

PARCC



Posen-Robbins
School District 143 ^{1/2}

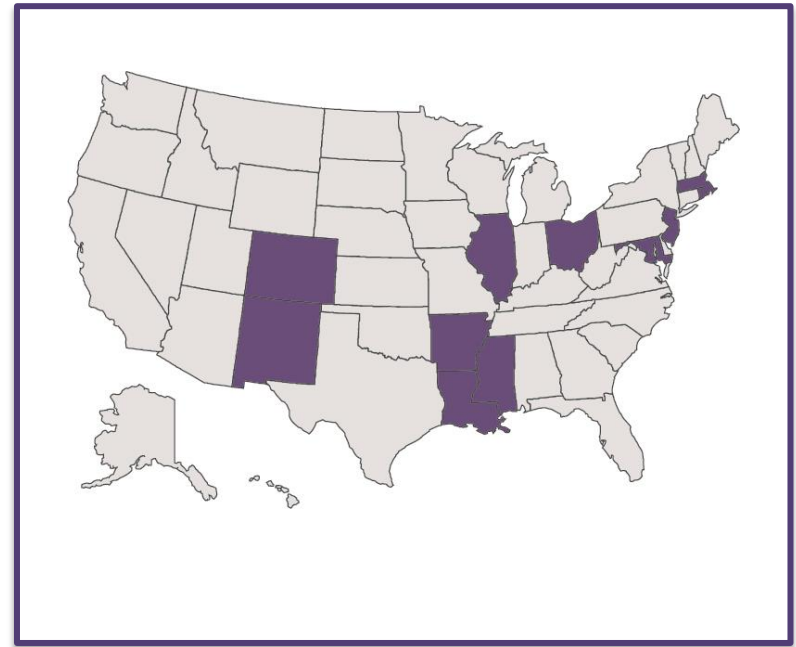


It's Time for a Walk in the PARCC Parent Informational

March 22, 2017 * 5:00 p.m.

What is PARCC?

- **P**artnership for **A**ssessment of **R**eadiness for **C**ollege and **C**areers (PARCC) is a group of 12 states and the District of Columbia that have worked together with thousands of teachers and education experts to develop a modern set of learning tools that assess and measure what a student knows and can do.
- Since 2010 states have adopted new, higher academic standards and teachers have begun teaching them in their daily instruction.
- Honest, fair and transparent assessments were needed to align with the new standards and allow teachers and parents to open the door to student success.
- These carefully prepared tests are engaging for students and effectively measure achievement across all levels.
- The tests tell teachers, students and parents whether a student is on track for the next steps in their education and mark students' progress from third grade up.



What makes PARCC different?

It tests critical thinking, rather than rote memorization. The test goes well beyond the traditional bubble tests by measuring critical thinking and problem solving skills that are very important in college and the workforce.



Other tests	PARCC assessments
Primarily use multiple-choice format that emphasizes memorization, “test prep” and guessing.	Allow students to submit answers and detailed responses, eliminating guesswork and allowing students to show their thinking and knowledge.
Test students’ rote learning.	Assess students’ abilities to read carefully, communicate clearly and problem solve.
Offer basic, one-step problems.	Present challenging, multi-tiered problems.
Are too vague to offer detailed insight to gauge students’ readiness for the next step toward success.	Provide students, parents and educators detailed information so they can understand how students are progressing, where they need assistance and where they can be encouraged to do more.

Sample Questions

To take a practice PARCC test, go to <http://www.parcconline.org/take-the-test>




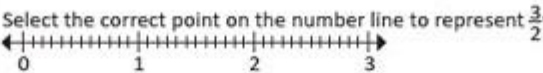
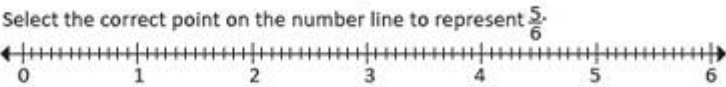
English Language Arts/Literacy, Grade 5

One example is from an old state test, the other is a new PARCC item.

 OLD TEST ITEM	 PARCC TEST ITEM
<p>Which two words are synonyms for heap?</p> <p>A. pile B. row C. corner D. mound E. pattern</p>	<p>PART A What is the meaning of the word dictate as it is used in paragraph 23?</p> <p>a. Hint b. Fix c. Understand d. Decide</p> <p>PART B Which phrase helps the reader understand the meaning of dictate?</p> <p>a. "...recreate the tree house..." b. "...determine the shape..." c. "...is less expensive to build..." d. "...has all the time in the world..."</p>
WHAT'S DIFFERENT?	
<p>Students must memorize vocabulary words without context.</p>	<p>At first, this may look like the multiple choice questions of the past. But note that in Part A students have the advantage of the reading passage to gather meaning and, in Part B, students are asked to support their response with evidence from the text. PARCC focuses attention on vocabulary, particularly academic language, which is emphasized in the standards.</p>

Sample Questions

Math Grade 4

 OLD TEST ITEM	 PARCC TEST ITEM
<p>Justine is using the stickers below to decorate a picture frame.</p>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What fraction of Justine's stickers are hearts? Which of the number in your fraction represents the whole set of stickers? 2. Draw and label a number line and mark an X on the number line to show the location of the fraction of Justine's stickers that are ladybugs. <p>BE SURE TO LABEL YOUR RESPONSES 1 AND 2.</p>	<p>Ava and Mia are comparing the fractions $\frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{5}{6}$.</p> <p>PART A: Ava created this number line to graph $\frac{3}{2}$.</p> <p>Select the correct point on the number line to represent $\frac{3}{2}$.</p>  <p>Mia created this number line to graph $\frac{5}{6}$.</p> <p>Select the correct point on the number line to represent $\frac{5}{6}$.</p>  <p>PART B: Is $\frac{3}{2}$ greater than or less than $\frac{5}{6}$? Explain how you know.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 80px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>PART C: Write a fraction that is between $\frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{5}{6}$. <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>Explain how you know your fraction is between $\frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{5}{6}$.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; width: 100%;"></div>
WHAT'S DIFFERENT?	
<p>Notice the focus on procedure only (counting in this case). You can also see that it's a simple, static item. In other words, students aren't engaging with the material.</p>	<p>The PARCC Item is in several parts. Part A asks students to demonstrate they know that a fraction is a number, rather than just a ratio (like heart stickers to total number of stickers), which puts the focus on understanding the concept. Students will interact with the problem by placing fractions on the number line, an example of using technology to enhance the question.</p> <p>In Part B, students are asked to make sense of the fractions as numbers by comparing them — taking a step beyond just putting them on the number line.</p> <p>In Part C, students apply their understanding by creating a fraction that is between $\frac{3}{2}$ and $\frac{5}{6}$. You can see that the tasks build upon one another and ask students to do more than just procedures. They have to demonstrate understanding and apply and explain their knowledge.</p>

Time spent testing

- Students in grades 3rd – 8th will engage in the tests March 27-April 13th in their schools.
- Most students will spend about **four** hours each on the mathematics and English language arts/literacy portions of the test.
- Those will be broken down into smaller units that will take about 40 to 60 minutes, though schools will schedule up to 90 minutes for each unit to make sure that all students have the time they need. All students will take the PARCC assessments on a COMPUTER.
- Students with disabilities may have more time, as is called for in their Individualized Education Plan.

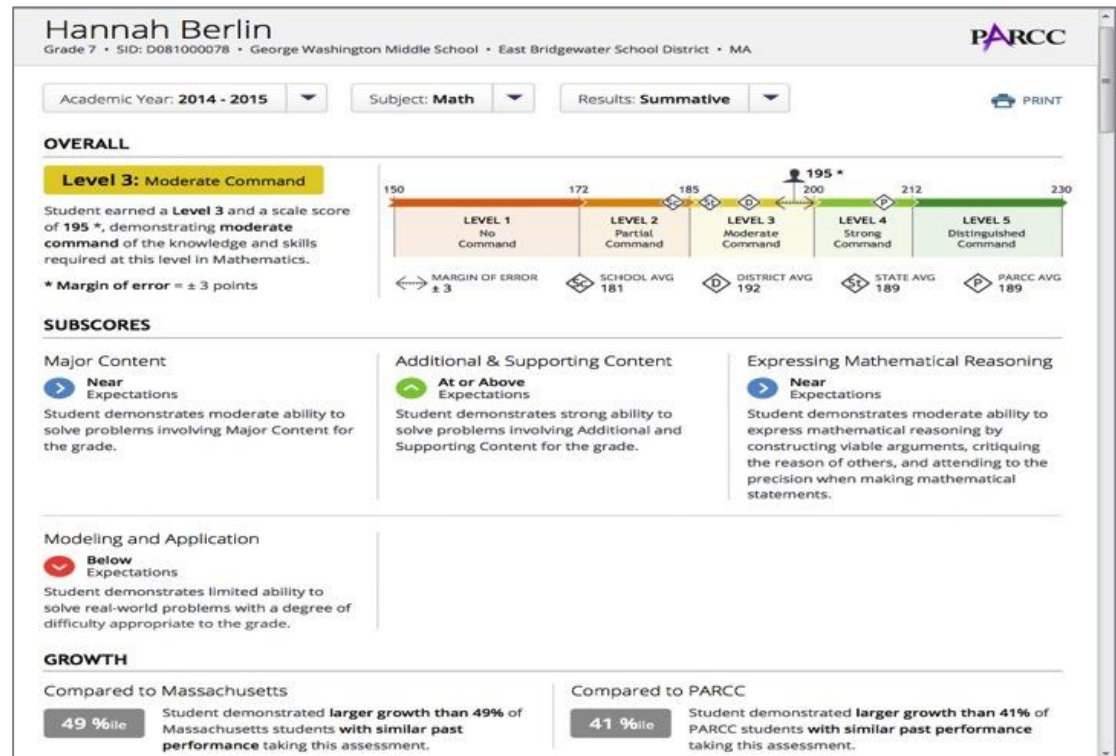
Average time waiting
in the lunch line:



39
hours/year

Parent Score Report

- PARCC state leaders and educators have designed a detailed and clear student assessment report on how your student is progressing and where he or she needs assistance.
- Parents will receive a PARCC score report (similar to the one on the right) as soon as they are returned to the district from the State.



How You Can Support your Child

- Read a combination of **fiction** and **non-fiction** aloud or with your child. Look for subjects of interest – from sports heroes to dinosaurs.
- Discuss and “do” **real life math** with your child. Help him/her know basic math facts.
- Discuss the PARCC tests with your child. Make sure he/she is not scared or anxious going into the tests.
- Explain to your child that the tests will be more challenging. However, tell your child to do his/her best on the test and that you are there to help every step of the way. Also, encourage them to ask the teacher if they need assistance.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep and a nutritious breakfast before a test and everyday, for that matter. 😊
- Above all, be positive and encouraging about the tests. Say our daily affirmation: “ **KNOCK IT OUT THE PARCC** /park/”!!!



Additional Parent Resources

- PARCC offers information about the assessments including fact sheets, a glossary and sample test questions.
 - <http://parconline.org/for-parents>
- National Parent Teacher Association offers grade-by-grade parent guides for student success. Available in English and Spanish.
 - www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583
- Great Schools offers Milestones, a free online collection of videos aimed at helping parents understand grade-level expectations in grades K-5.
 - <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/milestones/>
- America Achieves – Raise the Bar offers free parent resources to help children succeed in school. Must sign up.
 - <http://raisethebarparents.org/raise-the-bar-for-your-child>

Contact Information

- For more information about the PARCC assessments (**grades 3rd - 8th only**), contact your child's building Principal:

Bernice Childs Elementary School
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