



High-Level PARCC Overview

November 2014



What is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

- PARCC is a consortium made up of 13 states
- The consortium works together to develop **common, high-quality Math and English language arts (ELA) assessments** for grades 3–11
- The PARCC assessment is **computer-based** and linked to what students need to know **for college and careers**

www.parcconline.org



Purpose of the PARCC Assessment

1. Determines whether students are on track to be college and career ready
2. Measures how well we implement the Common Core State Standards
3. Measures student performance consistently, not just across the district, but across participating states as well
4. Provides educators data throughout the year to inform instruction
5. Exposes students to an innovative, “21st century”, technology-based assessment which prepares them for college and career



How will PARCC be different for students?

- Tests will mirror high-quality coursework and the updated Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks (which is aligned to the Common Core)
- Is computer-based, interactive, and engaging¹
- Measures the skills and knowledge students need to succeed in college and careers
- Tests will assess **higher order of thinking**, not just rote memorization
- Tests will force students to think **deeply and critically** on each question, make inferences, and to articulate their answers through evidence of understanding
- Includes embedded support for English language learners and students with disabilities

¹ Schools have the option of a paper/pencil option for the 2014-2015 school year

How will PARCC be different for schools?

- Computer-based testing will be more **efficient** than pencil-and-paper tests and will provide **timely** data to teachers and parents
- Tests will assess **higher order of thinking**, not just rote memorization; thus, a new approach is required for instruction and learning.
- Tests will force students to think **deeply and critically** on each question, make inferences, and to articulate their answers through evidence of understanding.
 - Instruction will require methods to evaluate these new skill requirements



High-Level Overview of Test Structure

- PARCC is a computer-based test with a paper/pencil option for districts. It includes **2 parts in English/language arts and 2 parts in math**.
- The first part (Performance Based Assessment – PBA) focuses on writing and analytical skills, and is primarily hand-scored by people.
- The second part (End of Year Assessment – EOY), which is computer-scored, targets reading and math comprehension.
- Combined, the 2 parts provide an important assessment of your child’s knowledge, skills, and ability to think critically.



Detailed Test Structure and Schedule

ELA		Math	
PBA	EOY	PBA	EOY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ELA PBA includes a literature analysis, research, and narrative session. For each task, students will be asked to read one or more texts, answer several short comprehension and vocabulary questions, and write an essay that requires them to draw evidence from the text(s). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ELA/Literacy EOY involves reading 4-5 texts, both literary and informational, and answering a number of short-answer comprehension and vocabulary questions associated with each text. The EOY will focus on only two areas: reading comprehension and vocabulary. The EOY does not include a writing prompt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Math PBA will ask students to solve problems involving the key 3 knowledge and skills for their grade level, as identified by the Common Core State Standards. In addition, students must express mathematical reasoning, construct a mathematical argument, and apply concepts to solve real-world problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Math EOYs will be comprised primarily of short-answer questions focused on conceptual knowledge, skills, and understandings.

As of September 2014: The tentative schedule is as follows:

- PBA (computer) March 16-April 10 | PBA (paper) March 23-April 3
- EOY (computer) May 4-29 | EOY (paper) May 11-22

Note: Schools have the discretion of when to administer PARCC within the above time frame

Source: [MA DESE](#)