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STATE ASSESSMENT UPDATE FOR 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

As we enter our third year of PARCC testing I am writing to confirm some important PARCC testing policies for the 2016-2017 school year. Under the *No Child Left Behind Act* and the new legislation *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA) public schools are accountable for all enrolled students. Therefore, Rhode Island's statewide testing policy provides that all students in tested grades/courses who are enrolled in a public school are expected participate in state assessments.¹ In addition to PARCC testing this year, the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT will be made available (although not required) for all Rhode Island public school sophomores and juniors respectively to take for free during the school day (see [FAQ document](#) for details).

As we transition to new high school graduation requirements and a new accountability model aligned with ESSA requirements, the goal is to balance the new voluntary college-readiness tests (PSAT/SAT) with test reduction in course-level testing (PARCC) while we make a long-term decision this school year for ESSA. We will be having conversations with LEAs and other stakeholders to determine if we should further amend the high school assessment program to include these new college-readiness assessments.

For PARCC testing, the required tested grades/courses are as follows:

- **Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8:** English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy *and* Mathematics assessments.
- **Grade 9:** Grade 9 ELA/Literacy assessment. *Note: The PARCC Grade 10 ELA/Literacy assessment will no longer be administered in RI.*
- **Grades 9, 10, 11:** Students must take one PARCC math test in high school. For most students, this will be the *Algebra I* test. *Note: Students who took the PARCC Algebra I test in middle school would take either PARCC Geometry or Algebra II instead, depending on course enrollment in high school.*

As [previously announced](#), all schools will be expected to administer PARCC computer-based assessments in this coming school year and beyond. PARCC paper-based assessments will only be allowed for students with documented accommodations that require assessments to be administered via paper and pencil or if a waiver is granted to a school that has not yet been able to fully implement its plan to transition to a full computer-based administration. Rhode Island will have a single PARCC testing window this year and schools will have *up to 30* school days to administer computer-based assessments.²

In general, students take the PARCC assessment(s) aligned to the *grade* or *course* in which they are enrolled. However, there are few exceptions that are outlined below.

¹ The only exceptions are: 1) students who qualify for participation in the Alternate Assessment; and 2) students who have received a state-approved special consideration for exemption from testing

² Specific testing schedule dates for each state assessment are available on the RIDE site: www.ride.ri.gov/Assessment-Schedules

For **ELA/Literacy**, assessment participation is as follows:

- Students in grades 3 through 9 must take the ELA/Literacy assessment for the grade in which they are enrolled at the time of testing. For example, a 4th grade student would take the PARCC Grade 4 ELA/Literacy assessment. *Note: Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 will not participate in any PARCC ELA/Literacy testing, irrespective of course enrollment.*

For **Mathematics**, assessment participation is as follows:

- **Students in grades 3 through 6** must take the mathematics assessment for the *grade* in which they are enrolled at the time of testing (e.g. all 3rd graders take the PARCC Grade 3 Mathematics assessment).
- For **students in grades 7 or 8**, mathematics testing will depend largely on course enrollment; however, all 7th and 8th grade students must take both an ELA/Literacy *and* a mathematics assessment. For example, all students in grade 7 or 8 must take the PARCC Grade 7 or Grade 8 Mathematics assessment respectively unless they are enrolled in Algebra 1, Algebra II, or Geometry. These students would instead take the PARCC mathematics assessment aligned with the Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II course in which they are enrolled and would not take their assigned grade-level PARCC mathematics assessment.
- For **students in grades 9 through 11**, their participation in mathematics testing will depend on course enrollment. Students must take one PARCC math test in high school. For most students, this will be the PARCC Algebra I test in grade 9, 10, or 11. Students who took Algebra I in middle school would take the PARCC Geometry or Algebra II test in high school. *Note: Students in grade 12 will not participate in any PARCC mathematics testing, irrespective of course enrollment.*

High School Participation Additional Guidance

The following guidance is provided to assist high schools with additional questions about PARCC participation requirements. For more information, please send an email to parcc@ride.ri.gov.

	<i>Scenario</i>	<i>Which PARCC assessment should the student take?</i>	<i>Notes³</i>
ELA 9	Student has been retained in 9 th grade and is retaking an English 9 course but took the PARCC ELA/Literacy 9 assessment last year.	Student would <u>not</u> take the ELA/Literacy 9 assessment.	School must code student as “not tested” reason #7.
Mathematics	Student is in 9 th grade but took the PARCC Algebra I assessment(s) in middle school.	Student would take either Geometry or Algebra II if enrolled in one of these courses.	All students in grades 9, 10, or 11 must have taken the PARCC Algebra I assessment at some point prior to high school graduation.
	Student was retained in 9 th grade and is retaking an Algebra I/Algebra II/Geometry course but previously took the associated PARCC mathematics assessment.	Student would <u>not</u> take a PARCC math assessment.	School must code student as “not tested” reason #7.
	Student is in 9 th grade enrolled in classes on a block schedule and is taking Algebra I in the fall and Geometry in the spring.	Only Algebra I in the fall.	Student is only required to take one PARCC math test in high school and most will only take Algebra I.

³ If a grade 9th grade student is retaking a course and previously took the PARCC assessment for that course, the school may require the student to take the assessment again if appropriate.