How to Administer Accessibility Features and Accommodations on the PARCC Online Platform
Session Objectives

• Develop an understanding of how to use the PARCC accessibility features and accommodations on the online platform

• Create a list of ideas for in-district professional development and training opportunities for educators and students

• Discuss the timeline for updates to the TestNav platform in support of increasing accessibility for students taking the PARCC assessments
A New Vision for Accessibility

- Apply principles of **universal design** for accessible assessments during every stage of the development
- Minimize/eliminate features of the assessment that are irrelevant to what is being measured
- Measure the **full range** of complexity of the standards
- Leverage **technology** for the accessible delivery of assessment
- Build **accessibility** throughout the test itself without sacrificing assessment validity
- Use a combination of ‘accessible’-authoring and accessible technologies from the inception of items and tasks
- **Engage** state and national experts
PARCC Comprehensive Accessibility Policies

- Features for All Students
- Accessibility Features*
  Identified in advance
- Accommodations **
Administrative Considerations for All Students

School based teams (including IEP, 504 plan or EL teams as appropriate) may determine if any student requires any of the following test administration considerations, regardless of the student’s status as a student with a disability or English learner:

- Small group testing
- Frequent breaks
- Time of day
- Separate or alternate location / Specified area or seating
- Adaptive and specialized equipment, furniture, or lighting

Please note: IEP, 504 and EL teams may still wish to document this in a student’s IEP, 504 plan, or EL plan based on individual needs.
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Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Timing & Scheduling

**Extended Time**

Student gets extended time accommodation and may have until the end of the school day to complete a test session. It is recommended to test students with extended time accommodations in a separate setting to minimize distractions for all students, and to schedule these students for testing in the morning so their testing time can be extended until the end of the school day, if needed.
Unique & Emergency Accommodations

• Unique
  – If a student with a disability or an English learner requires an accommodation (i.e., a “unique accommodation”) that is not listed in the PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual, and does not change the construct being measured by the test, the school may request approval for use of the accommodation.

• Emergency
  – If the principal (or designee) determines that a student requires an emergency accommodation on the day of the PARCC test, this form must be completed and maintained in the student’s assessment file. No state approval is required for emergency accommodations.
PARCC will develop translations of its **mathematics assessments** into Spanish and other languages as necessary, but use of the translated assessments will be a state decision. The additional costs associated with translating and administering assessments in languages other than English will be shared by the states that use them.
Assistive Technology

• Some students with disabilities (with IEPs or 504 plans) may need to bring assistive technology to equitably access the PARCC Test.

• For current guidance on assistive technology for the PARCC Test, please refer to the posted guidelines on PARCConline.org.
• How can I learn how to use the online platform?
  • PARCC Tutorial

• Where can I practice using accessibility features on specific items?
  • PARCC Sample Items

• How can I practice more? I want to see lots of item types!
  • PARCC Practice Tests

• What if my students need text-to-speech or screen readers?
  • Text-to-Speech Tutorial & Screen Reader Accessible Practice Tests
Practicing Now: The Key to Success is Opportunity

http://practice.parcc.testnav.com
Preparing Teachers & Students for Success

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Under Revision: Test Coordinator & Test Administrator Manuals

In Development: Assessment Professional Development Module on Accessibility

What Specific Professional Development Needs to Occur to Prepare...?

1. Students
2. Teachers
3. Administrators
4. Districts
5. State
What’s Coming - Late Fall, 2014

2. PDF versions of the PARCC Practice Tests
3. Large print PDF versions of the PARCC Practice Tests
4. Braille version of the PARCC Practice Tests (BRF)
5. Tactile graphics for the PARCC Practice Tests
6. Personal Needs Profile
7. List of assistive technologies that have no known interference with TestNav
Additional Resources

- PARCC Field Test Tutorials – w/TestNav 8 accessibility features training ([CLICK HERE](#))
- PARCC Practice Test, Sample Items, & Tutorials ([CLICK HERE](#))
- PARCC Approved Accessibility Policy Manual & Implementation Guidance: [PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual; Overview website page; Translation Policy Memo](#)
- Field Test Training Module on “Accessibility Features and Accommodations with Computer-Based Testing” ([CLICK HERE](#))
- Field Test Coordinator Manuals & Field Test Administrator Manuals for CBT and PBT ([CLICK HERE](#))
Contact Us

• **Questions about Accessibility:**
  – Mary O’Brian, ISBE Director of Assessment
    mobrian@isbe.net
  – Gene Olsen, IAASE Assessment Chair
    golsen@ccsd89.org

• **Resources:**
  – [Illinois PARCC Educator Leadership Cadre](http://parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-accommodations-and-fairness)
  – *PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual & supporting materials*
  – *Parent and Teacher Brochures for Students with Disabilities and English Learners*