PARCC Updates

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A New Vision of Assessment

*Texts Worth Reading*

*Problems Worth Solving*

*Tests Worth Taking*

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What Is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers:

- Made up of 22 states
- Developing common, high-quality math and English language arts (ELA) tests for grades 3–11
  - Computer-based and linked to what students need to know for college and careers
  - For use starting in the 2014–15 school year
We have to prepare all students for college or other postsecondary opportunities:

- A high school diploma isn’t enough in our 21st century economy
- Our K–12 system is not adequately preparing students for college

81% of today’s jobs require college or career training

1/3 of college freshmen need remedial courses
Personal Benefits: Higher Earnings and Higher Employment Rates

High School Dropout
- Mean Income: $10,308
- Unemployment Rate: 20%

High School Graduate
- Mean Income: $24,854
- Unemployment Rate: 12%

Some College
- Mean Income: $30,171
- Unemployment Rate: 9%

Bachelor’s & Above
- Mean Income: $60,845
- Unemployment Rate: 5%

http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html
The Common Core State Standards are here and better standards require better tests.

Unlike many current tests, PARCC tests will be engaging and will test the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills students need to succeed in school and life.
Higher Expectations

**ELA/Literacy**
- Read sufficiently complex texts independently
- Write effectively to sources
- Build and present knowledge through research

**Math**
- Solve problems: content and mathematical practice
- Reason mathematically
- Model real-world problems
- Have fluency with mathematics

PARCC
1. Determine whether 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 high- and low-achieving students
4. Provide educators data throughout the year to inform instruction
5. Create innovative 21st century, technology-based assessments
6. Be affordable and sustainable
How Will PARCC Be Different?

**Students:** Will know if they are **on track** to graduate ready for college and careers

**Teachers:** Will have access to **timely data** to guide learning and instruction

**Parents:** Will have **clear and timely information** about student progress

**States:** Will have **valid results** that are comparable across borders
How Will PARCC Be Different?

For students:

- Test quality will mirror **high-quality coursework**
- Is computer-based, interactive, engaging
- Measures the **skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college and careers**
- Produces **timely information**, allowing teachers to tailor instruction to students’ needs
- Includes **embedded supports** for English language learners, students with disabilities
Embedded Supports Being Discussed

Some examples include:

- Highlighting
- Customized colors
- Captions for audio
- Home language supports/tools
- Braille (tactile/refreshable)
- Signing supports (ASL)
- Assistive technology
PARCC Comprehensive Accessibility Policies

- Embedded Supports
- Accessibility Features
- Accommodations
## Proposed Embedded Supports

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<th>Embedded Supports</th>
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<td>Audio Amplification</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blank Paper (not embedded)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eliminate Answer Choices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flag Items for Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administration Directions Read Aloud and Repeated as Needed</td>
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<td>Highlight Tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>NotePad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pop-Up Glossary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Redirect Student to Test (not embedded)</td>
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<td>Spell Checker</td>
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<td>Writing Tools</td>
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# Proposed Accessibility Features

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<td><strong>Answer Masking</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Background/Font Color (Color Contrast)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administration Directions Clarified (must be done by human test administrator)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Line Reader Tool</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Masking</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Text-to-Speech for the Mathematics Assessments</strong></td>
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Questions: Accommodations on PARCC

PARCC question
How Will PARCC Be Different?

For teachers and schools:

- Computer-based testing will **boost** student engagement and access
- More **efficient** than pencil-and-paper tests
- Timely data during the year will aid instruction, professional development
- Tests will **measure student growth at all levels** as well as focusing on proficiency
PARCC is More Than an Assessment

• A system and suite of tools to support teaching and learning:
  ➢ Model Content Frameworks
  ➢ prototype sample assessment tasks
  ➢ K–1 formative assessment tools
  ➢ 2–8 diagnostic assessment tools
  ➢ professional development modules
  ➢ Educator Leader Cadres
PARCC Assessment System

- PARCC will develop an assessment system comprised of four components. Each component will be computer-delivered and will use technology to incorporate innovations.
Assessments
ELA/Literacy and Mathematics, Grades 3–11

Beginning of School Year

Flexible administration

Diagnostic Assessment
Mid-Year Assessment
Performance-Based Assessment
End-of-Year Assessment

Speaking and Listening Assessment

End of School Year

Key:
Optional
Required
Two non-summative, optional assessment components designed to:

- Generate timely information for informing instruction, interventions, and professional development during the school year.

A third non-summative component in English language arts/literacy will assess students’ speaking and listening skills.
Optional Assessments During the Year

- Flexible indicator of student knowledge and skills
- Allows instruction, supports and professional development to be tailored to improve student learning

- Performance-based items and tasks
- Emphasis on hard-to-measure standards
- Individual states may consider including as a summative component
PARCC Summative Components

• Two summative, required assessment components designed to:
  – Make “college- and career-readiness” and “on-track” determinations,
  – Measure the full range of standards and full performance continuum, and
  – Provide data for accountability uses, including measures of growth.

• Two components, two scores, combined for one summative score
Two Required Assessments Yield Overall Score

- **Begin of School Year**
  - **Performance-Based Assessment**
    - After 75 percent of instruction
    - Extended tasks, applications of concepts and skills
      - **ELA/literacy**: Writing effectively when analyzing text, research simulation
      - **Math**: Solving multistep problems requiring abstract reasoning, precision, perseverance and strategic use of tools
  - **End-of-Year Assessment**
    - After 90 percent of instruction
    - Innovative, short-answer items
      - **ELA/literacy**: Reading comprehension
      - **Math**: Short items that address both concepts and skills

**End of School Year**
Key ELA and Literacy Shifts

- **Reading**
  - Balance of literature and informational texts
  - Focus on text complexity and what students read

- **Writing**
  - Emphasis on argument and informative/explanatory writing
  - Writing to sources (evidence) which requires students to read text(s)
  - Writing analytical essays

- **Speaking and Listening**
  - Inclusion of formal and informal talk
Key Mathematics Shifts

- Each grade focuses on fewer standards:
  - Addresses them more deeply
  - Coherent progression across grades
- Conceptual understanding of topics is foundational
- Students are expected to extend their knowledge to real-life modeling and application
• This a fairly traditional fraction task in a computer-based setting.
• Unlike traditional multiple choice, it is difficult to guess the correct answer or use a choice elimination strategy and there is more than one correct solution.
• Unlike paper and pencil tests, students can create a visual representation even though the task is scored automatically.
• Second part of multi-step problem, and, unlike traditional multiple choice, it is difficult to guess the correct answer or use a choice elimination strategy.
Item has two possible solutions
Students have to recognize the nature of the equation to know how to solve
Technology prevents guessing and working backward

Solve the following equation:

\[(3x - 2)^2 = 6x - 4.\]

When you are finished, enter the solution(s) below.

Solution 1:

Click \(+\) to enter another solution or click \(Done\).
Illinois Considerations

- PARCC will provide both Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II as well as Math I, Math II, and Math III assessments
  - These tests are based on end-of-course standards and the LEA will determine which sequence of tests will be implemented in their schools
- ISBE will continue to update the field on developments for PARCC
ELA: Grade 7 Sample Item

- Students read the text that introduces the topic
- Items are designed to help students gather information from the texts to lead to the final writing prompt
- Items require different types of responses to allow students to demonstrate a command of evidence with complex texts

**SAMPLE ITEM**

**Student Directions**

Based on the information in the text “Biography of Amelia Earhart,” write an essay that summarizes and explains the challenges Earhart faced throughout her life.

Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.

**Answer:**
ELA: Grade 7 Sample Item

**SAMPLE ITEM**

Below are three claims that one could make based on the article “Earhart’s Final Resting Place Believed Found.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claims</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earhart and Noonan lived as castaways on Nikumaroro Island.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earhart and Noonan’s plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People don’t really know where Earhart and Noonan died.</td>
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**Part A:** Highlight the claim that is supported by the most relevant and sufficient facts within “Earhart’s Final Resting Place Believed Found.”

**Part B:** Click on two facts within the article that best provide evidence to support the claim selected in Part A.
You have read three texts describing Amelia Earhart. All three include the claim that Earhart was a brave, courageous person. The three texts are:

- “Biography of Amelia Earhart”
- “Earhart's Final Resting Place Believed Found”
- “Amelia Earhart’s Life and Disappearance”

Consider the argument each author uses to demonstrate Earhart’s bravery.

Write an essay that analyzes the strength of the arguments about Earhart’s bravery in at least two of the texts. Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.
Technology

- Technology guidelines are informed by educational technology practices
- PARCC Technology Guidelines Version 2.1 - Recommended
  - Operating System: Windows 7 or newer/Mac OS 10.7 or newer/Linux/iOS6 or newer/Android 4.0 or newer/Chrome OS
  - Memory: 1 GB RAM
  - Processor: 1 GHz
  - Screen size: 9.5” or larger
  - Screen resolution: 1024x768 or better
  - Bandwidth: 100 kbps/student
- We are monitoring the readiness of schools/districts in Illinois and are working with other agencies to find solutions
Questions: Technology for PARCC

PARCC question
District Leadership

• Support ongoing efforts among teachers as they focus on math and ELA instructional shifts to meet common core standards
• Allow teacher leaders to facilitate building/district professional development
• Initiating discussions with your community colleges and universities
• Complete or review your technology audit
• Review PARCC online information for ongoing communication
School Leadership

• *Continue to focus on implementation of the CCSS*

• Review your use of instructional technology and opportunities provided to your students

• Review PARCC online information for ongoing communications
2,339,468

Every Student Every Day
A New Vision of Assessment

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www.PARCConline.org
www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/default.htm