scores to be valid. Missing this 95% participation target may impact district funding.

The TeachNJ law links teacher evaluation to student growth results for the state assessment.

When will results of the PARCC assessment be available?

As this is a new assessment, it is anticipated that results will be available in late September or October 2015.

Is PARCC a graduation requirement?

High school graduation requires students to meet several criteria: minimum number of credits, a minimum attendance requirement *and* to demonstrate proficiency in ELA *and* Math through a State assessment. We are in a transition period for the classes of 2016, 2017 and 2018 and have multiple options to demonstrate proficiency in ELA and Math including: PARCC assessment, SAT, PSAT, ACT, ASVAB-AFQT or Accuplacer. Students who do not meet the criteria through these assessments will have an option through a portfolio process to meet the graduation requirement. [**Resource:** See District website for [Policy 5460](#)]

Where can I find tutorials, sample items and practice tests for PARCC?

Refer to this [tutorial](#) for more information.

Where can I find more information about PARCC?

For further information, please visit the PARCC website at <http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>.