

PARCC FAQ (Updated 11/20/2017)

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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 State Standards (CCSS).

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

No. 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. Additionally, schools need at least 95% participation (by subgroup). If this is not met, a corrective action plan will be imposed on our schools.

Will the PARCC assessment be used for academic placement for the 2017-2018 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.

When will the PARCC be administered?

The testing window for grades 3-8 and high school is April 16 – May 25. For more details, see the [Test Administration and Scheduling](#) section.

How can parents learn more?

The [Curriculum Page](#) of the district's website has links to many resources on PARCC and NJSL. Set aside some time to carefully review these resources.

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 organized 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.

Will there be “test prep”?

No. As stated in the previous question, students are prepared for success on PARCC through their daily coursework and activities. Laura Slover, CEO of PARCC, Inc, states,

There is no “test prep” for these tests; these are the kinds of test items that require understanding of concepts and application that only come through a year of effective teaching, not through “drill and kill”.

What tools are available to familiarize students with the PARCC assessment?

PARCC released online tutorials that demonstrate how to navigate the test. These tutorials can be found [here](#). Sample items that allow students to try out test questions on the technology platform can be found [here](#). Practice tests are also available for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The practice tests can be found [here](#).

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

Students have access to the testing device and will be familiar with it before testing. Online curricular tools are available (see next question). Technology is integrated into daily lessons. Students will be exposed to the PARCC tutorial, the sample items, and the practice tests. Students are encouraged to practice typing and can use [NitroType](#) as a guest. Several technology classes are offered at the secondary level.

What can families do to help prepare students for the PARCC exam?

In an effort to prepare our students for the PARCC Assessment, parents and students can utilize the Connect Ed resources for *Wonders*, *MY Math* and *Glencoe Math* found here <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do> Students can also work on individualized skills, as well as manipulate mathematical tools and equations similar to the PARCC assessment on their ALEKS account found here: <http://www.aleks.com/>

By now, teachers should have given the students their login information for both sites. Remember that PARCC is not necessarily a test about what students know, but rather how they think. Encourage problem solving skills as much as possible in daily activities.

USE OF PARCC DATA

Is passing the PARCC assessment a requirement for graduation?

Click [here](#) for details on the high school graduation requirements.

Do students in the middle school who are taking Algebra I 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 8 math PARCC exam.

How will PARCC be scored?

PARCC will have five performance levels for all assessments, grades 3-8 and high school. Level 1 will represent lowest performing and Level 5 will represent highest performing. More specifics can be found [here](#).

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.

Will personally identifiable student information be shared with the United States Department of Education or any other federal agency?

No. New Jersey has not shared student-level assessment data in the past and will not under the PARCC assessment. The States, including New Jersey, participating in the PARCC consortium addressed this concern in a [letter](#) to Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education, on January 23, 2014.

TEST ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULE

When will my student take the PARCC test?

The testing window for PARCC 2017 is April 16, 2018 to May 25, 2018. It is the district's decision how to best schedule the tests within these windows.

Click on the links below to view the district's PARCC schedules.

[Elementary Schools](#)

[Middle School](#)

[High School](#)

When will the 2017 PARCC scores be available to school districts?

Student score reports will be available toward the end of September 2018.

What happens if a student is in two math classes (i.e. Algebra I and Geometry OR Algebra II and Geometry)?

The student will take only one math assessment, either Algebra I or Algebra II.

Is there an exception for students in AP classes?

Students in AP English Language and Composition or AP English Literature and Composition are except from participating in PARCC ELA 11. At this time, no other AP exception exist.

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 Monroe Township 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.

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

Each student in grades 3-8 and high school will use a Chromebook when taking the PARCC assessment. A headset and mouse will also be available. The Chromebooks may be used for instruction throughout the year.