



## Teacher FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

### **What is PARCC?**

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a group of states working together to develop high-quality assessments that give teachers, students and parents information they can use to improve instruction and meet the needs of individual students. The PARCC assessments are well aligned with what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level and they serve students who are academically advanced, on grade level, and struggling by identifying where they have areas of need, as well as where they are excelling.

### **What types of accommodations are allowed for students with disabilities?**

There are several ways in which PARCC is made accessible for student with disabilities. First, PARCC uses universal design principles that guide the construction of the assessments and test questions in ways that make them easily understood for all students. Second, because PARCC is a computer-based test, we have many more options for which accommodations to offer. These accommodations can now incorporate assistive technology devices and include embedded American Sign Language videos and closed captioning for students with hearing impairments. Third, PARCC allows accessibility features (similar to universal design components) that support instructional strategies like highlighting important evidence in reading passages, providing glossaries of words, and allowing the mathematics assessments to be read aloud if a student has difficulty reading. Having accommodations or using accessibility features does not impact a student's score in any way.

### **When are PARCC results available?**

PARCC results are returned before the start of the following school year.

### **Why are the PARCC results important?**

We all want the best possible education for all of our children. The results of state assessments help us meet this goal. Assessment results provide parents with valuable information about student progress towards becoming college and career ready and provide teachers with information they need to improve teaching and learning.

### **How will the PARCC results be shared at the district, school, and student level?**

All PARCC reports will be shared online via PearsonAccess<sup>next</sup>, which provides access to electronic reports and other information. Teachers will be able to access their students' results via the Rhode Island Instructional Support System in addition to having access to the PARCC Individual Student Reports that are mailed to schools.

### **Who is scoring the PARCC assessment and what are their credentials?**

PARCC states partner with our testing company, Pearson, which recruits and trains qualified scorers at the national and local levels. Applicants complete a rigorous and selective evaluation, hiring and training process to qualify as PARCC scorers. Accuracy

and consistency of scoring is monitored throughout the scoring process. Only applicants who have a Bachelor's degree or higher in mathematics, English, education or a related field may be hired to score PARCC assessments. Not all scorers are teachers, but most have previous teaching experience and half are *current* K-12 teachers.

**How can teachers use PARCC information to inform classroom instruction?**

Teachers can use PARCC assessment results, along with other local assessment results and other information, to determine what additional supports students may need in order to improve achievement. In addition, teachers should review released items and sample student work as models of evidence of high-quality student work. We encourage teachers to look at the PARCC results of all of their current students to see which students may need additional support. In addition, we encourage teachers to look at the PARCC results of the students they taught during the previous school year to explore answers to questions such as, "Were there some areas in which many of my students performed below expectations?" and "Were there areas in which many of my students excelled?" Answers to these and other questions may help teachers decide whether modifications in instructional practices are necessary.

**Will PARCC results be used for teacher evaluation?**

At this time, student growth percentiles are not included in educator evaluations. Please note that PARCC student growth percentiles will be available for educators to view in EPSS and should support school data inquiry and teacher planning and preparation.

**Will PARCC results affect students' grades?**

The scores and achievement levels students attain on the PARCC assessments can be used to measure progress going forward. Schools and districts may decide to use PARCC results as one component in determining students' grades. For example, schools could choose to use PARCC results from the Algebra I or Geometry assessments as their end-of-course assessment. The use of PARCC results is a decision that schools, districts, or school committees will make at the local level.