PARCC TESTING
PARENT INFORMATION

Glen Ridge Public Schools
What is PARCC?

What is it?
Who is using it and why?
How is PARCC different from NJASK/HSPA?
What is PARCC?

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers

43 states and Washington D.C have adopted the Common Core State Standards

14 states including NJ are using PARCC

Partners include 200 higher education institutions and systems

Math and English Language Arts tests for grades 3-11

Linked to what students need to know for college and careers
How is PARCC Different?

**NJASK/HSPA**
- Administered once
- Paper based/No tech
- ELA & Math (3-8 & 11)
- Science (4 & 8)

**PARCC**
- Administered twice (Performance Based Assessment PBA and End of Year assessment EOY)
- Computer based
- English Language Arts Grades 3-11
- Math Grades 3-8. Algebra, Geometry & Algebra 2
- No Science
When Will It Be Given?

Months, dates, Times and Sessions
Required PARCC Assessments

- **Performance-Based Assessment**
  - Given in March 2-27, 2015
  - Tests Critical thinking
  - Reading Comprehension
  - Writing in response to reading
  - Research simulations
  - Real World Applications

- **End-of-Year Assessment**
  - Given end of April-May
  - Short Answer items
  - Reading comprehension
  - Math conceptual understanding and skills
Ridgewood Avenue School

PARCC
Performance Based Assessment Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
<th>4th Grade</th>
<th>5th Grade</th>
<th>6th Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Testing</td>
<td>March 2nd-March 6th</td>
<td>March 9th-March 13th</td>
<td>March 2nd-March 6th</td>
<td>March 9th-March 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make-Up Testing</td>
<td>March 2nd-March 20th</td>
<td>March 9th-March 27th</td>
<td>March 2nd-March 20th</td>
<td>March 9th-March 27th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Days</td>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>3/2-3/6</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>75 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>3/9-3/13</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>3/2-3/6</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>3/9-3/13</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
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<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2-March 6</td>
<td>(Per 1-3) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 7</td>
<td>(Per 1-4) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 7</td>
<td>(Per 1-3) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 8</td>
<td>(Per 1-4) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 8</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>(Per 1-3) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 9</td>
<td>(Per 1-4) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 9</td>
<td>(Per 1-3) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 10</td>
<td>(Per 1-4) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 10</td>
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<td>March 9-March 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>(Per 1-3) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 11</td>
<td>(Per 1-4) LANGUAGE ARTS - GRADE 11</td>
<td>(Per 1-4) Algebra 1</td>
<td>(Per 1-4) Geometry (130)</td>
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<td>March 16-March 20</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Make Up Testing</td>
<td>Make Up Testing</td>
<td>Make Up Testing</td>
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<td>March 24-27</td>
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What does a Testing Session look Like?

- Students on computers in Classroom or Technology Room
- Morning
- Administered by teachers
- Teachers can help with tech if a student is struggling
- Teachers can clarify directions
- Students can review and change answers
- Computer will be swapped out if there is a technical challenge
- Students will be given scrap paper, pencils, and a mouse.
- Grades 4-11 will be given earbuds (or they can use their own).
- Students can read or draw if finished early
- Classes who are not testing will have regular morning
Scoring

How will PARCC be scored?
How will my child’s scores be used?
Scoring: How is PARCC different?

- **NJASK/HSPA**
  - 3 Levels
  - Scale of 100-300
  - Basic Data
  - Received in Fall of next year
  - Ceiling score

- **PARCC**
  - 5 Levels
  - Scale of 1-5
  - Rich data
  - Year 1 receive in Fall of Next year
  - Following administrations to be received by June of current year
  - Score beyond grade level
### Scoring

**Take 2 Tests (March and May)**

Receive one score for Math and one score for ELA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Students performing at this level demonstrate a <strong>distinguished command</strong> of the knowledge, skills, and practices embodied by the CCSS assessed at their level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Strong command</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Moderate command</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Partial command</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Minimal command</strong></td>
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</table>
PARCC Results

Will be used...

- To assist teachers in supporting students
- To inform parents and students on progress towards “on track” college and career readiness
- To inform schools and districts on curricular, instructional and professional development needs
- By NJ’s college and universities as one of the indicators of a student readiness for entry-level credit-bearing college courses

Will NOT be used...

- To impact student’s grades
- To retain students
- As a measure for placement in various programs
Technology

What technology skills will my child need?
Technology Skills

PARCC uses technology to determine student understanding in authentic ways. What technology skills do students need?

- Type written responses
- Use of Math tools: Online calculator (6-11) Graphing tools
- Move items Drag and drop
- Shade text
- Cut and paste
Accessibility and Accommodations

What features are available for all students?

What features are available for Special Education, 504 and English Language Learners?
Accommodations:
How is PARCC different?

**NJASK/HSPA**

- Accommodations: SE/504/ELL

**PARCC**

- Accessibility for all & Accommodations SE/504/ELL
Accessibility Features for **ALL** students taking **PARCC**

- Blank paper
- Magnification/enlargement device
- Audio amplification
- Headphones/ear buds
- Answer Masking
- Color contrast
- Eliminate Answer choices
- Writing Tools/Pop-up Glossary
- Flag Items for Review
- Highlight tool
- Line Reader tool
- NotePad
- General Administration Directions
  - Clarified, Read Aloud and Repeated as needed
  - Redirect Student to the Test
Accommodations
For students receiving special services that have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans.

- **Presentation Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**
  - A student that is Blind or has visual impairment:
    - Screen Reader
    - Refreshable Braille Display/Hard Copy Braille Edition
    - Tactile Graphics
    - Large Print Edition
Accommodations
For students receiving special services that have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans.

▶ Presentation Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
  ▶ A student who is deaf or hearing impaired:
    ▶ Closed captioning of Multimedia on the ELA/Literary video assessments
    ▶ ASL (American Sign Language) Video for the ELA/Literary Assessments
  ▶ A student who had a disability that severely limits or prevents him/her from accessing printed text by decoding.
    ▶ Text-to Speech (an audio representation) for ELA/Literary Assessments, including items, response options and passages.

▶ PLEASE NOTE: This accommodation is not intended for students reading somewhat (i.e. only moderately) below grade level. This is a students that is unable to decode printed text. This inability to decode is documented in evaluation summaries from locally administered diagnostic assessments; the student receives ongoing intensive instruction in foundational reading skills; and accesses printed text during routine instruction through a reader or other spoken-text audio format, or signer.
Accommodations
For students receiving special services that have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans.

Response Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

- Braille Note-Taker
- Braille Writer
- Calculation Device and Mathematical Tools on Non-Calculator Sections on Math Assessments
  - Calculators
  - Arithmetic tables
  - Math manipulatives

For students with a disability that severely limits or prevents their ability to perform basic calculations (i.e., single-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication or division), this accommodation would be permitted on test sections for which calculators are not allowed for other students.
Accommodations
For students receiving special services that have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans.

- **Response Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**
  - For students that have a physical disability that severely limits or prevents the student’s motor process of writing through keyboarding;
  - Or
  - A disability that severely limits or prevents the student from expressing written language, even after varied and repeated attempts to teach the student to do so:
    - Speech-to-Text
    - Human Scribe
    - Human Signer
    - External Assistive Technology
  
  A student dictates responses either verbally, using an external speech-to text device, an augmentative/assistive communication device, or by dictating, signing, gesturing, pointing, or eye-gazing. The student must have experience using assistive technology external device and scribing prior to assessment administration. It must be documented in IEP/504 plans.
Accommodations
For students receiving special services that have Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans.

- **Timing and Scheduling Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**
  - Extended time
  - Frequent Breaks
  - Smaller group testing
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 2015.
FAQ’s

Will the PARCC assessment be used for academic placement for the 2015-2016 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. That said, the Glen Ridge Schools will remain thoughtful to the needs of all children.

When will the PARCC be administered?

The PARCC assessment is composed of 2 parts, the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) or long answer questions and the End-of-Year (EOY) component or short answer questions. Beginning March 2, 2015, the Performance-Based Assessment portion of the PARCC assessment will be administered to all students in grades 3 through 11. Beginning April 27, 2015 the End-of-Year portion of the PARCC assessment will be administered to all students in grades 3 through 11.

Dates for each grade, including make-up dates, can be found on www.glenridge.org
FAQ’s

ENSURING STUDENTS ARE PREPARED FOR PARCC

How are the schools preparing our students academically?

- All curricula are aligned with the Common Core State Standards, and the instructional sequence has been organized to address the most crucial PARCC content before testing begins in March. 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.parcc.testnav.com/#. Teachers have reviewed these tutorials to ensure students are practicing technology skills.

What are schools doing to help students master the technological skills required by the PARCC exam?

- Keyboarding skills have been incorporated into instructional plans throughout the district for many years. Also, students have had the opportunity to complete practice questions on the computer, allowing them to become familiar with the technology tools that they will be using during the test. Long before PARCC, our district has been using various online learning programs to enhance content skills with students (ex: Study Island).
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.
FAQ’s

Do students in the middle school who are taking Algebra 1 or Geometry have to take the Algebra 1 or Geometry PARCC assessment?

Yes. If a student is enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry, while in middle school, he/she will be administered the PARCC Algebra 1 or Geometry assessment in lieu of the grade level math PARCC exam.

Will the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment be scored separately?

No, students will receive a single score report that brings together the student’s performance on both the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment sessions.

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

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

TEST ADMINISTRATIVE AND SCHEDULE

*How long is the PARCC exam?*

- The Performance-Based Assessment portion of the PARCC assessment requires 5 sessions (2 Math, 3 Language Arts) and the End-of-Year portion of the PARCC assessment requires 4 exam sessions (2 Math, 2 Language Arts).

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

- No. Although multiple sections 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 2015 PARCC scores be available to school districts?*

- Student score reports will be not be available until after the 2015-2016 school year begins. Possibly as late as November 2015.

*Are accommodations available for students?*

- Yes. The PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual on the PARCC website provide guidance to districts and decision-making teams to ensure that the PARCC assessments provide valid results for all participating students.
FAQ’s

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Is our District PARCC ready?

- The Glen Ridge School District 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 school’s readiness on a scale of 0 through 9, where 0 represents no PARCC technology readiness and 9 represents that all recommendations were met or exceeded. Glen Ridge and all individual schools received a score of 9 in all categories.

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

- Each student will use either a PC or Chrome book when taking the PARCC assessment. A headset and mouse will also be available.

Does our District have the appropriate internet and WI-FI Connectivity?

- Yes.
  - The internet circuit was upgraded from a 20 mbps connection to a 200 mbps connection.
  - The firewall was upgraded to handle the extra traffic
  - The main switch was upgraded to handle the extra traffic

How will the PARCC testing effect the school day?

- The test will be administered during morning hours. Students not scheduled to take the test will continue to receive classroom instruction during morning hours. The high school will be using a rotating period schedule during this time period. This will minimalize the loss of instructional time for the regular morning periods. Several classes will have their classrooms moved while students are taking the test.
FAQ’s

Where can I find additional information?

The following websites provide additional information on PARCC:

► [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org)
► [http://www.parcconline.org/for-parents](http://www.parcconline.org/for-parents)
► [https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/042a4e4b001/1622a359-52dd-4bb3-b2c1-d0c023816c6f.pdf](https://mlsvc01-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/042a4e4b001/1622a359-52dd-4bb3-b2c1-d0c023816c6f.pdf)