



NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS



In 2010, New Jersey joined 40+ other states in adopting the Common Core Standards.

These standards provide clear expectations for what students need to know and be able to do in each grade in order to graduate high school ready for college and careers. They also help develop critical thinking skills and the ability to solve real-world problems rather than just memorizing facts.

Developed with an eye toward academic standards from the highest performing countries, Common Core Standards ensure that our students are equipped to thrive in the new global workforce.

PARCC Computer-Based Test

Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)

March 2nd - 27th (Grades 3-11)

End of Year (EOY)

April 27th - May 22nd (Grades 3-8)

April 20th - May 15th (High School)

Three Things to Know About PARCC

1. PARCC is a group of states working together to build the most advanced tool we've ever had to measure student performance. New Jersey representatives actively participate in the design, field testing, and implementation of the new assessments.
2. The field test last spring was successful and provided lessons for the first full administration in spring 2015. More than 1 million students in 14 states plus Washington, D.C. took the field test in spring 2014, including students at four of our schools.
3. Teachers from New Jersey are playing a role in assessment development. In addition to New Jersey Department of Education officials, teachers have also been involved in designing and reviewing assessment items.

What's Different About PARCC?

- The computer-based PARCC assessments will replace NJ ASK & HSPA and measure how your child is performing on the new standards. They reflect new trends in how we teach and evaluate performance.
- The single greatest predictor of college success is a student's ability to read challenging texts and understand them – this is at the heart of the new standards for reading.
- Other countries that do better in math ask kids to learn fewer topics in math, but learn them really well – this is at the heart of the new math standards.
- PARCC assessments measure the Common Core Standards & allows comparisons across states: Designed to check whether your child is on track for success in college or a career and ensure all students across the nation are well-prepared for success beyond high school regardless of where they live.

Are NPS Students Ready for PARCC?

The new standards and accompanying tests require a lot more from students. It's important for families to know that Newark has been preparing your child for this transition since New Jersey adopted the standards in 2010.

- **TRAINED TEACHERS:** For 4 years, all literacy, math, social studies, and technology teachers have had many professional development opportunities to adjust instruction to the new standards.
- **USEFUL DATA ON STUDENT MASTERY OF THE COMMON CORE:** For 4 years, NPS students have been taking Common Core-aligned 'no stakes' assessments to give teachers regular feedback about students' progress towards mastery of the standards.
- **NEW CURRICULUM RESOURCES:** NPS provided Common Core-aligned curriculum resources in literacy and math, and supplements in Science and Social Studies to allow them to shift instruction.
- **NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR STUDENTS:** NPS has purchased new computers for students to use in the classroom to enhance their learning and ready them for online testing.

How Will the PARCC Assessments Affect NPS ELL Students?

All ELL students will receive extended time on the exam and will receive a word-to-word dictionary (English-native language). The state of New Jersey will determine the accommodations and exemptions for ELL students. In addition, the following students are exempt from the test or will get additional accommodations.

Exemptions include:

- 3rd to 8th grade ELL students who entered the US on or after July 1, 2014 are exempt from the English Language Arts section of PARCC. High School ELL students must take the PARCC exam regardless of when they arrived in the US.
- ELL students who entered the US on or after July 1, 2013 will be permitted to take the math section of the PARCC assessments in Spanish.*

****Please note at this point alternate versions of the exam are only available in Spanish. Those whose native language is other than Spanish must take the test in English.***

How Will the PARCC Assessments Affect NPS Special Needs Students?

PARCC assessments are administered to all students, except for students with the most severe disabilities. To ensure that the assessments enable students to demonstrate what they know, students with special needs will have accommodations as necessary when taking the tests. Accommodations will be provided in accordance with students' Individualized Education Program (IEPs) and 504 plans. To get specific information about your child's accommodations, please reach out to the Child Study Team at your child's school.

How Can I Learn More About PARCC?

NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Key information, resources and updates from the district
<http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/parccready/>