

PARCC Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

OVERVIEW

What is PARCC?

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a computer based assessment of Mathematics and English Language Arts/Literacy Skills that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers and if students are meeting the new common core standards. The PARCC assessments are designed to replace the NJASK in grades 3-8 in Language Arts and Mathematics and the HSPA in grade 11. The PARCC assessments will be administered to students beginning in the spring of 2016.

Will the PARCC assessment be used for academic placement for the 2016-2017 school year?

No. Academic placement regulations detail multiple measures which provide the data needed to appropriately place students without the need for state standardized test results.

Do I have the option for my child to opt-out of the PARCC assessment?

No. The district is obligated by state regulations to administer the PARCC exam to all students. The district's attendance policies and regulations will continue to be followed during this time.

When will the PARCC be administered?

Students in grades 3 through 8 will take the English Language Arts/Literacy Skills on Monday, April 25th through Wednesday, April 27th. The Mathematics component will take place, Tuesday, April 19th through Friday, April 22nd, for students in grade 3 through 5. Students in grades 6 through 8 will take the Mathematics on Tuesday, April 19th through Friday, April 22nd. Make-up testing will take place Monday, May 2nd through Friday, May 6th if necessary

How can parents learn more?

Any questions you may have can be answered by visiting www.parcconline.org. You are also welcome to contact Mrs. Assunta Jardine, School Counselor at Valley Road School. Please contact Mrs. Jardine at 973-347-0008 ext. 4108 or at ajardine@stanhopeschools.org

ENSURING STUDENTS ARE PREPARED FOR PARCC

How is the school preparing our students academically?

All curricula are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, and the instructional sequence has been reorganized to address most crucial PARCC content before testing begins in April. PARCC testing mirrors the kind of high quality work students are already doing in our classrooms throughout the year.

Are there sample PARCC assessments available?

PARCC released online tutorials that demonstrate how to navigate the test. These tutorials and sample assessments are accessible at this web address: <http://practice.parcctestnav.com>

What is the school doing to help students master the technological skills required by the PARCC exam?

Each of our students has daily access to a Chromebook which allows opportunity for them to practice typing and other keyboarding and mouse skills. In addition, students have participated in practice tests that mirror PARCC platform, allowing them the opportunity to practice using the various tools available to them.

USE OF PARCC DATA

Is passing the PARCC assessment a requirement for graduation?

No. School counselors can certify that a student in the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 met the state proficiency requirements in many ways. For instance, a student may demonstrate proficiency via an SAT or ACT score in addition to the NJDOE's long standing portfolio appeal process. However, if a student does pass a PARCC assessment in English Language Arts or Mathematics, the school may use those scores as a demonstration of proficiency. The state will be providing additional guidance to schools on how to determine proficiencies on substitute assessments and the PARCC assessments. It is anticipated that passing the PARCC assessments will become a graduation requirement for the class of 2019.

Do students in the middle school who are taking Algebra I or Geometry have to take the Algebra I or Geometry PARCC assessment?

Yes. If a student is enrolled in Algebra I or Geometry, while in middle school, he/she will be administered the PARCC Algebra I or Geometry assessment in lieu of the grade level math PARCC exam.

Is a student who does not pass the PARCC Assessment required to retake the assessment?

No. A student is not required to retake an assessment or retake the course based on their PARCC scores.

TEST ADMINISTRATION AND SCHEDULE

How long is the PARCC exam?

Testing session range from 60 minutes to 90 minutes and only one session will be administered per day.

Will a student be scheduled for more than one test session per day?

No. Although multiple sessions will be given in one day, a student will participate in only one test session per day. Each testing session must be completed within the same day and schools must schedule according to "Total Administration Time," so that students who need the additional time are able to use it.

When will the 2016 PARCC scores be available to school districts?

Students' score reports will be available toward the end of September/early October 2016.

Are accommodations available for students?

Yes. The PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual on the PARCC website provides guidance to districts and decision-making teams to ensure that the PARCC meets the needs of our students with learning and physical disabilities. Accommodations will also be provided for English Language Learners (ELL).

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Is Valley Road School ready for PARCC?

Valley Road School meets and exceeds all recommendations provided by PARCC and the New Jersey department of Education (NJDOE). All school districts were required to provide a detailed listing of the network infrastructure and computer devices that would be used to administer the PARCC assessment. Reports were made available rating each schools' readiness on scale of 0 through 9, where 0 represents no PARCC technology readiness and 9 represents that all recommendations were met or exceeded. Valley Road School received a score of 9 in all categories.

What technology equipment will my child use for the PARCC assessment?

In most cases, each student will use their Google Chrome Laptop when taking the PARCC assessment. A headset will also be available.