

About the PARCC Assessments

Why, What, and Who?

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that all students be tested annually in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3-11. (Students in grade 12 will not take a PARCC assessment regardless of the courses in which they are enrolled.) This year New Jersey will be replacing the NJASK tests with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessments.

At the high school the tests are for specific subjects. Students are tested in the following classes: English 9, English 10, English 11, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. If a student takes Algebra I in grade 8, they will be tested in Algebra I (and will not be taking the other grade 8 mathematics assessment). Students enrolled in multiple math courses that have a PARCC assessment, will only take the assessment for either Algebra I or Algebra II.

When?

The testing window for the PBA is from March 2-27th and the testing window for the EOY is from April 20-May 15th

HOW? What do PBA and EOY stand for?

The assessments will be administered in two formats. The first will be a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) administered in March. The second will be an End of Year (EOY) assessment administered in May or late April.

What do the assessments include?

For the PBA Assessments: ELA include the following: a research simulation, a literary analysis, and a narrative task. For each task, the students will be asked to read one or more texts, answer several short comprehension and vocabulary questions, and write an essay that requires them to draw evidence from

the text(s). Mathematics will include both short and extended response questions focused on conceptual knowledge and skills as well as the mathematical practices of reasoning and modeling. For the EOY Assessments: ELA will include 4-5 tests, with a number of short answer comprehension and vocabulary questions. There will be one unit for grades 3 to 5, and two units for grades 6-8 and Grades 9-11. Mathematics will be composed primarily of short-answer questions focused on conceptual knowledge and understandings

How long is each assessment?

For the PBA Assessments: ELA will have three units of assessment ranging from 50 to 90 minutes each.

Mathematics will have two units of assessment ranging from 75-90 minutes each.

For the EOY Assessments: ELA will have two units of assessment ranging from 60 to 75 minutes each.

Mathematics will have two units of assessment ranging from 75-90 minutes each.