

# A Walk in the PARCC

## Frequently Asked Questions



March 2018

# What is PARCC?

**P**artnership for  
**A**ssessment of  
**R**eadiness for  
**C**ollege and  
**C**areers



- One of two common assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards
- Technology-based, 21st century assessment
- English Language Arts and Mathematics, Grades 3-11

# Who will take the PARCC?

Students in the following classes will take the PARCC:

- Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics
- Grades 9-11 ELA
- Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry

# What is the purpose of PARCC?

1. Determine if students are college and career ready, or on track
2. Connect to the Common Core State Standards
3. Measure the full range of student performance, including that of low- and high-achieving students
4. Provide educators with data throughout the year
5. Create innovative, technology-based assessments
6. Be affordable and sustainable

# How will PARCC results be used?

- Assist teachers in supporting students
- Inform parents and students on progress toward being “on track” for college and career readiness
- Inform schools and districts on curricula, instructional and professional development needs
- Help NJ colleges and universities determine students’ readiness for entry-level, credit bearing college courses
- Determine placement in various programs

# PARCC Results Will Not be Used To....

- Impact a student's grades
- Retain students

# What is the schedule for PARCC testing?

High School

April 17 – April 25

Middle School

April 17 – May 3

Samsel

April 30 – May 11

K – 3 Elementary Schools

Beginning April 30 or May 7 - Varies according to school

\*\*Information regarding specific dates for grade levels and subjects will be forthcoming

# ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2018 and 2019

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<p><b><u>First Pathway</u></b>  <i>Take and Pass a PARCC Test</i></p>	<p>PARCC ELA Grade 9  <i>or</i>            PARCC ELA Grade 10  <i>or</i>            PARCC ELA Grade 11</p>	<p>PARCC Algebra I  <i>or</i>            PARCC Geometry  <i>or</i>            PARCC Algebra II</p>
<p><b><u>Second Pathway</u></b>  <i>Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments</i></p>	<p>SAT Critical Reading (taken before 3/1/16)  <i>or</i>            SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section (taken 3/1/16 or later)  <i>or</i>            SAT Reading Test (taken 3/1/16 or later)  <i>or</i>            ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading*  <i>or</i>            Accuplacer WritePlacer  <i>or</i>            Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL  <i>or</i>            PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken before 10/1/15)  <i>or</i>            PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading (taken 10/1/15 or later)  <i>or</i>            ACT Aspire Reading*  <i>or</i>            ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>	<p>SAT Math (taken before 3/1/16)  <i>or</i>            SAT Math Section (taken 3/1/16 or later)  <i>or</i>            SAT Math Test (taken 3/1/16 or later)  <i>or</i>            ACT or ACT PLAN* Math  <i>or</i>            Accuplacer Elementary Algebra  <i>or</i>            PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken before 10/1/15)  <i>or</i>            PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math (taken 10/1/15 or later)  <i>or</i>            ACT Aspire Math*  <i>or</i>            ASVAB-AFQT Composite</p>
<p><b><u>Third Pathway</u></b>  <i>Portfolio Appeals</i></p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</p>	<p>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</p>

# ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2020

<u>Three Pathways Available</u>	<u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u>	<u>Mathematics</u>
<u>First Pathway</u> Take and Pass a PARCC Test	PARCC ELA Grade 9 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 10 <i>or</i> PARCC ELA Grade 11	PARCC Algebra I*** <i>or</i> PARCC Geometry <i>or</i> PARCC Algebra II
<u>Second Pathway</u> Take and Pass one of the Alternative Assessments  <i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i>	SAT Reading Test <i>or</i> ACT Reading or ACT PLAN Reading** <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer <i>or</i> Accuplacer WritePlacer ESL <i>or</i> PSAT10 Reading or PSAT/NMSQT Reading <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Reading** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite	SAT Math Test <i>or</i> ACT or ACT PLAN Math** <i>or</i> Accuplacer Elementary Algebra <i>or</i> PSAT10 Math or PSAT/NMSQT Math <i>or</i> ACT Aspire Math** <i>or</i> ASVAB-AFQT Composite
<u>Third Pathway</u> Portfolio Appeals  <i>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible and receive valid scores*</i>	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA	Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math

Note: \* "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receives a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11. \*\* Test is no longer administered but can be used for the graduating year. \*\*\* The [NJDO is providing flexibility](#) to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations

# ELA and Math Assessment Requirements for the Class of 2021 & 2022

<b><u>Two Pathways Available</u></b>	<b><u>English Language Arts (ELA)</u></b>	<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>
<b>First Pathway</b>	<b>Take and Pass PARCC ELA Grade 10</b>	<b>Take and Pass PARCC Algebra I**</b>
<b><u>Second Pathway</u></b>  <i><b>This Pathway is only available if a student takes all PARCC tests associated with the high-school level courses for which they were eligible*</b></i>	<b>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for ELA</b>	<b>Meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal for Math</b>

Note: \* "Eligible" is defined as a student who is enrolled in a high-school level course for which there is a PARCC test and receive a valid score. This includes all of these courses: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, ELA 9, ELA 10, and ELA 11.

\*\* The [NJDOE is providing flexibility](#) to meet the math assessment requirement for students in the Classes of 2020 and 2021 who completed an Algebra I course prior to the September 6, 2016 effective date of the new high school assessment regulations.

# How much time will the test take?

## Elementary Schools

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Grade 3 ELA	90	75	90	
Grade 3 Math	60	60	60	60
Grades 4-5 ELA	90	90	90	
Grades 4-5 Math	60	60	60	60

# How much time will the test take?

## Middle School & High School

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Grades 6-8 ELA	110	110	90
Grades 6-8 Math	80	80	80
Grade 8 Algebra I	90	90	90
Grades 9–11 ELA	110	110	90
Algebra I, Geometry & Algebra II	90	90	90

# Can students “Opt-Out” of PARCC?

- There is no formal procedure for such opt-outs, and that the state expects students to take the examinations. “State law and regulations require all students to take state assessments,” notes the document.
- Since the PARCC assessment is part of the state-required educational program, schools are not required to provide an alternative education program for students who do not participate in the statewide assessment. “We encourage all chief school administrators to review the district’s discipline and attendance policies to ensure that they address situations that may arise during days that statewide assessments, such as PARCC, are being administered,” Hesper said in a statement.

# What will Sayreville do?

- Parents must submit a completed PARCC Refusal Form to the school principal **no later than Friday March 31** stating their refusal to have their child tested.
- The Refusal Form is available on the District website.
- Students will sit in their assigned testing room.
- They will be permitted to read a pre-approved book.
- If your child does not attend school during PARCC, it will count as an absence.
- If we have a refusal form on file and your child is absent, they will not sit for make-up testing.

# How is PARCC scored?

Level	Descriptor
5	Students performing at this level demonstrate a <b>distinguished command</b> of the knowledge, skills, and practices embodied by the CCSS at their level.
4	<b>Strong Command</b>
3	<b>Moderate Command</b>
2	<b>Partial Command</b>
1	<b>Minimal Command</b>

# Accessibility Features for all Students

- Using a highlighter tool to shade text on the screen
- Having test directions read aloud and repeated, as needed
- Enlarging text, pictures and diagrams
- Using spell checker
- Flagging items to review later
- Raising and lowering the volume; headphones
- Crossing out answers for multiple choice
- Blank paper (provided by test administrator)
- Pop-up glossary

# Accommodations for Students

- Must be identified in advance through an IEP or 504
- Required to be use in daily classroom activities
- Include 3 categories:
  - Presentation
  - Response
  - Scheduling

# What are we doing to prepare for PARCC?

- Aligned our curricula to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards
- Using technology in the classroom, including the tools embedded in PARCC
- On-going professional development for staff
- Engaging students in relevant, real-world activities that promote critical thinking and foster collaboration
- In-district assessments aligned to NJSLS and PARCC
- Video tutorials and practice tests
- Participated in field tests in 2014

# What can parents do to prepare their students?

- Support your children with homework
- Expose your children to informational text and literature and assist them in making connections
- Practice fluency with math facts
- Encourage real-life problem solving in multiple ways
- Explain/Discuss the process for problem solving
- Encourage your child to justify their reasoning
- Practice typing and use other technology tools where applicable.

# The More Things Change

*“If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow.”*

John Dewey



# Helpful Resources for Parents

- [www.sayrevillek12.net](http://www.sayrevillek12.net)
- [www.pta.org/4446.htm](http://www.pta.org/4446.htm)
- <http://parcconline.org>
- <http://bealearninghero.org/classroom/PARCC>
- <http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/>
- <http://understandthescore.org/>

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century learner needs 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum, instruction and assessment

*"How we teach must reflect how our students learn, it must also reflect the world they will emerge into. This is a world that is rapidly changing, connected, adapting and evolving. Our style and approach to teaching must emphasize the learning in the 21st century."*

Anonymous