



UNDERSTANDING THE PARCC FIELD TESTS in NEW MEXICO

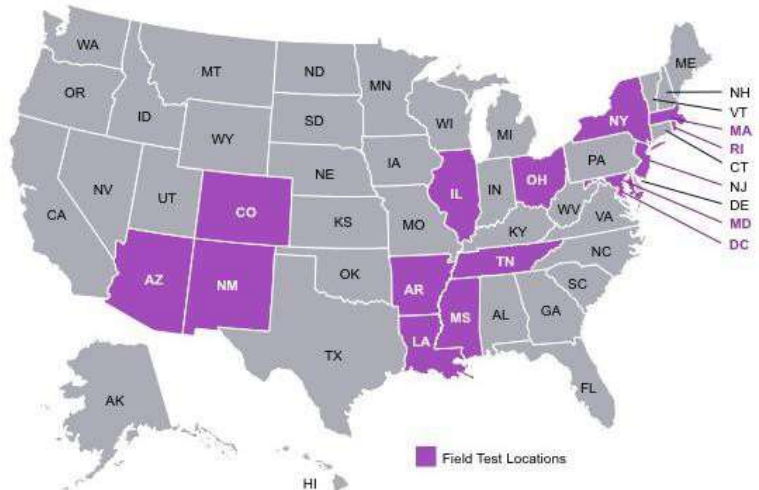
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) states are developing high-quality, computer-based tests in reading, writing and mathematics, aligned to rigorous standards designed to prepare students for success in college and careers. The tests emphasize fundamental knowledge and skills, and how to apply them to solve real-world problems.

One key milestone in the development of the PARCC assessment system is the administration of field tests. The field tests are a “test of the test questions.” They are designed to determine whether the questions measure what they were designed to measure, and are clear and fair.

Since the early stages of the process, local educators have played a significant role in developing PARCC assessments. Their involvement will continue with the field tests as they and their students are asked to provide feedback.

The Basics

- Fourteen states and the District of Columbia are administering the PARCC field tests this spring.
- More than one million students are expected to take them, or about 10% of the students in the states administering the field tests.
- Individual students will only answer a subset of questions — not take a whole test.
- Some students will take the field tests on computers, others on paper. Similarly, when the actual tests are administered, paper-based tests will be available while schools build their technology infrastructure.



For your calendar: New Mexico Field Testing takes place in two stages starting March 31.	
March 31 – April 18	May 5 – May 30
The performance-based assessment component , which features writing in English Language Arts (ELA) and multi-step, real world problems in math	The end-of-year assessment , which features reading comprehension in ELA and conceptual understanding in math

**A few states may have a slightly different timeline.*

- Most participating students will take one of these components of the PARCC field test, not both.
- A small percentage of students across the PARCC states will field test both components in a single subject.
- The field tests will take no more than three hours for most students.



What to Expect

- There may be a few minor glitches, but that's why we are field testing. We have plans in place to minimize and solve any issues that arise, and working out these glitches will lead to better operational tests.
- PARCC will learn from any issues that arise and apply that knowledge toward the development of the fully operational tests that students will take in spring 2015. The field test is one of many steps in the effort to plan and develop accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners.
- PARCC will publish a report on lessons learned following the field tests; it will include a list of resources for schools as they prepare for the 2014–15 tests.
- PARCC is testing the tests. PARCC will not generate results for students, schools or districts.

The Benefits

- The field tests will give students and teachers the opportunity to become familiar with PARCC before taking an actual test. (All students will have practice opportunities with the practice test in spring 2014.)
- This is a chance for students and teachers to be part of the test development process by trying out the assessment questions and offering their feedback through educator and student surveys administered at the end of the field tests. Students and teachers in PARCC states are developing their state's tests.
- Through the field test, PARCC will learn more about:
 - Accessibility and fairness of the test items
 - Accommodations for students with disabilities and English language learners
 - Comparability between computer and paper-based tests and comparability between tests administered on different devices, such as tablets and laptops
 - The validity of the test items, or how well they measure student performance on the content the item was designed to measure
 - Whether PARCC assessments can be linked to international tests to compare the academic performance of U.S. students to their global peers

Protecting Privacy

- PARCC and the PARCC states will not generate scores for individual students or classes. PARCC won't record and won't release student scores. New Mexico will NOT use field test results for accountability purposes.

Getting Ready

- Students can get ready for the field test by checking out publicly released sample items available here: www.parcconline.org/computer-based-samples.
- All students will be able to try out practice tests when they become available this spring. It's a way for students to become familiar with the types of test questions and how the technology platform works before taking the full test in spring 2015.

For more information, please visit: www.parcconline.org/field-test