1. Have the testing dates been determined?
   - PARCC dates have not yet been determined. The administration of the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) will occur when approximately 75% of the school year has passed. The administration of the End of Year Assessment (EOY) will occur when approximately 90% of the school year has passed.

2. Will PARCC be administered in all grades K-12? If not, what grades?
   - The PARCC Summative Assessment (PBA and EOY) will be administered in grades 3-8 in both math and English/Language Arts. End of Course (EOC) assessments will be administered for Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Math I, Math II, and Math III, as well as English 9, English 10, and English 11. PARCC Formative Assessments may be used in grades K-1. PARCC Diagnostic Assessments may be administered in grades 2-8. PARCC Speaking and Listening assessments will be administered in grades 3-8 and high school courses related to English/Language Arts.

3. How will the technology aspect of PARCC work?
   - PARCC Summative (PBA and EOY) and Formative (grades K-1) assessment components are computer-based assessments utilizing items that are technology-enhanced. PARCC Diagnostic (grades 2-8) assessments are computer adaptive using multiple items to identify securely held knowledge and areas for instructional opportunity.

4. How many PARCC assessments will be administered?
   - The PARCC assessment system includes multiple test administrations. Two components of the Summative assessment (PBA and EOY) are required. Additionally, Speaking and Listening assessments are required for English/Language Arts and are not part of the Summative assessment. Formative assessments in grades K-1 are optional to states. Diagnostic assessments in grades 2-8 are optional to states.

5. Will the Diagnostic Assessment and the Mid-Year Assessment be optional and who will be paying for them?
   - The Diagnostic Assessment (test 1) and the Mid-Year Assessment (test 2) are not required by PARCC or ISBE. However, these assessments do provide a desired balanced assessment system that provides important instructional information. It is yet to be determined how these assessments will be procured.

6. How long will the testing window be?
   - The testing window is yet to be determined. Early indications are that there will be a 4 week window for administration of the PBA and 4 weeks for the EOY.

7. What is the window of time for an individual child to complete the tests?
   - PARCC has not released the final policy related to the administration window and how much time will be available for each student. It is anticipated that PARCC will provide guidance and states will make the final policy decisions on administration windows that would include options for individual student administration and make-ups.

8. Why is the PARCC assessment so long?
   - The PARCC system is designed to measure the full breadth of the Common Core standards and the full range of student achievement. The Summative components (PBA and EOY) provide the best opportunity for students to show what they know and are able to do in a manner that is both valid and reliable. PARCC assessment components offer new and improved testing options that match the requirements of the Common Core standards and utilize the best in class item types to verify student understanding of complex texts and modeling. This assessment is designed to be engaging for students and to deliver advanced reporting and diagnostics. The assessment components provide ample time for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills.
9. How many computers do we need to administer the tests?
   o PARCC has recommended a student-to-computer ratio of at least 2 to 1 at the largest grade within the school as the baseline for devices. A school with 25 computers could test a grade level with no more than 50 students within the administration window.

10. We often have internet issues. How will this be solved for testing?
    o PARCC's administration technology platform will have the option to “cache” or download the assessment to an individual device prior to the administration of the test and upload the assessment once completed without constant connection to the internet.

11. Will there be any paper and pencil tasks or will it all be administered electronically?
    o PARCC will be offered to states as a computer-based assessment. However, paper and pencil testing may be offered in 2014-15 as an option for schools that have not met the technology readiness test and are verified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Paper test options will be available for students that are unable to test by computer due to a medical or handicapping condition.

12. How does Illinois plan to support the financial expense incurred when testing via technology?
    o ISBE has and will continue to support state funding of technology while continuing to investigate state and local partnerships for assistance.

13. Will technology support resources be provided to districts for hardware and infrastructure?
    o ISBE continues to seek assistance for districts and schools related to procurement of hardware and infrastructure. Additionally, technology training resources will be made available through PARCC.

14. What are the technological requirements schools must be ready for?

15. Will the system crash with so many users at once?
    o PARCC suggests that districts/schools use the Technology Readiness tools to verify devices and infrastructure. The infrastructure in schools should support a full range of instructional use and the total student and staff population as they endeavor to maximize and integrate technology into every day instruction. The PARCC technology platform allows for a low-bandwidth assessment delivery and safeguards for technology and power related glitches. In extreme circumstances, back up plans have been created to overcome potential barriers to timely assessment.

16. For the tests that prohibit the use of calculators, how will the computer’s built-in calculator be handled?
    o The PARCC technology platform will lock out all computer functions during the assessment. Only tools that are part of the technology platform will be available. The platform allows for use of an integrated calculator during the appropriate tests.

17. Has Illinois officially chosen PARCC over other assessment options (Smarter Balanced, Aspire, etc.)?
    o ISBE has committed to the PARCC consortium by Memorandum of Agreement to assess with the PARCC Summative components (PBA and EOY) in 2014-15. ISBE is currently reviewing the entire Illinois assessment system in order to create a balanced approach to assessment.

18. How soon after the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are approved by the state will we see them assessed on PARCC?
    o PARCC assesses English Language Arts and Mathematics. At this time, there are no plans to incorporate a science assessment into PARCC.
PARCC FAQs

19. Will the PARCC math assessment reflect the integrated curriculum or the traditional curriculum?
   o PARCC will provide End of Course assessments for both the traditional and integrated paths. ISBE has promoted local choice and provides that the district/school should choose the most appropriate curriculum path.

20. What role are classroom teachers playing in assessment development?
   o Many Illinois educators are engaged in item and bias reviews. Additionally, Illinois educators have provided feedback for accommodations related to Special Education and ELL students needs. Continued opportunities for public feedback provide Illinois educators with a voice in the final policies and procedures utilized by PARCC.

21. Will PARCC be adaptive?
   o The summative components of the PARCC system are not adaptive tests. Both the Performance-based Assessment and the End of Year assessment are fixed forms and all students will have a comparable grade-specific form of the test.

22. How will PARRC determine “career readiness”?
   o A student who is determined to be college- and career-ready through performance on the PARCC high school assessments is one who has demonstrated the academic knowledge, skills, and practices in ELA/literacy or mathematics necessary to enter directly into, and succeed in, entry-level, credit-bearing courses in those content areas in programs leading to a credential or degree which may be aligned to the student’s career aspirations, from two- and four-year public institutions of higher education. PARCC will make college- and career-ready determinations in ELA/literacy and in mathematics.
     • Students who earn a college- and career-ready determination in ELA/literacy will have demonstrated the academic knowledge, skills and practices necessary to enter directly into, and succeed in, entry-level, credit-bearing courses in college English composition, literature, and technical courses requiring college-level reading and writing.
     • Students who earn a college- and career-ready determination in mathematics will have demonstrated the academic knowledge, skills and practices necessary to enter directly into, and succeed in, entry-level, credit-bearing courses in college algebra, introductory college statistics, or technical courses requiring an equivalent level of mathematics.

23. Will ACT continue to be used for 11th grade?
   o ISBE is currently making determinations about the testing program for high school students in grade 11. We recognize the benefit of ACT for the students of Illinois and want to ensure we are providing information to students and their families that will assist in postsecondary success.

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1 This is inclusive of any public postsecondary institution awarding degrees and/or credentials that are aligned with entry into middle and high skills jobs (i.e. programs that are typically at least one year in length), including public technical colleges/institutions. Apprenticeship and other training programs that lead to middle and high skill jobs are also encouraged to take advantage of the PARCC CCRD policy in their placement practices. In the future, PARCC may validate the CCRD policy for such programs, pending the availability of data to do so.

2 Private institutions of higher education are also encouraged to use the PARCC CCRD policy for placing students into the entry-level, credit-bearing courses identified in the policy.

3 PARCC’s first priority is to validate the college- and career-ready determination policy for college algebra and introductory statistics, given relatively high enrollment rates in these courses. However, institutions of higher education are encouraged to use college- and career-ready determinations for placement of students into other entry-level, credit-bearing mathematics courses such as quantitative literacy/mathematics for liberal arts. Over time, PARCC may validate the use of the CCR determination in mathematics for these courses as well.
24. Will colleges and universities view PARCC as a college readiness assessment (similar to the way they currently view the ACT)?
   - Currently, there is a planning group made up of representatives of the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Governor’s office, and the ISBE to work on transitions to PARCC implementation. ISBE staff have presented to postsecondary stakeholders and continue to work with higher education to facilitate the implementation of PARCC.

25. Will PARCC be used for teacher evaluation?
   - PARCC, like ISAT and PSAE, are considered Type 1 assessments and can be used in teacher and principal evaluation. Research studies are desired to determine the extent to which the assessments may be used in the evaluation system. The use of assessment to measure student growth is a local decision.

26. Has PARCC considered that the timing of the PBA is not consistent with the needs for student growth data in accordance with the new evaluation system?
   - PARCC has set the timing for the PBA to provide the opportunity for in-grade level testing using securely held knowledge from previous grades. It is possible that this assessment will provide enough data to be used as a student growth component in an evaluation system. A research study is planned to investigate this approach.

27. How will the results be given to districts?
   - PARCC will electronically report state, district, school, class, and student results. This delivery method offers great flexibility in how reports can be formatted and the type of information available. It also provides the best option for release of items and related materials that can enhance student achievement and provide instructional value.

28. What is PARCC’s relationship to AYP?
   - ISBE has not made a final determination on the use of the PARCC assessments as a component of federal requirements related to AYP.

29. What will be word processing expectations for students in grades 3-5?
   - Students will be required to input short and extended answers using the computer based technology platform. A research study is currently underway to explore the expectations related to input skills. Additionally, the platform will provide word processing enhancements related to spelling and word completion and/or suggestion much like many current products provide.

30. Will Illinois require diagnostic and mid-year? When will a decision be made?
   - ISBE has not made a decision on the use of the diagnostic and mid-year assessments. ISBE is currently reviewing the Illinois assessment system in order to create a balanced assessment system.

31. How will students who fail a math class be assessed if they take two? (ex. Algebra & Geometry)
   - End of Course (EOC) assessments will be available for students taking the classes in math and ELA. When a student is enrolled in the class, they will have access to the assessment regardless of the number of times the student is enrolled.

32. How will IEP testing accommodations apply? Will the computer test have the capability to read to students, etc.?
   - PARCC assessments will integrate accommodations at the question level. IEP Teams will continue to make accommodations decisions supported by the PARCC Accommodations Manual (Summer 2013 release). The computer based assessment will have the capability of reading to students.
33. What supports will students with a 504 plan have?
   - Students with a Section 504 plan will have access to the same accommodations that students with an Individualized Education Program have. Accommodations for students with IEPs, 504 plans and EL students include, but are not limited to, extended time, assistive technology, and speech to text.

34. Is answer masking an accessibility option in PARCC?
   - The accessibility features identified in advance (including answer masking, wherein a student electronically covers answer options as needed) is part of an individual plan for a student. This feature must be activated during the student test registration.

35. Is speech-to-text an accessibility option in PARCC?
   - Speech-to-text will be an accommodation available to students with an IEP, 504 plan, or EL plan. The speech-to-text feature involves technology that students may access so that he or she can dictate responses verbally and these are transferred into text with the technology platform. Individual teams must determine what accommodations are appropriate for individual students based on unique needs.

36. What accommodations will be made for English Language Learners (ELLs)?
   - Please see the PARCC Accommodations Manual for a complete listing of the ELL accommodations/modifications. The draft is available at [http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-accommodations-and-fairness](http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-accommodations-and-fairness)

37. Will the state regulate the amount of students with a Personal Needs Profile (PNP)?
   - The guidance for implementation of the individual plans for accessibility features identified in advance will be developed by the PARCC consortium and distributed later this year. ISBE will review these guidance documents and determine implementation of this PARCC policy when guidance is available.

38. Is there an alternate assessment chosen yet for students who are currently taking the IAA? Will it also be technology-based?
   - Illinois has joined the Dynamic Learning Maps consortium for the alternate assessment ([http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/](http://dynamiclearningmaps.org/)). This assessment will be computer-based and will provide information on student achievement throughout the year.

39. Is there a cost, and if so, what will it be if a district wants to give all 4 assessments?
   - PARCC has not released the final costs associated with each of the 4 assessments. ISBE will make a decision on costs after the release of the information by PARCC.

40. If there is a cost, can Title 1 funds be used to purchase?
   - Decisions have not been made on costs as they have not been released by PARCC. A decision on Title 1 funds has not been made at this time.

41. Will other interim assessments like MAP, Discovery, and Scantron be needed if we implement the full PARCC system?
   - ISBE has promoted a balanced assessment system. ISBE considers formative assessment as an important local choice to support instructional decisions. Full implementation of the PARCC assessment system for math and ELA would provide exceptional diagnostic and formative information for instructional purposes. Other assessments may certainly be utilized as a local choice.

42. What are projected timelines for assessment?
   - The PARCC Summative assessments will be field tested in 2013-14 with operational assessments available in 2014-15. The Formative and Diagnostic assessments are planned for 2015-16.
PARCC FAQs

43. When is the next set of prototype assessments coming out?
   o PARCC plans on releasing more items later this summer. Additionally, there will be a practice test available during the field test administration next spring. The practice test will enable students and teachers to become familiar with the PARCC assessments and to practice with the different types of technology functionalities.

44. Will there be workshops to review and discuss support materials for PARCC assessment?
   o PARCC is creating on-line tools to support the assessment system. Additionally, ISBE will be supplementing the tools with webinars and workshops to assist districts and schools.

45. WHEN will we know answers?
   o ISBE will continue to provide information as it is available. Please consider signing up for the PARCC Place news releases at www.parcconline.org and check the ISBE Assessment link for updates on PARCC.