

# November 2014



## Countdown to PARCC eNewsletter

Volume 1 Issue 2

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The Mathematically Connected Communities (MC<sup>2</sup>) November edition is the second in a year-long series of monthly **Count Down to PARCC eNewsletters** in preparation for the Spring 2015 math assessments. Upcoming editions will be emailed to MC<sup>2</sup> Countdown to PARCC subscribers during the first week of each month. Anyone not currently on our listserv may subscribe by emailing us at [mc2@nmsu.edu](mailto:mc2@nmsu.edu).

The MC<sup>2</sup> Countdown 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 Countdown is offered in two sections:

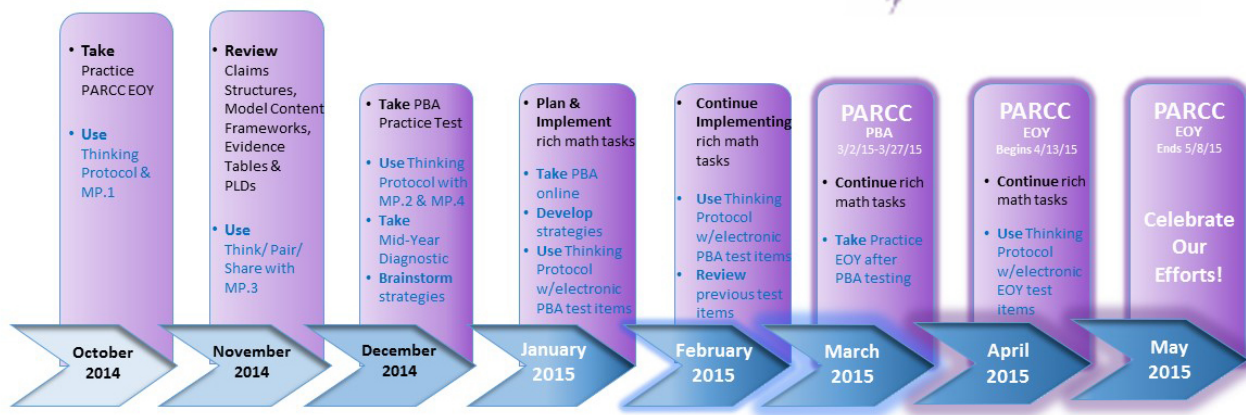
1. **Supports for Teachers** – This section provides tips for teachers to collaborate with others to understand PARCC expectations and plan mathematics tasks designed to build conceptual understanding and strategic thinking for approaching complex mathematical tasks with confidence and competence.
2. **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.

### November Webinar:

Join us on **Wednesday, November 19, at 4pm (MST)** for a 45-minute webinar explaining PARCC resources available to support planning instruction that is aligned with testing expectations. Math Practice 3 (MP.3) will also be highlighted.

MC<sup>2</sup> research districts and New Mexico educators have first priority to register for the webinar and will receive an email invitation. Once registered, you will receive an email confirmation and several reminders. Please note that the live webinar will be **limited to 90 attendees**. If there are remaining slots available, they will be on a first come/first served basis to educators outside of New Mexico. The webinar will be archived and available 24/7 online at the [MC<sup>2</sup> 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.

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



## Color Code Key: Teacher Support & Classroom Strategies

\*The bulleted tasks above are recommended by MC<sup>2</sup> to assist teachers in preparing for PARCC.  
Click on the image to enlarge the graphic.

## NOVEMBER

### Teacher Supports:

- This month we will study the **Claims Structures** ([http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/Claims\\_Structure\\_page\\_ELC\\_PPT.pdf](http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/Claims_Structure_page_ELC_PPT.pdf)), **Model Content Frameworks** (<http://www.parcconline.org/parcc-model-content-frameworks>), **Evidence Tables** (<http://parcconline.org/assessment-blueprints-test-specs>) and **Performance Level Descriptors** (<http://parcconline.org/math-plds>) for each grade level and discuss the implications for instruction. To guide your instruction please review the **MC<sup>2</sup> Recommendations for Using PARCC Resources** document ([http://mc2.nmsu.edu/documents/MC2\\_Recommendation\\_UsingPARCC\\_Resources.pdf](http://mc2.nmsu.edu/documents/MC2_Recommendation_UsingPARCC_Resources.pdf)).
- Continue to collaborate with colleagues to plan rich mathematics tasks aligned to CCSS-M as a regular part of the mathematics curriculum.

### Classroom Strategies:

- Use “**Thinking Protocol**” ([http://mc2.nmsu.edu/documents/Thinking\\_Protocol\\_PARCC.pdf](http://mc2.nmsu.edu/documents/Thinking_Protocol_PARCC.pdf)) with one test item (refer to grade level items below) a week that is aligned with content of class. Use a Think/Pair/Share to develop mathematical arguments to defend solutions. (Math Practice 3 (<http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/MathPractices.pdf>)). Keep a record of student strategies on a poster.

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

*For the grade level item links go to  
MC<sup>2</sup> Countdown to PARCC web page  
(<http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/CountDown.html>)*

**Purpose:** Students become comfortable with various solution strategies and writing mathematical arguments.