Countdown to PARCC
For Teachers

PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations

The PARCC online testing platform, *TestNav*, offers numerous tools for supporting students on the PARCC assessments. In addition to accommodations for students with disabilities and English learners, PARCC offers a number of tools to help ALL students have equal access to the assessment. Many of these tools and administrative practices must be identified in advance so the Test Coordinator may include them in scheduling and set-up of the testing platform. **In December, identify which students would benefit from the following:**

1. *Administrative Practices*. The Test Coordinator must know which students should be offered these considerations to support effective scheduling:

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

2. *Accessibility Features Available to All Students*. These features will be available in the *TestNav* platform for all students to use during the PARCC assessments and will be available on the practice tests in mid-January. In the meantime, students should practice using these tools in the classroom.

   - 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

3. <u>*Accessibility Features Identified in Advance*</u>. 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.

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

Students with disabilities and English learners are allowed additional accommodations. An explanation of all tools can be found in the *PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual*: http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual.

December 2014

Success on the PARCC assessments will result from high-level Common Core-aligned instruction. The ideas below will assist teachers with student preparation for the PARCC ELA and Math assessments.

TIPS FOR CCSS LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION

The **PARCC ELA Model Content Frameworks** serve as a bridge between the standards and curricula by clarifying *areas of emphasis in each grade* and *changes from one grade level to the next*. The Model Content Framework for each grade level (grades 3-11) is divided into four sections, which capture the key emphases within the standards for reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language (including vocabulary). **In December**, review the Model Content Frameworks to gain an understanding of their connection to ELA instruction.
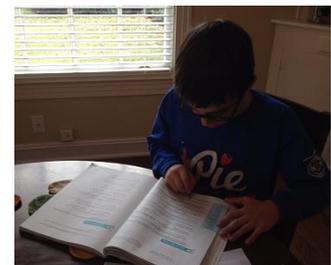
- Section 1: Narrative Summary of the ELA Standards
- Section 2: The Model Content Framework Chart
- Section 3: Key Terms and Concepts for the Model Content Framework Chart
- Section 4: Writing and Speaking and Listening Standards Progressions Charts

For detailed information, visit the interactive **PARCC Overview of the Model Content Frameworks for ELA Literacy tool** at http://parcconline.org/mcf/ela/parcc-model-content-frameworks-browser.

TIPS FOR CCSS MATH INSTRUCTION

CCSS in mathematics focuses on a connection of content to math practices. **In December**, use rich mathematical tasks in class that promote Mathematical Practice 3 (MP3): construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. **Encourage students to think constructively by using the following sentence frames:**

- I made a conjecture when I…
- I justified my conclusion by…
- I constructed a viable argument when…
- I made sense of another's argument when I …
- A question I asked to clarify my own or someone else's thinking was…

Available resources for rich mathematical tasks to use in the classroom:
- Your textbook: Find the rich math tasks in your textbook and use those tasks as the central part of the lesson.

- Web Resources designed to support CCSS Math Practices:
    - Illustrative Mathematics https://www.illustrativemathematics.org/
    - Illuminations https://illuminations.nctm.org
    - Inside Mathematics http://www.insidemathematics.org/
    - You Cubed http://www.youcubed.org/
    - Mathematics Assessment Project http://map.mathshell.org/

For additional instructional support and activities with practice problems aligned to the Common Core math practices, see http://mc2.nmsu.edu.