

## **Overview**

### **What is PARCC?**

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a computer based assessment of Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy Skills that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers and if students are meeting the new common core 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 students beginning in the spring of 2015.

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

No. Academic placement regulations detail multiple measures which provide the data needed to appropriately place students without the need for state standardized test results.

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

No. The district is obligated by state regulations as per the letter from the Commissioner, located on our district website, [PARCC Participation Information](#) to administer the PARCC exam to all students. The district's attendance policies and regulations will continue to be followed during this time.

### **When will the PARCC be administered?**

The PARCC assessment is composed of 2 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 11. Beginning April 27, 2015, the End-of-Year portion of the PARCC assessment will be administered to all students in grades 3 through 11.

### **How can parents learn more?**

The District is planning to host a Parent Academy which will provide parents and guardians with additional information about PARCC and an opportunity to ask questions. We will have multiple breakout sessions so that parents can see the implications of the PARCC per grade level. Information will be distributed once the planning has been finalized.

In the meantime, please visit the following websites for information:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/parcc/>

<http://www.parcconline.org/>

[http://www.pta.org/files/Advocacy/CCSSIToolkit/Common%20Core%20State%20Standards%20Resources/Assessments%20Resouces/PTA\\_NJ\\_6PG\\_10DEC13\\_FINAL\\_R.pdf](http://www.pta.org/files/Advocacy/CCSSIToolkit/Common%20Core%20State%20Standards%20Resources/Assessments%20Resouces/PTA_NJ_6PG_10DEC13_FINAL_R.pdf)

## **Ensuring Students are Prepared for PARCC**

### **How are the schools preparing our students academically?**

All curricula are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, and the instructional sequence has been reorganized to address most crucial PARCC content before testing begins in March. PARCC testing mirrors the kind of high quality work students are already doing in our classrooms throughout the year. The focus is on high-caliber instruction.

### **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.parcctestnav.com/#>.

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

Students in grades 2-5 work with a Technology/PARCC teacher in addition to their classroom teacher on the use of technology, including keyboarding and technology tools. Secondary level students use computers in a variety of settings, including the classroom and labs in order to master the technological skills required by the PARCC exam.

## **Use of PARCC Data**

### **Is passing the PARCC assessment a requirement for graduation?**

No. School counselors can certify that a student in the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 met the state proficiency requirements in many ways. For instance, a student may demonstrate proficiency via an 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 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. It is anticipated that passing the PARCC assessments will become a graduation requirement for the class of 2019.

### **Do Students in the middle school who are taking Algebra 1 or Geometry have to take the Algebra 1 or Geometry PARCC assessment?**

Yes. If a student is enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry, while in middle school, he/she will be administered the PARCC Algebra I or Geometry 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.

For the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018, students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in both ELA and math by meeting ONE of the criteria in each column below:

English Language Arts	Mathematics
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Algebra I <i>or</i>
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Geometry <i>or</i>
Passing score on a PARCC ELA Grade 11 <i>or</i>	Passing score on PARCC Algebra II <i>or</i>
SAT $\geq$ 400 <i>or</i>	SAT $\geq$ 400 <i>or</i>
ACT $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i>	ACT $\geq$ 16 <i>or</i>
Accuplacer Write Placer $\geq$ 6 <i>or</i>	Accuplacer Elementary Algebra $\geq$ 76 <i>or</i>
PSAT $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i>	PSAT $\geq$ 40 <i>or</i>
ACT Aspire $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i>	ACT Aspire $\geq$ 422 <i>or</i>
ASVAB-AFQT $\geq$ 31 <i>or</i>	ASVAB-AFQT $\geq$ 31 <i>or</i>
Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal	Meet the Criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal

**Test Administration**

**How long is the PARCC exam?**

The Performance-Based Assessment 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).

**Will a student be scheduled for more than one test session per day?**

No. Although multiple sessions will be given in one day, a student will participate in only one test session per day. Each testing session must be completed within the same day and schools must schedule according to "Total Administration Time," so that students who need the additional time are able to use it.

**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?**

Yes. The Hopatcong Borough School District meets and exceeds the requirements for PARCC testing. The NJ TRAX website, provided by the NJ Department of Education (njtrax.org) evaluated our network capacity - which on a scale of 1-9, we received a 9. The testing also evaluated our device readiness - which on a scale of 1-9, we received a 9. Each school was also tested individually and all received 9's for network and device readiness.

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

Each student will use a desktop computer located in a computer lab. The device is equipped with a keyboard, traditional mouse and headset. At our Tulsa Trail school, students will be using iMac computers and at our Durban, Middle and High School labs, students will use PCs running Windows 7. These labs are used during the school year for instructional purposes, but will be unavailable and reserved for PARCC Testing during the testing window.

**Does our district have the appropriate Internet and WiFi Connectivity?**

Over the last three years, the Technology Office has spent a considerable amount of time evaluating and upgrading our network infrastructure. During the summer of 2014, the Technology Office completed a district wide reconfiguration of the network, increased bandwidth available to all schools to 300Mb, and finished a district wide wireless infrastructure installation. Even though we have exceeded the recommended requirements of PARCC Readiness, we continue to monitor network utilization to ensure the district as a whole has the appropriate bandwidth and capacity for the PARCC and other future assessments.