



January 30, 2015

Dear Illinois Districts:

PARCC is looking for schools to participate in a spring 2015 field test of tasks for the English language arts/literacy (ELA/L) performance-based assessments in grades 3 – 11. The purpose of the field test is to examine the quality of newly-developed performance-based tasks to help determine whether they should be included on PARCC assessments in the 2015-16 school year. For the other PARCC assessment components, field test items are embedded in the tests students are already taking. Because the ELA/L performance-based assessment requires longer written responses from students, this separate field test is being conducted.

Three types of performance-based tasks will be field tested in spring 2015: Narrative Writing, Research Simulation, and Literary Analysis. Each student participating in the PARCC ELA/L PBA field test will take one task, which will require approximately 60-90 minutes, depending on grade level and task type. During the registration process, schools will sign up to administer a particular grade level and task type. Information about the unit time for each task type is listed in the table below. Schools may administer the ELA/L field test any time between **May 4** and **June 5, 2015**.

	Unit Time Allowed (minutes)		
Grade Level(s)	Literary Analysis	Research Simulation	Narrative Writing
Grade 3	75	75	60
Grades 4-11	75	90	60

Schools and districts that are interested in participating in the ELA/L PBA field test should complete the interest survey linked here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PARCC_ELA_FT. The survey will ask which grade levels and tasks schools are interested in field testing. States will follow up with interested schools to provide detailed information about how to register for the PARCC ELA/L field test.

We appreciate your consideration and hope that you choose to participate in this opportunity. Further information is available in the attached FAQ document. Please contact with any questions.