



Partnership for Assessment of  
Readiness for College and Careers

January 2015

## *COUNTDOWN TO PARCC* FOR TEACHERS

### PARCC ADMINISTRATION GUIDANCE

In addition to effective teaching aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), teachers should be familiar with some aspects of the PARCC assessments. Teachers can use classroom assessments already in use to help students prepare for the following aspects of PARCC administration:

- PARCC is administered in two separate administration windows: Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and End of Year (EOY). All students will participate in both the PBA and EOY. The state PBA window is 3/2 – 3/27 and includes extended response questions. The state EOY window is 4/13 – 5/8 and includes multiple-choice and other computer-scored items. While PARCC is administered during these two windows, a student’s summative score is based on their performance on both the PBA and EOY.
- PARCC is a computer-based test with technologically innovative item types. To be successful on the online test, students who will be taking the assessment online should practice:
  - Keyboarding and computer-navigation skills
  - New item types including drag-and-drop, multiple-choice questions with more than one correct answer, math problems with the equation editor, and others. Students can watch the tutorials to become familiar with the new test items and general test structure: <http://parcc.pearson.com/tutorial>.
- TestNav, the PARCC platform, has many embedded tools that students can practice using before they take the assessments. Practice opportunities exist on the sample items (<http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items>) and practice tests (<http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests>), which students can access online.
- PARCC assessments are timed. Students must be able to pace themselves as they complete the test. Unlike the SBA, PARCC essays do not have separate sessions for planning or writing rough drafts. PARCC test times for each unit are listed here: <http://parconline.org/update-session-times>.
- Students may use scratch paper on all test sessions.
- Specifics about PARCC math administration:
  - Unit 1 of PBA and EOY have calculator and non-calculator sections for grades 6 through high school.
  - For the calculator sections of the PARCC tests, TestNav includes an online calculator. Students may also use hand-held calculators that adhere to the specifications in the PARCC Calculator Policy (<http://www.parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC%20Calculator%20Policy%20-%20Updated%2010-22-14.pdf>).
- Specifics about PARCC ELA administration:
  - To ensure that students finish their constructed response items within the allotted test time, students must have experience compositing (not just copying) answers on the computer.
  - Some interactive ELA items include video/audio resources that require headphones for all students.
  - Familiarize students with the PARCC rubrics for ELA short answer and essay items. Grade classroom assessments with these rubrics: <http://parconline.org/samples/english-language-artsliteracy/ideas-use-rubrics>.



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**TIPS FOR CCSS LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION**

The PARCC Summative Assessments in grades 3 – 11 will measure writing using three **prose constructed response (PCR) items**. In the classroom, writing can take many forms, including both informal and formal. Since each PCR is designed to measure both written expression and knowledge of language and conventions, the audience and form for each PCR will necessitate that students use a formal register. In addition, PARCC seeks to create items that elicit writing that is authentic for the students to be assessed using evidence from the text.

PARCC has provided a sample of the forms which may be elicited from students in response to PARCC Summative Assessment PCRs. This list is not designed to be exhaustive either for the PARCC assessments or the classroom. The list is provided to demonstrate the wealth of forms for writing that may be used to elicit authentic student writing on the PARCC assessment. **In January, review the writing forms list to gain an understanding of types of authentic writing forms.**

For detailed information, visit <http://parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCSampleofWritingForms.pdf> to access **Writing Forms for PCR Items**.

**TIPS FOR CCSS MATH INSTRUCTION**

The PARCC Assessments have three types of mathematics task types. **In January familiarize yourself with the task types, model task types with students, and integrate content into daily practice.** Note that task types II and III are stressed in the March PBA.

TASK TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MATH PRACTICE	SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT
I	Conceptual understanding, fluency, and application Involving major content as well as supporting content	Can involve any or all mathematical practice standards	EOY and PBA
II	Written arguments/justification, critiques of reasoning, or precision in mathematical statements	Primarily MP.3 and MP.6, but may also involve any of the other practices	PBA Only
III	Modeling/application in a real-world context or scenario	Primarily MP.4 but may also involve any of the other practices	PBA Only

For additional information about the mathematics summative assessment structure, visit <http://parconline.org/mathematics-test-documents>. For classroom friendly posters on the mathematical practices, visit <http://commoncore.fcoe.org/resource/eight-standards-mathematical-practice>.