What's New in the Fifth Edition of the
PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual?
August 2, 2016

The fifth edition of the *PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual (PARCC AF&A Manual)* was released on August 2, 2016, in preparation for the third 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/). While the vast majority of the revised *PARCC AF&A Manual* is consistent with the fourth edition, the purpose of this document is to call to your attention some of the key changes in the fifth edition.

Important: The list of changes in the fifth 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 third year of administration.

    Accessibility Features
    - As of spring 2016, the General Masking and Line Reader tools have been combined into a single tool, the Line Reader Mask tool. *(Section 2, Accessibility Feature 1k)*
    - The Student Reads Assessment Aloud to Him- or Herself accommodation is now an accessibility feature identified in advance. *(Section 2, Accessibility Feature 1q)*

    Administrative Considerations
    - Separate or Alternate Location has an updated description. *(Section 2, Administrative Consideration 2c)*
    - Specified Area or Seating has been updated to Specified Area or Setting. *(Section 2, Administrative Consideration 2d)*

    Accommodations
    - Hard Copy Braille Edition will be available in English Braille American Edition (EBAE) and Unified English Braille (UEB) beginning spring 2017. Additional guidance for

braille format has been added. *(Section 3, Accommodation 3d)*
- Calculation Device (on Calculator Sections of Mathematics Assessments) clarifies that for accommodations purposes, a lower grade/course-level calculator is permitted on the calculator sections as well as the non-calculator sections, but students should also have the grade appropriate calculator available. *(Section 3, Accommodation 4d)*
- Calculation Device and Mathematics Tools (on Non-Calculator Sections of Mathematics Assessments) clarifies that for these students, a calculation device may be used on the non-calculator AND calculator sections of the mathematics assessments. *(Section 3, Accommodation 4e)*

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

References have been added to the fifth edition to provide a crosswalk between the *PARCC AF&A Manual* and the Student Registration/Personal Needs Profile (SR/PNP) file layout, when applicable. 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** *(SR/PNP Reference BD)*	**Before Testing:** • 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/).

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3. Test Administration Guidance

Based on feedback from prior administrations, test administration guidance has been updated and/or clarified for the third year of administration. Refer to the relevant section in the *PARCC AF&A Manual* for details.

Accessibility Features
- Notepad contains an additional note. *(Section 2, Accessibility Feature 1m)*
- Text-to-Speech for the Mathematics Assessments has definitions to distinguish between Text Plus Graphics and Text Only inclusion orders. *(Section 2, Accessibility Feature 1r)*
- Human Reader/Human Signer for the Mathematics Assessments contains updated guidance for before, during, and after testing. *(Section 2, Accessibility Feature 1s)*

Accommodations
- Screen Reader Version has additional guidance about conducting an Infrastructure Trial and updated guidance for after testing. *(Section 3, Accommodation 3b)*
- Refreshable Braille Display with Screen Reader Version for ELA/Literacy has updated guidance for after testing. *(Section 3, Accommodation 3c)*
- Tactile Graphics has updated guidance for after testing. *(Section 3 & Appendix A, Accommodation 3e)*
- Word Prediction External Device on the ELA/Literacy Assessment has updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodation 4s)*
- Online Transadaptation of the Mathematics Assessment in Spanish has updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodation 7g)*
- Paper-Based Edition of the Mathematics Assessment in Spanish has updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodation 7h)*
- Large Print Edition of the Mathematics Assessment in Spanish has updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodation 7i)*
- Text-to-Speech for the Mathematics Assessments in Spanish has updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodation 7j)*
- Human Reader for the Mathematics Assessments in Spanish (or other languages) has updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodation 7k)*
- ELA/Literacy Selected Response Options and Mathematics Response Options have updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodations 4f - 4m)*
- ELA/Literacy Constructed Response Options has updated test administration guidance. *(Section 3, Accommodations 4n - 4q)*

Appendices
- Appendix J: PARCC Mathematics Audio Guidelines have been updated. *(Appendix J)*
- Appendix M: PARCC Assessments for Students with Visual Impairment, Including Blindness has an additional Frequently Asked Question (FAQ). *(Appendix M)*