

October 2014



Count Down to PARCC eNewsletter

Mathematically Connected Communities (MC²) is proud to introduce the first in a year-long series of monthly **Count Down to PARCC eNewsletters** in preparation for the Spring 2015 math assessments. **Please Note:** These are interactive newsletters intended to be viewed online in order to be able to access the embedded links to the multiple PARCC and MC² resources provided. Upcoming editions will be emailed to subscribers during the first week of each month. Anyone not currently on our listserv may subscribe by emailing Sheila (sshills@nmsu.edu) or Terri (tsainz@nmsu.edu).

The MC² Count Down to PARCC is designed to give teachers practical strategies to prepare students for the types of tasks they will experience in the online assessment. The Count Down is offered in two sections:

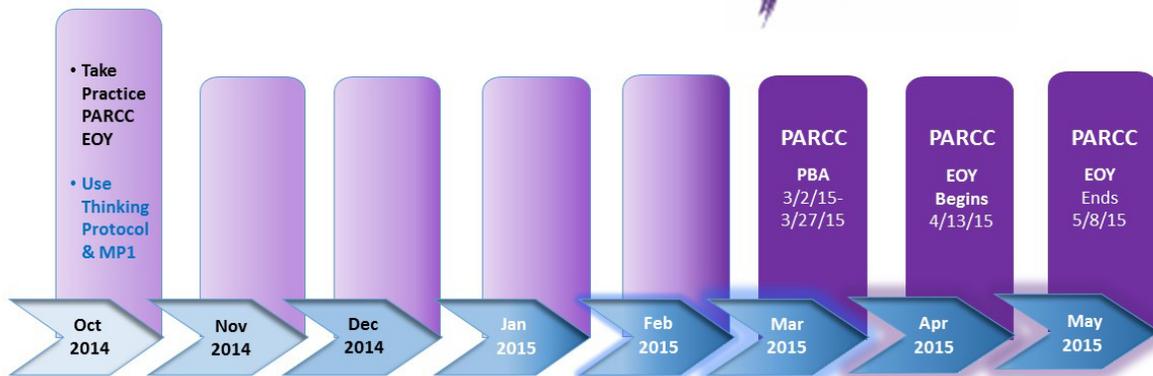
1. **Supports for Teachers** – This section provides tips for teachers to collaborate with others to understand PARCC expectations and plan mathematics tasks designed to build conceptual understanding and strategic thinking for approaching complex mathematical tasks with confidence and competence.
2. **Classroom Strategies** – This section provides ideas for incorporating PARCC preparation into the classroom. The strategies provide tips for the CCSS mathematical practices and content to be built into daily/weekly warm-up math activities and formative assessment tasks.

We begin the count down with making sense of and preparing for the PARCC End-of-Year (EOY) assessment. In subsequent months, we will share information for preparing for the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and use of PARCC tools for planning.

Free Webinar:

Join us on **Wednesday, October 15, at 4pm (MST)** for a 45-minute webinar explaining **MC² Count Down to PARCC**. Register at <https://mc2.zoom.us/webinar/register/281884415>. Once you register, you will receive an email confirmation and several reminders. Please note that the live webinar will be **limited to 100 attendees**; however, it will be archived and available 24/7 online at the [MC² home page](#) the week following the broadcast. Please note that if a school/district representative will be projecting the broadcast to others in the same room, then **ONLY** the representative should register.

Count Down to PARCC



Color Code KEY: Teacher Support & Classroom Strategies

*The bulleted tasks above are recommended by MC² to assist teachers in preparing for PARCC.

Click on the image to enlarge the graphic.

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Teacher Supports:

- Teachers take the practice [EOY online practice test](#) for their grade level. Discuss implications for instruction with colleagues.
- Collaborate with other teachers to develop (or choose from textbook) rich mathematics tasks that promote math practices. Plan daily learning experiences that include rich experiences with rich mathematical tasks and students engaged in math practices.

Classroom Strategies:

- Use “[Thinking Protocol](#)” with one test item (refer to grade level items below) a week that is aligned with content of class. Students use [Math Practice 1](#) to practice making sense of the problem. Thinking protocol focuses on what the question is asking (rather than the solution).

[Grade 3](#) [Grade 4](#) [Grade 5](#)
[Grade 6](#) [Grade 7](#) [Grade 8](#)
[Algebra I](#) [Geometry](#)

Purpose:

- Become familiar with EOY item format and equation editor.
- Students become familiar with technology and learn strategies for making sense of problems