



## MC<sup>2</sup> Countdown to PARCC Webinar

December 17, 2014

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

<http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDown.html>

#### 1. Do you recommend students take the PARCC EOY practice tests online rather than on paper?

MC<sup>2</sup> recommends that students practice both online and on paper.

##### WHY and HOW to practice online, as per PARCC:

- *Twenty-first century students need to have access to technology in the classroom throughout the year, not just at testing time. Devices used for tests also should be used for instructional purposes.*  
[http://parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCFAQ\\_8-12-13.pdf](http://parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCFAQ_8-12-13.pdf)
- *The Practice Test was developed so that all students – not just those involved in the field testing – can experience PARCC test items the way they will appear on the tests starting in spring 2015.*
- *Teachers, students, parents and others can engage with the sample test questions used during the spring 2014 field test using computer-based tools such as drag-and-drop, multiple select, text highlighting, and an equation builder.*
- *PARCC has also released online tutorials that demonstrate how students will navigate the test; how to use the computer-based tools; and features that make the test more accessible for all students, including those with disabilities and English learners.* [http://parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCFAQ\\_8-12-13.pdf](http://parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCCFAQ_8-12-13.pdf)
- *All students should be familiar with the technologies used on the PARCC assessments so none will be at a disadvantage due to lack of exposure to technology. The technology tutorial (<http://parcc.pearson.com/>) is designed to equal the playing field. Students can run through the tutorial using a school's devices and become confident in using the technologies prior to taking the PARCC assessments.*  
<http://parconline.org/top-12-resources-educators>

##### WHY and HOW to practice on paper:

- To help students move beyond “answer getting” to fully make sense of test item questions and their own mathematical thinking.
- To develop confidence and competence in describing their mathematical thinking related to the math practices.
- To add new ideas/strategies to the whole group's thinking.
- Using the following **Grade Level PARCC EOY Practice Test Item Packets** compiled by MC<sup>2</sup> together with the [MC<sup>2</sup> Thinking Protocol](#) and Math Practices provides students with the opportunity to
  1. Think individually about the test item
  2. Think with a partner about the problem
  3. Share strategies as a whole group
  4. Reflect on what is easy/hard about the problem
- The Packets and Thinking Protocol mentioned above may be accessed by clicking on the links or go to <http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDown.html>.  
[Grade 3](#) [Grade 4](#) [Grade 5](#)  
[Grade 6](#) [Grade 7](#) [Grade 8](#)  
[Algebra I](#) [Algebra II](#) [Geometry](#)

**2. My students read poorly in Spanish and English (mostly 2nd grade level). Do you think that they should test in English or Spanish? Math instruction is in English.**

Refer to the following for guidance; however, the final decision is generally made by the campus Student Assistance Team (SAT):

- a) NMPED Countdown to PARCC for Administrators December 2014 News, #4. at <http://newmexicommoncore.org/uploads/downloads/december-2014-countdown-to-parcc-administrators-9186f8d694.pdf>
- b) NMPED Countdown to PARCC for Teachers December 2014 News at <http://newmexicommoncore.org/uploads/downloads/december-2014-countdown-to-parcc-teachers-6b42f0b20c.pdf>
- c) PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual First Edition Frequently Asked Questions July 2013  
<http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/AAF%20Manual%20First%20Edition%20Release%20FAQ%20final.pdf>
- d) PARCC Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual, Third Edition, November 2014  
[http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/parcc-accessibility-features-accommodations-manual-11-14\\_final.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/parcc-accessibility-features-accommodations-manual-11-14_final.pdf) , *Section 4, Step 3: Select Accessibility Features and Accommodations for Individual Students*, page 52

**Doug Sovde (Director, PARCC Instructional Supports & Educator Engagement Achieve) responses to MC<sup>2</sup> questions in December 2014:**

- 1. When will the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) be ready.... is there anything new for the Model Content Frameworks (MCF) or Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)?**  
*The practice test is under review right now. Planned for release in January.*
- 2. Is there a generic rubric we can use?**  
*Not for math. Rubrics are item specific.*  
*MC<sup>2</sup> suggests also referring to our Countdown to PARCC November FAQs #11.*  
[http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDownToPARCC\\_MC2\\_FAQs\\_NOV2014.pdf](http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDownToPARCC_MC2_FAQs_NOV2014.pdf)
- 3. Do we know how well the students have to do to pass? The baseline scores? Is it not until summer?**  
*Standard setting is next month, after operational data is available. This is considered best practice.*
- 4. Will partial credit be given on PBA? If so, how?**  
*Yes. Many PBA tasks ask students to justify their answers/explain their reasoning. These are hand-scored questions, which will get partial credit.*
- 5. How much time for each on the sessions? How can we help our students manage time?**  
*Timing data has been publicly released and can be found on the website.*  
*MC<sup>2</sup> suggests also referring to our Countdown to PARCC November FAQs #2.*  
[http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDownToPARCC\\_MC2\\_FAQs\\_NOV2014.pdf](http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDownToPARCC_MC2_FAQs_NOV2014.pdf)
- 6. Will there be accommodations for time on test for Students with Disabilities (SWD)?**  
*If a student's IEP indicates it.*  
*MC<sup>2</sup> suggests also referring to our Countdown to PARCC November FAQs #2 & 3.*  
[http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDownToPARCC\\_MC2\\_FAQs\\_NOV2014.pdf](http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDownToPARCC_MC2_FAQs_NOV2014.pdf)
- 7. Will all students have the same version? For example, one student sitting next to another in the lab will surely have different versions.**  
*No. There are multiple versions (forms).*  
*MC<sup>2</sup> suggests also referring to PARCC FAQs, #8 under General Questions about the PARCC Field Test*  
[http://parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/FAQ\\_FieldTestAdministration\\_3-12-14\\_0.pdf](http://parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/FAQ_FieldTestAdministration_3-12-14_0.pdf)
- 8. How will the data look when it comes back to us? Will there be an item analysis?**  
*Report designs are under construction right now, but, yes- item analyses are planned.*
- 9. How will we share the data with parents? Will there be a student report for the parents.**  
*See #8 above.*
- 10. How do we compare PARCC to SBA?**  
*Concordance tables will be developed.*
- 11. What are PBA questions like?**  
*See the sample items available in January for examples.*  
*MC<sup>2</sup> suggests also referring to <http://www.parcconline.org/samples> . Click on specific grade levels on left.*