



Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers

October 2014

COUNTDOWN TO PARCC FOR FAMILIES

WHAT ARE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS)?

CCSS are high-quality standards developed by national experts that identify what students need to know in language arts and math at each grade level. New Mexico adopted CCSS in 2010 and, as of 2014, the standards are taught in all schools in the state. CCSS:

- Help students gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college and careers
- Make our students globally competitive
- Clarify what is expected of students
- Can be seen at <http://newmexicocommoncore.org>

WHAT IS PARCC?

PARCC stands for *Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career*. It is a series of assessments in language arts and math that are aligned to CCSS and given in computer-based test (CBT) format. PARCC:

- Is given once in March and once in April/May for students in grades 3–11
- Has interactive, real-world questions
- Includes short answer, essay, and multiple-choice questions
- Will provide detailed reports showing teachers and families what students know and are able to do in language arts and math



HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR KIDS PREPARE?

Get your kids on the computer! They should be able to:

- Type! Use online keyboarding games to help kids learn typing skills
- Type responses to questions without writing them first
- Select, drag, and drop objects and text
- Highlight text
- Use the mouse to scroll up and down on a page
- Use a calculator and an equation builder on the computer

All of these skills can be practiced by spending time using basic computer programs. If you do not have a computer at home, you may use a public computer at your school or local library.