

December 2014

COUNTDOWN TO PARCC

FOR ADMINISTRATORS

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ENGLISH LEARNERS

Implementation of PARCC and computer-based testing (CBT) requires special attention to tools available to all students, accommodations for students with disabilities, and accommodations for English learners. Consistent with past standardized test administration, all students are eligible for administrative considerations consistent with best practice. These include:

- Small group testing
- Frequent breaks
- Testing during certain time of day
- Separate or alternate location
- Specified area or seating
- Specialized equipment or furniture

The online platform, *TestNav*, offers numerous tools for assisting students as they complete the PARCC assessments. These tools are divided into four distinguishing levels:

1. **Accessibility Features for All Students.** Accessibility Features are tools or preferences built into the *TestNav* platform or offered to students by Test Administrators (TAs). All students can automatically access and use these tools. **Accessibility features for all students include:**

- Audio Amplification
- Blank Scratch Paper
- Eliminate Answer Choices
- Flag Items for Review
- General Directions Clarified
- Highlight Tool
- Headphones
- Line Reader Tool
- Magnification
- NotePad Application
- Pop-up Glossary (for some sessions)
- Redirect Student to Test
- External Spell Check Device
- Writing Tools

2. **Accessibility Features Identified in Advance.** This set of Accessibility Features is available to individual students on the online platform if the Test Coordinator activates the tools. Teachers and support staff should work together to identify the students who may benefit from these features. ***Please note that students must use these tools or similar equivalents in class before using them on assessments.*** To make the tools available, the Test Coordinator must update student profiles in PearsonAccess Next (PAN) and the Personal Needs Profile (PNP). **Accessibility features identified in advance include:**

- Answer Masking
- Color Contrast
- Text-to-Speech for Math
- Human Reader or Signer for Math



3. **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (SWDs)**. This set of tools is only available to students who have the testing accommodations specifically identified in Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans. Accommodations are intended to remove a barrier to provide students with equitable access to the assessment. While accommodations should mitigate the effects of a disability, they should not reduce rigor or performance expectations, change the scope or construct being assessed, or compromise the validity of the assessment. ***Accommodations should be based on students' individual needs and must be offered to the student in daily instruction.*** While most accommodations are available online in the *TestNav* platform, those marked with an * are only available in paper format. When available, use of computer-based accommodations is highly recommended. **Accommodations for SWDs include:**

- Assistive Technology for Test Presentation or Student Response
- Screen Reader for Math
- Braille Display/Screen Reader for ELA
- Braille Paper Test*
- Tactile Graphics
- Large Print Paper Test*
- Closed-Captioning of Multimedia on ELA
- Text-to-Speech for ELA
- Screen Reader for ELA
- ASL Video for ELA
- Human Reader or Signer for ELA
- ASL Video for Math
- Human Signer for Directions
- Student Read Aloud to Self
- Braille Note-taker
- Braille Writer
- Calculation Device and Math Tools on Calculator Math Sessions
- Calculation Device and Math Tools on Non-Calculator Math Sessions
- Speech-to-Text
- Human Scribe
- Human Signer
- Word Prediction External Device
- Extended Administration Time

4. **Accommodations for English Learners (ELs)**. Students who receive Accommodations for English Learners must be current EL status as identified on the W-APT assessment or the student's most recent *ACCESS for ELLs* scores. Accommodations for these students should be determined by educators familiar with the students' learning and language needs. ELs with disabilities may receive a combination of accommodations for SWDs and ELs. **Accommodations for ELs include:**

- Word-to-Word Dictionary
- Speech-to-Text for Math
- Human Scribe for Math
- Directions Read Aloud in Native Language
- Directions Clarified in Native Language
- Spanish Translation of Math
- Text-to-Speech of Math in Spanish
- Human Reader in Spanish
- Extended Administration Time

For additional information, read the *PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual* here: <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual>. Pay particular attention to ***Section 4: Decision-Making Process for Selecting, Using, and Evaluating Accessibility Features and Accommodations for Students with Disabilities, English Learners, and English Learners with Disabilities*** and the appendices for specific accommodations.

Additionally, the PED is offering two webinars on PARCC accommodations and the PNP. These webinars are identical and are available to all interested and applicable administrators and teachers.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 3:00–4:00PM: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7951515622851100674>

Friday, Dec. 19, 3:00–4:00PM: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6240786580706393089>