



Use of a standardized test can never 'ensure' any academic or life outcomes; PARCC has still provided no evidence that PARCC tests are valid and reliable measures of college or career readiness.

The Common Core standards cover a narrow set of academic reading and math skills—a tiny fraction of what a high-quality education should provide our children with to prepare for life as active citizens in a modern, democratic society.

PARCC Facts

- **Why PARCC**

- Previous tests were tied to standards that were adopted in 1997. These standards were useful at the time but have become outdated and not adequately preparing our students for the new challenges the workplace presents.
- The Common Core standards mirror our modernized expectations of what it means to be prepared for the next grade, college, careers, and life outside of the classroom.
- A new CCSS based exam was needed to measure student mastery of the expectations.
- PARCC is not an additional test, it replaces the ISAT and PSAT exam, allowing for more meaningful feedback which will ensure students are achieving at a high level while developing the knowledge and skill set required to be successful.

PARCC does not replace PSAT. IL requires schools to administer a college-entrance exam. SAT will be administered in future years to fulfill this requirement.

- **Content**

- **PARCC is the truest measure of the Common Core that will be common across students in elementary and high school.** Tests like NWEA only ask questions in a multiple choice format, which doesn't allow for students to show their writing, problem solving and research abilities. This helps answer the common complaint that many other assessments focus too much on filling in bubbles at the expense of applying deeper reading and math skills.
- PARCC will give us a clearer picture of where teacher investments in learning about and designing instruction aligned to the Common Core standards are paying off and where we need to provide more support.

Neither PARCC nor NWEA are authentic tools for assessment. PARCC's non-multiple choice questions are scored by temporary, hourly workers most of whom lack a background in education. Students receive only numerical scores. Assessment practices designed and carried out by a child's own classroom teachers provide far more detailed, useful info about what a child is learning.

- **Technology**

- **Online administration** includes interactive multi-media activities. **Instead of just reading passages, students will also watch videos, listen to speeches or review artwork, while learning about a topic.**
- Students also interact with math in new ways. **Instead of just picking an answer, students can use online tools to draw their answers, manipulate pictures and explain their thinking.**
- Testing this year will use proctor caching, further reducing the load on wireless networks.

As reported in Ed Week on 2.3.2016, PARCC scores from online-administered tests were systematically and significantly lower than paper-pencil versions. PARCC has no plans to adjust scores for these discrepancies.

- **Reporting**

- **PARCC data will be available by early summer.** This quick turnaround will allow educators time to better understand the successes and challenges across groups of students and for individuals. This will provide a richer set of information to improve summer and fall planning.

Score release in early summer means that score information from April can still only be used by child's teacher several months later at the beginning of the following school year. Teachers have little or no access to test questions, accepted answers or actual student responses—information of the richness actually required to inform classroom instruction.

