



Illinois State Board
of Education

PARCC

Website and Resource Guide

Test Design

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT DESIGN

PARCC's annual assessments are available in [English language arts/ literacy](#) and [mathematics](#) for grades 3-8 and high school. They serve as the states' new annual tests.

The [tests](#) were developed over several years by a wide range of educators, researchers, psychometricians, and others from the PARCC states.

Key milestones included developing [college- and career-ready determination policies and performance-level descriptors](#) in ELA/literacy and math to describe:

1. What it takes for students to succeed in entry-level, college courses and relevant technical courses, and
2. The knowledge, skills, and practices students performing at a given level are able to demonstrate at any grade.

In spring 2015, after the first operational tests had been given, the PARCC states announced several [design changes](#) to streamline the assessments.

In summer 2015, PARCC will set [performance levels](#), which will indicate what level of performance a student's work represents, with Level 1 indicating the greatest need for improvement and Level 5 indicating the strongest performance.

The assessments were design based on extensive and [ongoing research](#).

<http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/test-design>

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Practice Tests

Administration

Accessibility

Test Design

College & Career-Ready
CCRD Performance Levels

Test Development

Design Changes

ELA/Literacy

Mathematics

Performance Levels

Research

Score Results

Data Privacy and Security

Score Results

ELA/Literacy

- Form Specification Documents
- Evidence Statement Tables
- Task Models
- Guidelines Documents
- Text Analysis Worksheet
- Scoring Rubrics

Mathematics

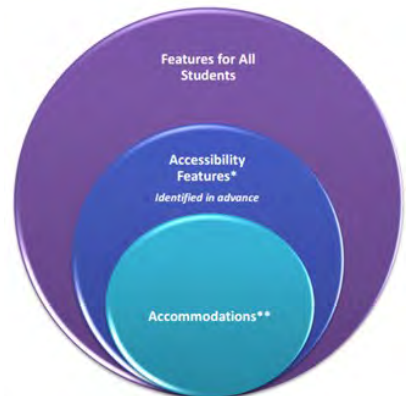
- High Level Blueprint
- Claims Structure
- Evidence Statements
- Informational Guides

<http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/accessibility>

The current edition of the [PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual](#) is a comprehensive policy document that provides guidance to districts and decision-making teams to ensure that the PARCC Mid-Year and End-of-Year Assessments provide valid results for all participating students.

Additional Information

- [Teacher PARCC Brochure for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Teacher PARCC Brochure for English Learners](#)
- [Español Parent Brochure for English Learners](#)
- [Parent PARCC Brochure for English Learners](#)
- [Parent PARCC Brochure for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Parent PARCC Accessibility Brochure](#)



PARCC ACCESSIBILITY FEATURES AND ACCOMMODATIONS MANUAL

Guidance for Districts and Decision-Making Teams to Ensure that PARCC Mid-Year, Performance-Based, and End-of-Year Assessments Produce Valid Results for All Students

PARCC MCF—PARCC Model Content Frameworks

<http://www.parcconline.org/resources/educator-resources/model-content-frameworks>

English Language Arts

The PARCC Model Content Frameworks were designed originally to help guide the creation of the assessment, but they are useful documents to all educators.

Model Content Frameworks

YOUR COMPANION TO THE STANDARDS

Model Content Frameworks are voluntary resources meant to be used as a companion to the Common Core State Standards to help educators and those developing aligned curricula and instructional materials.

The frameworks serve as a bridge between the standards and these tools in a variety of ways, including by clarifying areas of emphasis in each grade and what changes in the standards from one grade to the next. In grades 3 through 11, for which PARCC has previously published frameworks, they served as foundational documents to guide development of assessments. In grades K-2, they serve as guides for developing diagnostic tools and formative tasks that teachers can use to get real-time data on how their students are doing and where they need help or enrichment.

The Model Content Frameworks are neither a curriculum nor a replacement to the standards. Rather, they ought to be used as a companion to the standards, and as a lens through which to analyze and build local curricula.

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Review the ELA Model Content Framework (by grade, K-11)
- Download the Frameworks for Kindergarten-Grade 2:

Share This Page:



Educator Resources

Online Professional Learning
Model Content Frameworks
→ ELA Model Content Framework
→ Mathematics Model Content Framework

Parent Resources

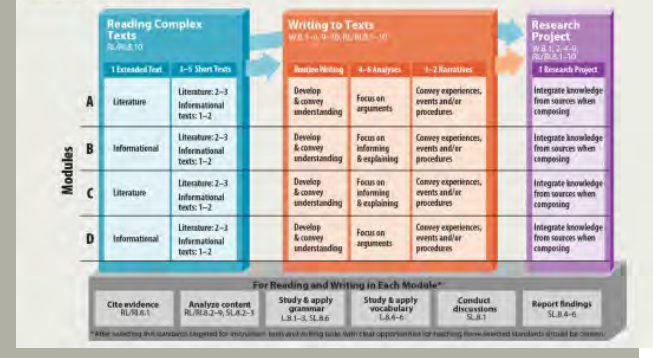
Student Resources

Score Results



The PARCC Model Content Frameworks for ELA offer one way of organizing the standards- in this instance into quarterly modules. Equally successful models could be based around semesters, trimesters or other school schedules. Model Content Frameworks allow educators the flexibility to organize the content within the modules in any way that suits their purposes.

Reading Complex Texts



K-8

- Examples of Key Advances
- Fluency Expectations or Examples of Culminating Standards
- Examples of Major Within-Grade Dependencies
- Examples of Opportunities for Connections among Standards
- Clusters or Domains
- Examples of Opportunities for In-Depth Focus
- Examples of Opportunities for Connecting Mathematical Content and Mathematical Practices
- Content Emphasis by Cluster

High School

- Examples of Key Advances from Previous Grade/Course
- Content Emphasis by Cluster
- Discussion of Mathematical Practices in Relation to Course Content
- Fluency Recommendations
- Pathway Summary Tables
- Assessment Limits for Standards Assessed in More Than One End-of-Course Test

Mathematics

Key: ■ Major Clusters; □ Supporting Clusters; ○ Additional Clusters

Ratios and Proportional Reasoning

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.

The Number System

- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.

Expressions and Equations

- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

Geometry

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area and volume.

Sample Tasks

<http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items/>

Sample Items

Try out test questions on the technology platform that students will use when taking the computer-based PARCC tests. Engage with the different types of items (drag-and-drop, multiple select, etc.) and computer based tools (calculator, highlighter, etc.) that will be available. Sample Items will not be scored.

The PARCC ELA/Literacy summative assessments will include one prose constructed response (PCR) item for each of the tasks that appear on the performance-based assessment component of the PARCC summative assessments. PARCC draft generic rubrics are available to score the three PCRs for Grade 3, Grades 4-5, and Grades 6-11.

[Click here for more information on rubrics.](#)

[Click here for PDF versions of the sample items.](#)

Wait! Before you start, does your computer, laptop, or tablet have what it takes? The PARCC assessment works with many devices and browsers, but not all. Find out the [technology guidelines here](#).

Grades 3 - 5 Item Sets

[Grade 3-5 ELA Item Set >](#)

[Grade 3 - Generic Rubrics >](#)

While the availability of some passages is limited temporarily due to pending permissions, PARCC is continuing to present all sample items to support users in better understanding item types and functionalities.

[Grade 3-5 Math Item Set >](#)

[Grades 4-5 - Generic Rubrics >](#)

[Practice with the Equation Editor >](#)

The sample tasks includes a description of each of the types of tasks and links to tasks from 3rd grade- High School. Each task includes a full annotation that explains the standards and evidence statements addressed in each task as well as an explanation of how it could fit in to the full PARCC Assessment System.

SystemCheck

Choose a customer and Click Start to perform a series of system checks to confirm that this system is configured correctly.

Customers:

[Start](#)

System Check

The SystemCheck Tool allows customers to validate that their testing workstations meet the minimum requirements needed to run TestNav for the Field Test and evaluate bandwidth capacity for Internet and Proctor Caching connections.

<http://systemcheck.parcc.testnav.com/>

Tutorial

We recommend starting with the tutorial.

Sample Tasks on Platform

Sample Items are grade band practice assessments composed of sample tasks from ELA and Math but shown on the Testnav Platform.

Practice Tests

<http://parcc.pearson.com/>

Take grade-level Math or ELA Practice tests on the TestNav Platform.

The screenshot shows the PARCC website home page. The navigation bar includes Home, PearsonAccess, Technology Setup, Manuals & Training, Test Preparation, Bulletins, and Support. The main content area features a 'Home' section with a welcome message and a list of services: PearsonAccess, Technology Setup, Manuals & Training, Test Preparation, Bulletins, and Support. Each service has a 'View' button. A circular image of students is on the right side of the page.

PARCC Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

[Home](#) [PearsonAccess](#) [Technology Setup](#) [Manuals & Training](#) [Test Preparation](#) [Bulletins](#) [Support](#)

Home

The **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)** is a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers.

These high quality K-12 assessments in Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy give teachers, schools, students, and parents better information whether students are on track in their learning and for success after high school, and tools to help teachers customize learning to meet student needs.

PearsonAccess^{next}

PearsonAccess serves as the entry point to all Pearson services used by school districts participating in the PARCC consortium.

[View PearsonAccess^{next} >](#)

Technology Setup

Prepare your system for the computer-based PARCC assessment. Access System Check, Proctor Caching information, technical user guides and TestNav.

[View Technology Setup >](#)

Manuals & Training

Manuals and training modules are used by Test Coordinators and Administrators to plan and administer the PARCC test.

[View Manuals & Training >](#)

Test Preparation

Users can access sample items, a TestNav 8 tutorial, and practice tests to prepare for the PARCC tests.

[View Test Preparation >](#)

Bulletins

News for Test Coordinators, Test Administrators, districts and schools.

[View Bulletins >](#)

Support

Assistance is available via e-mail, phone, and frequently asked questions.

[View Support >](#)

Technology Guidance Documents

<http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/administration/technology>

Technology

SUPPORTS FOR ASSESSMENTS AND CLASSROOMS

More than 75% of our 2014-15 summative assessments used computer-based technology. We provided member states and participating districts and schools with multiple supports. And our efforts here set the stage for expanded use of technology in the classroom through our diagnostics and other instructional tools.

Technology Guidelines

Technology Guidelines for PARCC Assessments: Version 4.4 provides minimum and recommended specifications for computer hardware, input devices, and security requirements; and suggests recommended levels of bandwidth that will support schools instructional and assessment needs. Schools, districts, and states used these guidelines to determine the eligibility of existing computers as test-taking devices for the 2014-2015 PARCC summative assessments.

Download the guidelines:

- [Technology Guidelines for PARCC Assessments: Version 4.4 \(January 2015\)](#)

School Readiness Planning

In February 2014, PARCC released an updated version of the PARCC Capacity Planning Tool as part of the first phase of [assessment administration guidance](#) in preparation for the 2014-2015 operational assessment. This tool is designed to assist district and school leaders in identifying gaps in assessment administration capacity, including computer-based test taking devices and bandwidth, and exploring possible scenarios for addressing those gaps. Printable PDF versions are provided below for review purposes.

Download our school readiness planning tools today:

- [User's Guide for PARCC Assessment Administration Capacity Planning Tool](#)
- [Small Elementary Example - Print Version](#)
- [Capacity Planning Tool - Print Version](#)
- [Capacity Planning Tool - Interactive Version \(Excel\)](#)
- [Large High School Example - Print Version](#)

Math Reference Sheets

Assessment Reference Sheet		
Grade 5		
1 mile = 5,280 feet 1 mile = 1,760 yards	1 pound = 16 ounces 1 ton = 2,000 pounds	1 cup = 8 fluid ounces 1 pint = 2 cups 1 quart = 2 pints 1 gallon = 4 quarts 1 liter = 1,000 cubic centimeters
Right Rectangular Prism	$V = Bh$ or $V = lwh$	
Grade 6		
1 inch = 2.54 centimeters 1 meter = 39.37 inches 1 mile = 5,280 feet 1 mile = 1,760 yards 1 mile = 1,609 kilometers	1 kilometer = 0.62 mile 1 pound = 16 ounces 1 pound = 0.454 kilograms 1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds 1 ton = 2,000 pounds	1 cup = 8 fluid ounces 1 pint = 2 cups 1 quart = 2 pints 1 gallon = 4 quarts 1 gallon = 3.785 liters 1 liter = 0.264 gallons 1 liter = 1,000 cubic centimeters
Triangle	$A = \frac{1}{2}bh$	
Right Rectangular Prism	$V = Bh$ or $V = lwh$	

Mathematics Guidance and Policies

[Calculator policy. \(Adopted July 2012, updated October 2014\)](#)

[Mathematics tools policy. \(Updated November 2014\)](#)

[Assessment reference sheet. \(Mathematics reference sheet provided to students taking PARCC Mathematics assessments in grades 5-8.\)](#)

[High school reference sheet. \(Mathematics reference sheet provided to students taking PARCC](#)

