

PARCC FAQ

OVERVIEW

What is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) has created a computer-based assessment of mathematics and English language arts/literacy skills that measures whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers and if students are meeting the new Common Core State Standards. The PARCC assessments are designed to replace the NJASK in grades 3-8 in language arts and mathematics and the HSPA in grade 11. The PARCC assessments will be administered to all students in grades 3-11 beginning in the spring of 2015.

Will the PARCC assessment be used for academic placement for the 2015-2016 school year?

PARCC results will not be used in 2015-16 for placement, but may be used in subsequent years. Academic placement regulations detail the use of multiple measures, which provide the data needed to appropriately place students. The district has always used multiple data sources to make recommendations regarding academic placement.

When will the PARCC be administered?

The PARCC assessment is composed of two parts, the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) or long answer questions and the End-of-Year (EOY) component or short answer questions. Beginning March 2, 2015, the Performance-Based Assessment portion of the PARCC assessment will be administered to all students in grades 3 through 8 and grades 9 – 11 in high school. Beginning April 27, 2015, the End-of-Year portion of the PARCC assessment will be administered to all students in grades 3 through 8. High School EOY testing will begin on April 20, 2015 so as to not interfere with College Board AP testing.

How can parents learn more?

Parents can visit the PARCC website at www.parcconline.org. You will find sample test questions and more information about the design and development of these new assessments.

ENSURING STUDENTS ARE PREPARED FOR PARCC

How are the schools preparing our students academically?

All English language arts and math curricula have been aligned with the Common Core State Standards for the past several years, instructional materials have been purchased and updated, and the instructional sequence has been reorganized to address the most crucial PARCC content. PARCC testing mirrors the kind of high quality work students are already doing in our classrooms throughout the year and that is required by state standards.

Are there sample PARCC assessments available?

PARCC released online tutorials that demonstrate how to navigate the test. These tutorials and sample assessments are accessible at this web address:

<http://practice.parcc.testnav.com/#>. All students who are taking the PARCC tests this spring will be provided opportunities to review the tutorial and the format of the assessments with teacher guidance and support before testing begins.

What are schools doing to help students master the technological skills required by the PARCC exam?

Students in grade 3 have been introduced to keyboarding. Students in grades 4 and 5 take Elementary Keyboarding during the school year. Students in grades 6 - 8 have Computers during their cycle classes.

Students have been introduced to the technology used on the PARCC assessments during their classroom experiences.

USE OF PARCC DATA**Is passing the PARCC assessment a requirement for graduation?**

Currently, no; however, students in the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 must demonstrate proficiency for graduation and the results of this test may be used for this purpose.

During this transition period, school counselors can certify that a student in the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 have met the state proficiency requirements in many alternate ways as well. For instance, a student may demonstrate proficiency via a SAT or ACT score, in addition to the NJDOE's long-standing portfolio appeal process. However, if a student does pass a PARCC assessment in English language arts and/or mathematics, the school may use those scores as a demonstration of proficiency. The state will be providing additional guidance to schools on how to determine proficiencies on substitute assessments and the PARCC assessments. However, it is anticipated that passing the PARCC assessments will become a graduation requirement for the class of 2019. The state has been very clear in stating that all students in grades 9-11 must participate in PARCC testing if they are enrolled in English in grades 9 - 11 and/or in either Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II courses.

Do I have the option for my child to opt-out of the PARCC assessment?

The district is obligated by state regulations to administer the PARCC exam to all students. The district's attendance policies and regulations will continue to be followed during this time.

Do students in the middle school who are taking the Algebra I course have to take the Algebra I PARCC assessment?

Yes. If a student is enrolled in Algebra I while in middle school, he/she will be administered the PARCC Algebra I assessment in lieu of the grade level math PARCC exam.

Will the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment be scored separately?

No, students will receive a single score report that brings together the student's performance on both the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment sessions.

Is a student who does not pass the PARCC Assessment required to retake the assessment?

No. A student is not required to retake an assessment or retake the course based on their PARCC scores.

TEST ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULE

How long is the PARCC exam?

The Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) portion of the PARCC assessment requires 5 sessions (2 Math, 3 Language Arts) and the End-of-Year portion of the PARCC assessment requires 4 exam sessions (2 Math, 2 Language Arts) for students in grades 6-11. In grades 3-5, the End-of-Year (EOY) portion will require only 3 sessions (2 Math, 1 Language Arts).

As a point of information, the NJASK Science test will still be administered to grade 4 and grade 8 as a paper and pencil test. The high school New Jersey Biology Competency Test will also be administered as a paper and pencil test.

Will students be tested in the a.m. or the p.m.?

Students may be tested in either the a.m. or the p.m. based upon schedules developed by building school administrators. Schedules will be posted on the district website.

When will the 2015 PARCC scores be available to school districts?

Student score reports will be available toward the end of September/early October 2015.

Are accommodations available for students?

Yes. The **PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual** on the PARCC website provides guidance to districts and decision-making teams to ensure that the PARCC assessments provide valid results for all participating students.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Is our district PARCC ready?

The Rutherford School District meets and exceeds all recommendations provided by PARCC and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). All school districts were required to provide a detailed listing of the network infrastructure and computer devices that would be used to administer the PARCC assessment.

With regard to test preparedness, several other factors must be considered. Rutherford has been proactive in all areas of concern.

What technology equipment will my child use for the PARCC assessment?

Students will be using devices that they are familiar with and that have been integrated into the regular instructional program