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2014 PARCC FIELD TEST



“TOP 10” THINGS EDUCATORS SHOULD KNOW

In spring 2014, the PARCC Field Test will be administered to more than one million students across the 18 PARCC states and the District of Columbia. This Field Test represents a critical milestone in PARCC’s work toward building assessments for the 2014-15 school year and will give students and local educators the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments. The Field Test will be conducted in a random selection of schools across the PARCC consortium, and the sample of students in the selected schools will represent the demographics of each state and of PARCC as a whole. Here are the Top 10 things that the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) wants educators to know about the spring 2014 PARCC Field Test:

- 1) Every Rhode Island district will participate in the Field Test.** While not every school in Rhode Island will participate, every district in the state has the opportunity to have at least one school participating in the PARCC Field Test. Having a sample that represents the diversity in Rhode Island was the primary goal when PARCC selected schools to participate in the Field Test.
- 2) Students in grades 4, 8, and 11 will *not* have to take the NECAP Science test and participate in the PARCC End of Year (EOY) component of the Field Test.** Rhode Island students in grades 4, 8, and 11 were purposely excluded from participating in the EOY component of the Field Test because the test window will overlap with the 2014 NECAP Science test window. NOTE: This exclusion is only valid for the 2013-2014 school year.
- 3) NO student will take both the ELA *and* the Math tests during Field Testing and most students will take only one part of the PARCC Field Test assessments.** While the Field Test assessments are designed to mirror those that will be used in the first PARCC administration in spring 2015, most students participating in the Field Test will take only one component of the Field Test and only in one content area (e.g., Mathematics or English Language Arts/Literacy). Again, RIDE wants to minimize the testing burden on individual students and schools.
- 4) There are only *three* components of the Field Test for which schools can be selected to participate: The *Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)* component; The *End-of-Year (EOY)* component; or The *PBA & EOY* component.** The majority of students will only participate in either the PBA component or the EOY component. A small percentage of students will participate in the PBA & EOY component. All three components were designed to minimize the testing burden on schools and individual students while still allowing PARCC to collect data needed to accomplish the purposes of the Field Test.
- 5) If a school has been selected to participate in the “PBA & EOY” component, the same students must take the Performance-Based Assessments (PBA) as well as the End-Of-Year (EOY) assessments.** The purpose of the “PBA & EOY” component is to inform research that will examine how the whole PARCC assessment is scored. Therefore it is important that the *same* students selected for the “PBA & EOY” component participate in both assessments.
- 6) The Field Test will be divided into two separate “testing windows” in spring 2014.** The Performance-Based Assessments (PBAs) will be administered during the *March 24th to April 11th* test window. The End-of-Year (EOY) assessments will be administered during the *May 5th to June 6th* test window.
- 7) The estimated total administration times for the Field Test range from 60 to 120 minutes per session.** Times vary by grade level, subject, and type of test. For details on the expected test session lengths at each grade level and for each content area, please see the [PARCC Field Test Scheduling Guidelines](#) document. For details on the number of test sessions for each Field Test component, see [PARCC Frequently Asked Questions](#) (page 4).
- 8) Students will not receive scores from the Field Test.** The purpose of the Field Test is to gather information about test items and how well the test functions. We will use the Field Test data to learn which test items work well and which need revision. As a result, students will not receive scores and their results will not be available.
- 9) Field Test training will take place in January, 2014.** RIDE has scheduled in-person training sessions for January 7th, 2014. Each district and school participating in the Field Test will be expected to send representatives to these sessions. Online modules and recorded, “live” webinars will also be available to provide additional training. For more information: www.ride.ri.gov/PARCC-Field-Test-Training-FAQs.
- 10) In addition to the Field Test, the PARCC Practice Test will be available for *all* schools to help students become familiar with the PARCC testing technology.** The PARCC Practice Test will allow students and educators to become more familiar with the PARCC technology platform as well as with the types of items that will appear on the PARCC assessments. The Practice Test will include a sample of assessment items for each grade level or course as well as a set of scoring guidance. Some accessibility features and accommodations will also be included on the PARCC Practice Test to allow students the opportunity to interact with the various tools and supports that will be part of the testing technology, such as color contrast, magnification, and notepad features. A list of accommodations that will be available for the Field Test will be posted on the PARCC web site.

If you have additional questions about the PARCC Spring 2014 Field Test, please send them to PARCC@ride.ri.gov. RIDE also encourages you to contact your school or district technology coordinator to discuss your questions about PARCC.