



What's New in the Sixth Edition of the PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual? *August 30, 2017*

The Sixth edition of the *PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual (PARCC AF&A Manual)* was released on August 3, 2017, in preparation for the fourth year of PARCC administration. The *PARCC AF&A Manual* is a comprehensive policy document that provides guidance to Local Education Agency (LEA)/districts and decision-making teams to ensure that the PARCC summative assessments provide valid results for all participating students. The full policy document and all of the appendices can be found on [PARCC's manuals and training page](http://parcc.pearson.com/manuals-training/) (<http://parcc.pearson.com/manuals-training/>). While the vast majority of the revised *PARCC AF&A Manual* is consistent with the fifth edition, the purpose of this document is to call to your attention some of the key changes in the sixth edition.

Important: The list of changes in the sixth edition of the *PARCC AF&A Manual* that are captured in this document are not comprehensive. Educators are expected to review the full *PARCC AF&A Manual* annually.

1. Changes to Accessibility Features and Accommodations

There are a few changes to the PARCC accessibility features and accommodations for the fourth year of administration.

Accessibility Features

- The Student Reads Assessment Aloud to Him- or Herself accessibility feature was renamed Student Reads Assessment Aloud to Self. (*Section 2, Accessibility Feature 1q*)

Administrative Considerations

- Small Group Testing has an updated description. Wording was updated to include "as an individual" in addition to a small group of students. (*Section 2, Administrative Consideration 2a*)

Accommodations

- The Human Reader/Human Signer accommodation (*Section 3, Accommodation 3k*) was updated to include guidance to:
 - Review state policy in Appendix C of the Test Coordinator Manual
 - Review Appendix I of the PARCC AF&A Manual

- The Optimal Screen Reader recommendation was updated to JAWS 17. (*Section 3, Accommodation 3b, 3c, Appendix M*)
- The ELA/Literacy Constructed Response Options accommodation description was updated to add “If you plan to use a Chromebook or iPad as a third-party external assistive technology device, contact your state for additional guidance.” (*Section 4, Accommodation 4q*)

2. Student Registration/Personal Needs Profile (SR/PNP)

References have been updated in the Sixth edition to provide a crosswalk between the *PARCC AF&A Manual* and the Student Registration/Personal Needs Profile (SR/PNP) file layout, when applicable. Changes in the SR/PNP layout for 2017/2018 required updates to the references.

As a reminder, throughout Section 2, Section 3, and Appendix A, the corresponding column designation(s) in the SR/PNP file is provided under the accessibility feature or accommodation name. Refer to the example below.

Figure 1. Example of SR/PNP Reference Included in the *PARCC AF&A Manual*

Table 1: Accessibility Features for All Students

Table includes Features for All Students & Accessibility Features Identified in Advance.

Accessibility Feature		Administration Guidelines
1a	Answer Masking <i>(SR/PNP Reference BD)</i>	Before Testing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification for SR/PNP: Student’s SR/PNP must have answer masking selected to activate the feature on the platform. During Testing: When answer masking is enabled, multiple choice and multiple select answers will be masked. The student will uncover answer options when ready. The student may disable this feature by selecting, “Disable Answer Masking” in the user drop-down menu.
1b	Audio Amplification	Before Testing: The student raises or lowers the volume control, as needed, using headphones. Final volume must be set prior to testing. Student will not have access to volume control in the secure TestNav environment. During Testing: Student must be tested in a separate setting if unable to wear headphones. Once the test begins, the volume level cannot be changed.
1c	Bookmark	During Testing: The student selects the “Bookmark” icon in the toolbar. The student electronically “bookmarks” items to review later. To remove the bookmark, select the “Bookmark” icon again.

For more information on the SR/PNP file, refer to Section 2 of the *PARCC AF&A Manual* and/or the SR/PNP Training Module on [PARCC’s manuals and training page](http://parcc.pearson.com/manuals-training/) (<http://parcc.pearson.com/manuals-training/>)