

Demystifying PARCC: The Assessment Behind the Common Core State Standards



February 10, 2015

Agenda

- What is PARCC?
- What does the PARCC assessment look like?
- How are the Sayreville Schools preparing?
- What can parents do to prepare their children for PARCC?
- Schedule
- Can I “opt-out” my child?
- Additional Resources
- Questions?????

What is PARCC?

Partnership for
Assessment of
Readiness for
College and
Careers



- One of two common assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards
- Technology-based, 21st century assessment
- English Language Arts and Mathematics, Grades 3-11

Six Priority Purposes of PARCC

1. Determine if students are college and career ready, or on track
2. Connect to the Common Core State Standards
3. Measure the full range of student performance, including that of low- and high-achieving students
4. Provide educators with data throughout the year
5. Create innovative, technology-based assessments
6. Be affordable and sustainable

PARCC Components

Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)

- Occurs after approximately 75% of the year (March)
- ELA – focus on writing effectively when analyzing text
- Math – focus on solving multi-step problems by applying skills and conceptual knowledge

End of Year Assessments (EOY)

- Occurs after approximately 90% of year (May)
- ELA – focus on reading comprehension
- Math – focus on key content areas and demonstration of fact fluency

How is PARCC Different from NJASK?

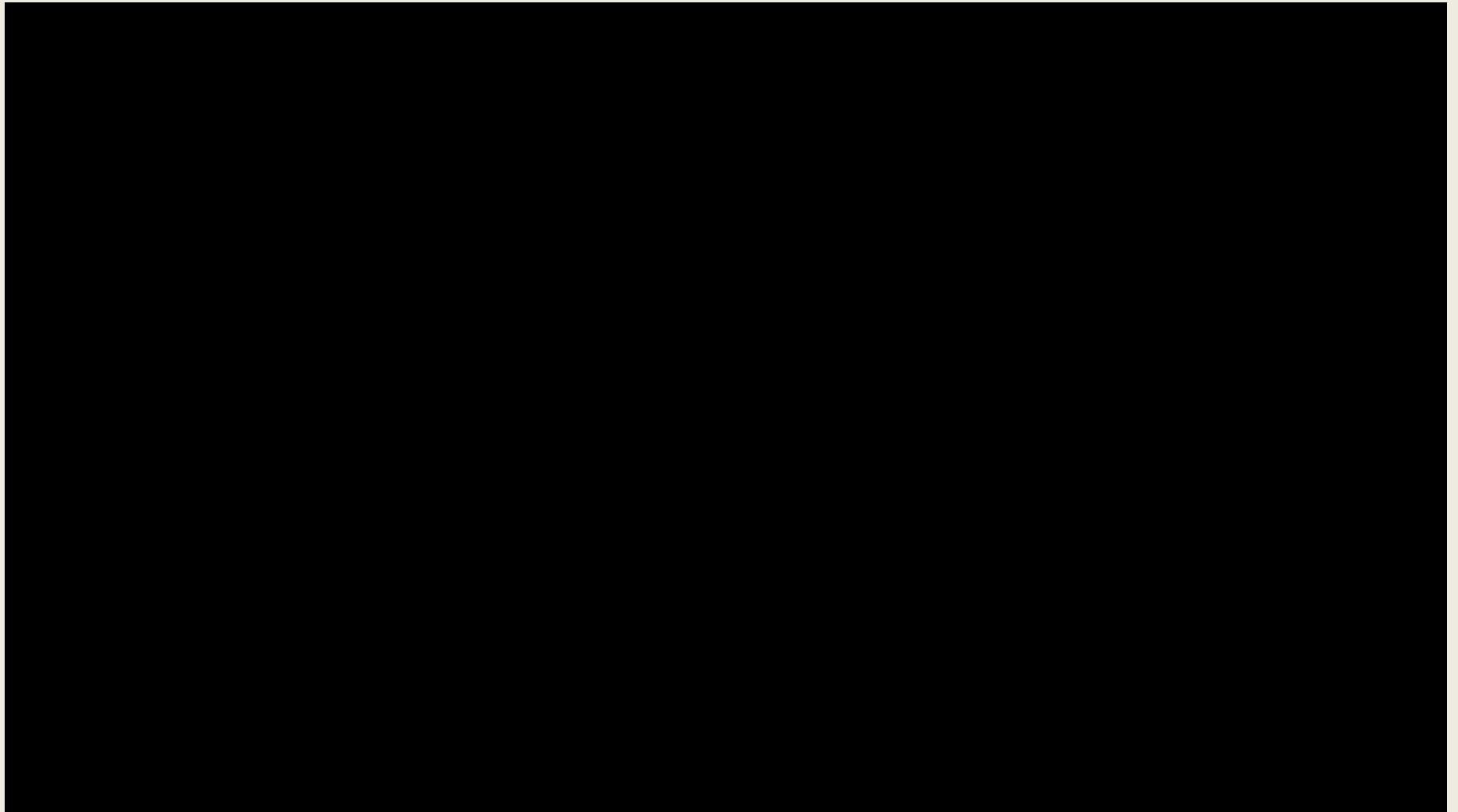
NJASK

- Paper/pencil test
- Students tested once a year
- Did not measure critical thinking skills
- Primarily a “fill in the bubble test”
- Results received after the school year ends

PARCC

- Computer-based test
- Students tested twice a year
- Faster results
- Comprehensive critical thinking and problem solving tasks
- Assess whether students are on track for college and career

Why new assessments and why now?



How is PARCC Scoring Different from NJASK?

NJASK

- 3 levels
- Scale of 100 - 300
- Basic data - cluster scores
- Received in Fall of following year
- Results received after the school year ends
- Ceiling score

PARCC

- 5 levels
- Scale of 1 - 5
- Rich data – item analysis
- Year 1 – received in Fall
- In subsequent years will be received by June
- Score beyond grade level

Scoring

- 2 Tests (PBA and EOY)
- Receive one score for ELA and one for Math

Level	Descriptor
5	Students performing at this level demonstrate a distinguished command of the knowledge, skills, and practices embodied by the CCSS at their level.
4	Strong Command
3	Moderate Command
2	Partial Command
1	Minimal Command

PARCC Results Will be Used To...

- Assist teachers in supporting students
- Inform parents and students on progress toward being “on track” for college and career readiness
- Inform schools and districts on curricula, instructional and professional development needs
- Help NJ colleges and universities determine students’ readiness for entry-level, credit bearing college courses

PARCC Results Will Not be Used To....

- Impact a student's grades
- Retain students
- Determine placement in various programs for the upcoming school year

Evidence-Based Selected Response Item

Part A

What is one main idea of “How Animals Live”?

- a. There are many types of animals on the planet.
- b. Animals need water to live.
- c. There are many ways to sort different animals. *
- d. Animals begin their life cycles in different forms.

Part B

Which sentence from the article best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “Animals get oxygen from air or water.”
- b. “Animals can be grouped by their traits.” *
- c. “Worms are invertebrates.”
- d. “All animals grow and change over time.”
- e. “Almost all animals need water, food, oxygen, and shelter to live.”

Technology-Enhanced Constructed Response Item

- Drag the words from the word box to the correct locations on the graphic to show the life cycle of a butterfly in “How Animals Live”.

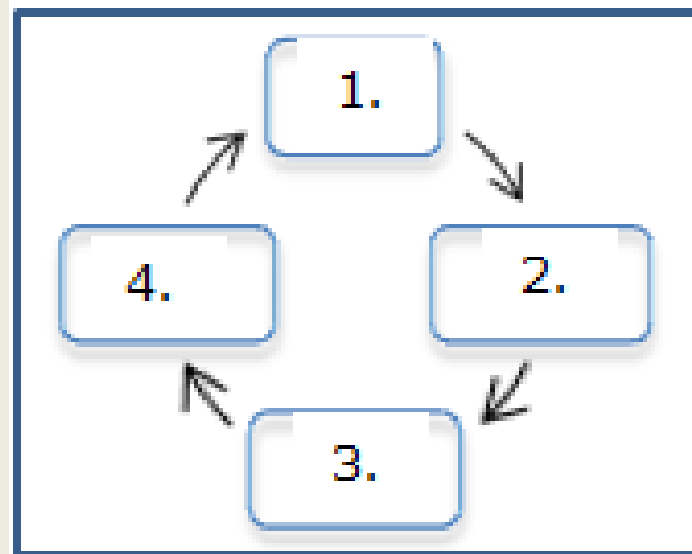
Words

pupa

egg

adult

larva



Prose Constructed Research Simulation Task

Question:

You have read two texts about famous people in American History who solved problems by working to make a change.

Write an article for your school newspaper describing how Eliza and Carver faced challenges to change something in America.

- In your article, be sure to describe in detail why some solutions they tried work and others did not.
- Tell how the challenges each one faced were the same and how they were different.

Math Question Types

Type 1: Tasks assessing concepts, skills and procedures

- A mix of conceptual understanding, fluency and application
- Machine scorable
- On PBA and EOY

Type 2: Tasks assessing mathematical reasoning

- Written arguments/justifications, critique and precision
- Mix of machine scorable and hand scored
- On PBA

Type 3: Modeling/applications

- Modeling/application in a real-world context or scenario and precision
- Mix of machine scored and hand scored.
- On PBA

Concepts, Skills, Procedures Sample

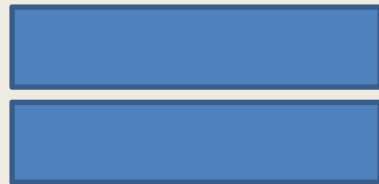
On Friday, three friends share how much they read during the week.

- Barbara read the first 100 pages from a 320 page book in the last 4 days.
- Colleen read the first 54 pages from a 260 page book in the last 3 days.
- Nancy read the first 160 page from a 480 page book in the last 5 days.

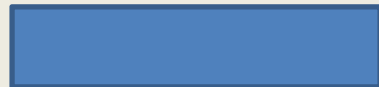
Part A

A person's average reading rate can be defined as the number of pages read divided by the number of days. Place the three friend's reading rates in order from greatest to least by clicking on the names and dragging them to the appropriate boxes.

Greatest Rate
(pages per day)



Least Rate
(Pages per day)



Colleen Barbara Nancy

Mathematical Reasoning Sample

Mr. Ruiz is starting a marching band at his school. He first does research and finds the following data about other local marching bands.

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3
Number of Brass Instrument Players	123	42	150
Number of Percussion Instrument Players	41	14	50

Part A Type your answer in the box. Backspace to erase.

Mr. Ruiz realizes that there are brass instruments per percussion player.

Part B

Mr. Ruiz has 210 students who are interested in joining the marching band. He decides to have 80% of the band made up of percussion and brass instruments. Use the unit rate you found in Part A to determine how many students should play brass instruments.

Show or explain all your steps.

Modeling/Applications Sample

Ms. Morales has a bag of beads.

- She gives Elena 5 beads.
- She gives Damian 8 more beads than Elena.
- She gives Trish 4 times as many beads as Damian.

Part A

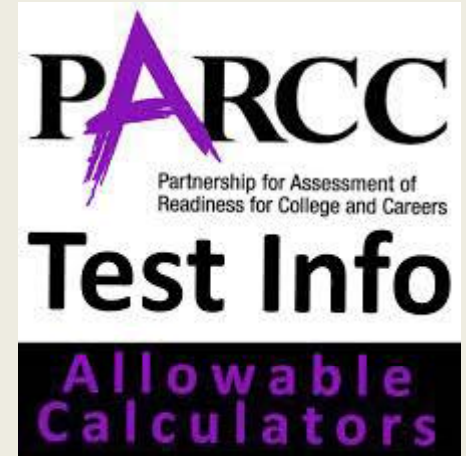
How many beads did Damian and Trish each receive? Show or explain how you arrived at each answer.

Part B

How many beads were in Ms. Morales' bag before any beads were given to students?

beads

PARCC Calculators???



- **Grades 3 – 5** - Calculators are not permitted
- **Grades 6 – 7** will allow for an online four function calculator with square root
- **Grade 8** will allow for an online scientific calculator
- **HS PARCC** mathematics assessments will allow for an online graphing calculator

PARCC Assessment Design - Math

- Math reference sheet provided (grade 5 only)
- Scrap paper & pencils allowed
- Grades 3-5 **NO CALCULATOR ALLOWED**
 - Except for students with IEP/504
 - PARCC will still have a Non-Calculator Section where no calculator is permitted regardless of classification (same as NJASK)

Tentative Schedule

High School

PBA – Week of March 16

EOY – Week of April 27

Middle School

PBA – Week of March 9

EOY – Week of May 5

Samsel

PBA– Week of March 16

EOY – Week of May 12

Elementary Schools

PBA – Week of March 2

EOY – Week of May 12

How much time will the test take?

Elementary Schools

	PBA Unit 1	PBA Unit 2	PBA Unit 3	EOY Unit 1	EOY Unit 2
Grade 3 ELA	75	75	60	75	
Grade 3 Math	75	75		75	75
Grades 4-5 ELA	75	90	60	75	
Grades 4-5 Math	80	70		75	75

How much time will the test take?

Middle School

	PBA Unit 1	PBA Unit 2	PBA Unit 3	EOY Unit 1	EOY Unit 2
Grades 6-8 ELA	75	90	60	60	60
Grades 6-8 Math	80	70		80	75
Grade 8 Algebra I	90	75		80	75

How much time will the test take?

High School

	PBA Unit 1	PBA Unit 2	PBA Unit 3	EOY Unit 1	EOY Unit 2
Grades 9-11 ELA	75	90	60	60	60
Algebra I & Geometry	90	75		80	75
Algebra II	90	75		90	75

Accessibility Features for all Students

- Using a highlighter tool to shade text on the screen
- Having test directions read aloud and repeated, as needed
- Enlarging text, pictures and diagrams
- Using spell checker
- Flagging items to review later
- Raising and lowering the volume; headphones
- Crossing out answers for multiple choice
- Blank paper (provided by test administrator)
- Pop-up glossary

Accommodations for Students

- Must be identified in advance through an IEP or 504
- Required to be use in daily classroom activities
- Include 3 categories:
 - Presentation
 - Response
 - Scheduling

Who will take the PARCC?

Students in the following classes will take the PARCC:

- Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics
- Grades 9-11 ELA
- Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry

What are we doing to prepare for PARCC?

- Aligned our curricula to the Common Core State Standards and NJCCCS where applicable.
- Using technology in the classroom, including the tools embedded in PARCC
- On-going professional development for staff
- Engaging students in relevant, real-world activities that promote critical thinking and foster collaboration
- In-district assessments aligned to CCSS and PARCC
- Video tutorials and practice tests
- Participated in field tests in 2014

What can parents do to prepare their students?

- Support your children with homework
- Expose your children to informational text and literature and assist them in making connections
- Practice fluency with math facts
- Encourage real-life problem solving in multiple ways
- Explain/Discuss the process for problem solving
- Encourage your child to justify their reasoning
- Practice typing and use other technology tools where applicable.

“Opting-Out” of PARCC

- On Oct. 30 Acting Commissioner of Education David Hespe issued a memorandum that seeks to clarify the ability of parents and students to choose to “opt-out” of the online PARCC tests.
- The memo makes clear that there is no formal procedure for such opt-outs, and that the state expects students to take the examinations. “State law and regulations require all students to take state assessments,” notes the document. “For the 2014-2015 school year, the PARCC assessment will replace the prior statewide assessments.”

- The memo also notes that since the PARCC assessment is part of the state-required educational program, schools are not required to provide an alternative education program for students who do not participate in the statewide assessment. “We encourage all chief school administrators to review the district’s discipline and attendance policies to ensure that they address situations that may arise during days that statewide assessments, such as PARCC, are being administered,” Hespe said in the statement.

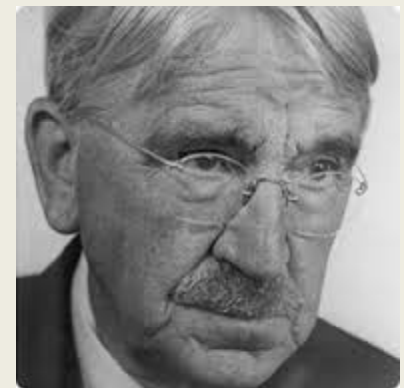
What Will Sayreville Do?

- Parents must submit a hand-signed letter to the school principal **no later than Wednesday, February 25** stating their refusal to have their child tested.
- Students will sit in their assigned testing room.
- They will be permitted to read a pre-approved book.
- If your child does not attend school during PARCC, it will count as an absence.
- If we have a letter on file and your child is absent, they will not sit for make-up testing.

The More Things Change

“If we teach today’s students as we taught yesterday’s, we rob them of tomorrow.”

John Dewey



Helpful Resources for Parents

- <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/>
- www.pta.org/4446.htm
- <http://parconline.org>
- <http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards>
- <http://www.cgcs.org/domain/36>

The 21st Century learner needs 21st century curriculum, instruction and assessment

"How we teach must reflect how our students learn, it must also reflect the world they will emerge into. This is a world that is rapidly changing, connected, adapting and evolving. Our style and approach to teaching must emphasize the learning in the 21st century."

Anonymous