



## PARCC FIELD TEST GUIDANCE VERSION 1.0 • UPDATED JULY 2013

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The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) represents a fundamental shift in how we think about student testing, state-to-state. The PARCC assessments are carefully crafted to give teachers, students, schools, and parents better information on how we're preparing our kids for success throughout their schooling experience and in careers and college — and life. In a first-of-its-kind collaboration, more than 20 states are working together to create an assessment of the highest quality. The result will be a product powered by states and local school systems.

Over the last few months, PARCC has made significant progress towards preparing for the PARCC Field Test, which will be administered across PARCC states in spring 2014. The purpose of this guidance is to provide preliminary information about the PARCC Field Test as well as the PARCC Practice Test. Both represent critical milestones in PARCC's work toward operational administration in 2014-2015 and will allow more teachers and students to become familiar with the innovative PARCC assessments.

### When Will PARCC Conduct a Field Test?

The PARCC Field Test will be administered in spring 2014 across PARCC states. The purpose of the PARCC Field Test is to examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-2015 school year, as well as to test out assessment administration procedures. The PARCC Field Test will help inform test development, in preparation for the first operational administration of PARCC in 2014-2015, and will give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments.

### Who Will Participate in the Field Test?

During summer 2013, PARCC will select schools for the PARCC Field Test to comprise a representative sample of students across PARCC states. Schools will be notified of their selection in August 2013. After the schools' participation is finalized that fall, a sample of classrooms will be selected to participate from each school. The majority of students participating in field testing will take about one-quarter of the PARCC test, and no student participating in field testing will take the full assessment.

### Will PARCC Share a Practice Test?

PARCC will also release a free, online practice test in spring 2014, which will be available to **all** schools and districts. The PARCC Practice Test represents a critical step in supporting students' and schools' transitions to new assessment content.

The PARCC Practice Test will include technology-enhanced items and will be delivered on the same technology platform that will be used for field testing, allowing students and educators in all PARCC states to become more familiar with the types of items that will appear on the PARCC assessments.

The PARCC Practice Test will include a sample of assessment items for each grade level/course and will be accompanied by a set of scoring guidance. Some accessibility features and accommodations will also be

included on the PARCC Practice Test to allow students the opportunity to interact with the various tools and supports that will appear on the test, such as color contrast, magnification, and notepad features.<sup>1</sup>

### When Can Educators Expect to Learn More about the Field Test?

PARCC will release additional information about the PARCC Field Test this summer, including:

- July 2013:
  - The dates for the PARCC Spring 2014 Field Test administration windows
  - More information about the student experience for the PARCC Field Test, including expected testing time
  - The approximate number of students in each state that will participate in the PARCC Field Test
  
- August 2013:
  - Schools and districts notified of their selection to participate in the PARCC Field Test

As PARCC prepares for the spring 2014 Field Test and Practice Test, the consortium will continue to provide updates to help prepare educators and schools for the transition to PARCC assessments. Readers are also encouraged to look for updates at [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org) and to sign up for the PARCC newsletter to receive updates directly.

Local educators with questions or comments about this guidance should contact their state education agency's office of student assessment or its equivalent. Other readers should address questions to <http://www.parcconline.org/contact>.

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information about PARCC's accessibility supports and accommodations will be released the week of July 22, 2013. For preliminary information, please visit: <http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-accessibility-accommodations-and-fairness>