

January 2015



Countdown to PARCC eNewsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4

The Mathematically Connected Communities (MC²) December edition is the third 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 MC² 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.

The MC² 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:

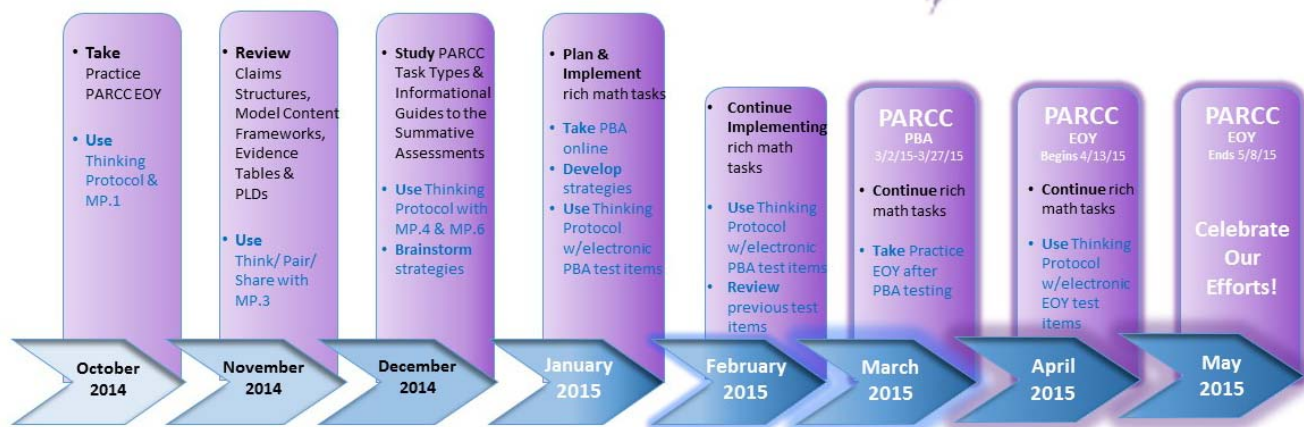
1. **Supports for Teachers** – This section provides tips for teachers to collaborate with others to understand PARCC expectations and plan mathematics tasks designed to build conceptual understanding and strategic thinking for approaching complex mathematical tasks with confidence and competence.
2.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

January Webinar:

Join us on Wednesday, January 21, at 4pm (M ST) for a 45-minute webinar on studying more about the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) practice test for math (if available) OR Type II and III Task sample test items.

MC² 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 [MC² Home Page](http://mc2.nmsu.edu) (mc2.nmsu.edu) 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.

MC² Countdown 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.

JANUARY

Teacher Supports:

- This month we will focus on studying more about the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) practice test for math (if available) OR Type II and III Task sample test items.
- Continue to collaborate with colleagues to plan rich mathematics tasks aligned to the CCSS-M as a regular part of the mathematics curriculum.

Classroom Strategies:

- Students take the **Practice Performance Based Assessment** (when available) on computers and afterwards are given a chance to discuss their experience.
- Brainstorm ideas for how **to develop strategies for tackling hard problems**.
- Use the "[MC² Thinking Protocol](#)" (http://mc2.nmsu.edu/PARCC/Grades/Dec/Thinking_Protocol_for_PARCC_December_withMP4and6.pdf) with electronic PARCC performance-type sample test items regularly (1-2 times per week) that are aligned with the content of class. Use student initiated strategies for test practice.
- Teachers and students brainstorm ideas for how to develop strategies for tackling hard problems.

Purpose:

Play with and get comfortable with online testing in a non-threatening environment. By brainstorming strategies, students gain a sense of empowerment and confidence that they have some control of the test.