Hello everyone!

I hope you all had a great holiday and break and that you’re staying warm today. I’ve talked to quite a few people who have had to call off school today due to the low temperatures.

As we start the new semester and enter the home stretch toward the new assessments this spring, I wanted to point your attention to a few resources (some new and some pre-existing) that might help you and your classrooms. First off, don’t forget about our ISBE Teacher Resources page. We’ll continue to add new resources to this page as they become available.

PARCC has released a few new resources to help clarify their processes. In “Did You Know: Why Are There Two Parts to the Test?” you’ll find an explanation of why PARCC includes both a PBA and an EOY portion. Also, PARCC has created the chart below listing each of the tools, accessibility features, or accommodations along with the location of where they can be found to help students, teachers, and parents become familiar with the functionality. The sample items, tutorials, and non-secure practice tests can be found at http://parcc.pearson.com/#. The Secure Practice Tests are part of the Infrastructure Trial, which many schools are using as a “dry run” to both test their computer network and give everyone involved experience in the whole process prior to test day.
I hope you all have a great semester!

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