

An Introduction to Maryland's New State Assessment for Public School Students



What is the Maryland "PARCC" test?

Maryland's new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) will help measure students' mastery of English language arts, literacy, and math. These are not "fill-in-the-bubble" tests. Students will be asked, for example, to write an essay, create a graph, or create a model.

Why is the PARCC test needed?

In 2010, our state adopted new, higher standards for student learning in all schools. Maryland's new College and Career Ready Standards will help our schools provide students with relevant, real-world knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in the future. The PARCC test helps us measure progress toward grade-level mastery as well as graduation.

When does testing begin?

Testing will be given in two parts, beginning March, and again toward the end of the school year. For grades 3 through 8, the test covers English language arts, literacy and math. It also serves as the new high school exam for Algebra I, Algebra II, and 10th grade English.

What accommodations will be offered to my child with special needs or who speaks English as a second language?

The tests provide accommodations that can address many visual, auditory, and physical-access barriers for students with disabilities, while enabling them to take assessments at the same time as others in the class. There will also be accommodations for English language learners at various levels of language proficiency.

When will I see the test results—and how will I know what they mean?

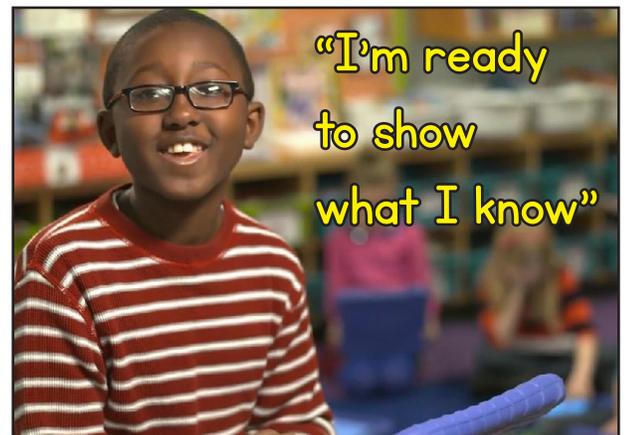
Parents should expect to see the results by the end of the 2015 calendar year. At that time, information on how to understand the scores will be provided. It is important to note that passing the high school level PARCC assessments in Algebra I and English 10 will not be a graduation requirement until the 2016-2017 school year.

How should I help my student prepare for testing?

Your children's teachers have been preparing students all along, with practice tests and other activities. You can encourage your children to take the test seriously but not to worry too much; to get a good night's sleep the night before; and to eat a good breakfast on the day of the test.

Can my child opt out of taking the test?

No. The Maryland State Board of Education states that while parents have a fundamental right to choose whether to send their children to a public school, they cannot selectively choose or reject parts of the public education program itself—including student testing.



To learn more, visit: www.MarylandPublicSchools.org and click on "Prepare for PARCC: What Every Parent Should Know."