



**MC<sup>2</sup> Countdown to PARCC Webinar  
November 19, 2014**

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

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

**1. If a student is enrolled in two math classes concurrently, which exam will they take?**

- If a student is taking 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and Algebra I, they will take the test for the higher level class, Algebra I.
- If a high school student is taking more than one math class, they will take the higher level class assessment. For example, Algebra I is the lowest, then Geometry and Algebra II is the highest. So if a student is enrolled in Algebra I and Geometry concurrently, the student would take only the Geometry assessment.
- If an 8<sup>th</sup> grader is taking a high school math class, they will take Algebra I or whichever high school math class they are enrolled in.
- However, if 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are taking a high school math class, they will take their grade level PARCC assessment in math for 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

For more PARCC testing protocols go to the NM PED *Countdown to PARCC for Administrators* document at <http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/NMPARCCDocs/October%202014%20Countdown%20to%20PARCC%20Admin.pdf>

**2. Will the PARCC assessments be timed? ...or is the time flexible?**

The PED has indicated that New Mexico will not deviate from what is on the PARCC website regarding the session times for the assessments.

- Go to <http://parconline.org/update-session-times> for specifics.
- If students do need more time, their IEP or Section 504 plan must specify the time accommodation. Students with disabilities and English learners are eligible for an extended time accommodation. (Refer to pg. 14 of PARCC Accommodations manual at [http://www.parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/parcc-accessibility-features-accommodations-manual-11-14\\_final.pdf](http://www.parconline.org/sites/parcc/files/parcc-accessibility-features-accommodations-manual-11-14_final.pdf))

**3. How will Special Education modifications be made?**

There is a PARCC assessment accommodation manual which includes extensive guidelines for students with special needs. Each district test coordinator should be aware of this manual and give students with special needs the opportunity to use the appropriate modifications as they work on the practice test and use math throughout the year.

Go to <http://parconline.org/parcc-accessibility-features-and-accommodations-manual> for specifics.

#### 4. Where can we find formula charts that will be given at each grade level?

PARCC uses the term “Assessment Reference Sheets” instead of formula charts. Go to the following links for:

- Grades 3-4 Assessment Reference Sheet: After close examination of the CCSS-M, PARCC determined that no reference sheets were necessary for grades 3-4: Go to [http://parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/CommunicationsdocumentforPARCCApprovedReferenceSheet\\_updated%20June%202014%20%282%29.pdf](http://parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/CommunicationsdocumentforPARCCApprovedReferenceSheet_updated%20June%202014%20%282%29.pdf)
- Grades 5-8 Assessment Reference Sheet: Go to [http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/ApprovedPARCCReferenceSheet\\_11.5.14.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/ApprovedPARCCReferenceSheet_11.5.14.pdf)
- High School Assessment Reference Sheets: Go to [http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/ApprovedPARCCHighSchoolReferenceSheet\\_111612.pdf](http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/ApprovedPARCCHighSchoolReferenceSheet_111612.pdf)
- General Math Tools Policy: Go to <http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC%20Math%20Tools%20Policy%207-31-14.pdf>

#### 5. If an explanation is required, how will students demonstrate their knowledge in order to get to level 5 if we are using computer-based testing (CBT)?

Presently students will demonstrate their knowledge using the keyboard, typing their explanations and using technology tools such as the *Equation Editor*. Currently, the technology tools available are limiting and not the highest level of technology for students to explain and justify their reasoning. PARCC is developing more tools for the next iteration of the assessment.

Students will be asked to respond to three types of questions. Type 1 requires no explanation, and Type 2 and 3 require an explanation. For the specific criteria for scoring at a Level 5, please refer to the grade-specific *Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)* at <http://parcconline.org/math-plds>.

For Equation Editor, graphing calculator and other tutorials go to <http://parcc.pearson.com/tutorial/>.

#### 6. If the students demonstrate their understanding of the mathematical practices but perhaps do not use specific vocabulary, how will this be evaluated? Are there PLDs for these?

Type II questions address the following list according to the *High Level Blueprint* available at (<http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC%20High%20Level%20Blueprints%20-%20Mathematics%20043013.pdf>)

- Each task calls for **written arguments / justifications, critique of reasoning, or precision in mathematical statements** (MP.3, MP.6)
- Can involve other mathematical practice standards
- May include a mix of machine scored and hand scored responses
- Included on the Performance Based Assessment component
- Sub-claim C

The Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) (<http://parcconline.org/math-plds>) for Sub-claim C specify the level of command needed regarding the CCSS-M vocabulary.

**7. What percentage of the math portion of PARCC asks for explanation of their problem solving?**

The *PARCC High Level Blueprints – Mathematics* document describes the specifics regarding the types of items that are going to be given; whether it is a Type 1 which is no explanation, a Type 2 or a Type 3 which does require an explanation; and for each grade level how many questions there will be for each type.

For the *PARCC High Level Blueprint* go to:

<http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC%20High%20Level%20Blueprints%20-%20Mathematics%20043013.pdf>

**8. Can you give more information regarding 30% of the total PARCC coming from Sub-Claims C & D (MP.3, MP.6 & MP. 4)?**

As per the Claims Structure document ([http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/Claims\\_Structure\\_page\\_ELC\\_PPT.pdf](http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/Claims_Structure_page_ELC_PPT.pdf)),

For grades 3-8:

- **Sub-Claim C:** ~ 14 pts.
- **Sub-Claim D:** ~ 12 pts.
- **Total:** 26/92 or ~ 30%

For high school:

- **Sub-Claim C:** ~ 14 pts.
- **Sub-Claim D:** ~ 18 pts.
- **Total:** 32/107 or ~ 30%

Refer to the following for more information:

- Grade-specific *Performance Level Descriptors* (<http://parcconline.org/math-plds>)
- High Level Blueprint-Mathematics  
<http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC%20High%20Level%20Blueprints%20-%20Mathematics%20043013.pdf>

**9. Are there portions of high school exams where calculators are NOT allowed?**

Yes, there are portions of the exams where calculators are NOT allowed. For example, the high school EOY practice test for Algebra I has two parts. Part I (8 questions) is a non-calculator section and Part 2 (27 questions) is a calculator section.

For the PARCC Calculator Policy, go to

<http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC%20Calculator%20Policy%20-%20Updated%2010-22-14.pdf>

For non-calculator sections of math assessments:

A student's IEP or Section 504 plan may allow a device or manipulative on the non-calculator sections of the mathematics assessments.

[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)

**10. Is the PARCC accommodation manual out of "draft" mode yet?**

The manual continues to be revised as PARCC tests and collects data. A third edition was released in November 2014. Also, the Evidence Statements are going to be revised.

To access the manual, go to:

[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)

**11. Is there a rubric for PARCC like we had for the SBA?**

Refer to the PARCC Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) for specific rubrics per grade-level or course standards.

Go to <http://parcconline.org/math-plds>

**12. Where can examples of rich math tasks be located?**

Some resources to consider:

- **Your textbook:** Find the rich math tasks in your textbook and use those tasks as the central part of the lesson.
- **Web Resources** designed to support CCSS Math Practices:
  - Illustrative Mathematics <https://www.illustrativemathematics.org/>
  - Illuminations <https://illuminations.nctm.org>
  - Inside Mathematics <http://www.insidemathematics.org/>
  - You Cubed <http://www.youcubed.org/>
  - Mathematics Assessment Project <http://map.mathshell.org/>