

I'm taking PARCC this year!



What is PARCC?

PARCC is a new state test that could replace MCAS for English/language arts and math in 2016 for grades 3-8. It stands for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. PARCC is designed to measure whether your child is learning what he or she needs to know and be able to do at each grade level.

Why a new test?

In reading and math, Massachusetts 4th - and 8th-graders are #1 in the U.S.,¹ and our 15-year-olds rank near the top internationally². However, more than 1 in 3 Massachusetts high school graduates (who passed MCAS) require remedial courses when they enroll in public higher education. In response, the state raised academic standards in 2010, and districts have been working since then to choose the curriculum, methods, and materials they will use to teach those standards in their schools. PARCC will assess students on those new standards.

Who's taking PARCC this year?

2014-2015 is the last year of a 2-year PARCC "test drive." In the first year, selected classes participated in the PARCC field test, in which students "tested the test." This year, school districts have until October 1 to choose MCAS or PARCC. Of the districts that responded by the June 30 early deadline, 60% had chosen PARCC—including your child's school.

1. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
2. Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

I thought I had to pass MCAS. What's PARCC?



PARCC is not meant to tell the whole story about what students know and can do! It's an annual "check-up" that provides you with valuable information. Learn more:

www.doe.mass.edu/parcc

www.parcconline.org

If it's a "test drive," does it count?

Yes. The 2014-2015 PARCC results will be official. Just as with MCAS, students will receive performance results. Parents and teachers will receive reports, and teachers can use that information to help pinpoint students' strengths and weaknesses. Grade 10 students will not take PARCC this year—they still must pass MCAS as a graduation requirement. MCAS science and MCAS-Alt will continue as is for all grades. The 9th and 11th grade PARCC tests are optional.

What does PARCC look like?

PARCC is a computer-based test with a paper/pencil option for districts. It includes 2 parts in English/language arts and 2 parts in math. The first part focuses on writing and analytical skills, and is primarily hand-scored by people. The second part, which is computer-scored, targets reading and math comprehension. Combined, the 2 parts provide an important assessment of your child's knowledge, skills, and ability to think critically.

		English/ Language Arts	Mathematics
Part 1	Performance-Based Assessment (hand-scored) Late March—early April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing effectively• Analyzing text	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solving multi-step problems• Using abstract reasoning
Part 2	End-of-Year Assessment (computer-scored) May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding major grade-level appropriate math concepts