



**A Publication of the
Madison Public
Schools Office of
Curriculum and
Instruction**

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*A Walk in the PARCC
aims to provide all
those with an interest in
the Madison Public
Schools with the latest
information about the
Common Core State
Standards and PARCC
assessments.*

PARCC Testing Continues in Madison

At the elementary level, testing has concluded for all but a few students who were absent for one or more of the regularly scheduled testing days. Due to technical challenges beyond the district's control, testing was interrupted twice – April 13 and April 20. In both cases, district administrators, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Education and Pearson, the company responsible for the online testing platform, made the decision to stop testing as soon as practical to maximize time in the regular instructional setting. On the other days of testing, the systems worked well and the arrival of Chromebooks in all classrooms allowed for the least possible disruption to the schools.

At MJS, students have completed English language arts units 1 and 2 and will continue on Monday, May 2 with units 3a and 3b followed by mathematics on May 4-6.

High school students have completed all of the English language arts testing and will pick up testing in algebra I, II and geometry on Monday, May 16.

Madison Junior School

Testing will last between 80 and 110 minutes each day.

English Language Arts – May 2, 3

Mathematics – May 4, 5, 6

Madison High School

Testing will last between 90 and 110 minutes each day.

Mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) – May 16, 17, 18

All students not enrolled in an Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II course will report to school on a delayed opening schedule.

State Graduation Requirements Under Discussion

At its April 6 meeting, the New Jersey state board of education considered changes to state graduation requirements. Notably, the Department of Education proposes amendments to transition to the use of end-of-course assessments (PARCC) as the graduation requirement. The first of two readings of the proposal was approved unanimously by the members of the board.

According to the Department of Education, the end-of-course assessments in English language arts 10 and algebra I were selected as the appropriate assessments for students to demonstrate graduation proficiency as the tests appear to align best with the expectations of the knowledge and skills for graduation established in State statute.

Masthead Design:
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Students graduating in 2016 through 2019 will be able to satisfy the requirement to demonstrate proficiency in English language arts and mathematics through a means other than an end-of-course PARCC assessment, including achieving a passing score on a substitute competency test or meeting the criteria of the Department's portfolio appeal process.

Students graduating in the class of 2020 will be permitted to demonstrate graduation proficiency through the same alternative means as those in the classes of 2016 through 2019, provided that students in the class of 2020 take all end-of-course PARCC assessments for which they are eligible as of the effective date of the proposed amendments.

Students graduating in 2021 and thereafter who have not demonstrated proficiency on English language arts and mathematics through the end-of-course PARCC assessment by their senior year may demonstrate graduation proficiency by meeting the criteria of the portfolio appeals process.

The next state board meeting and public testimony opportunity is Wednesday, May 4 from 2:00-5:00pm in Trenton. Information about the rules governing public testimony is available [here](#).

Adapted from Commissioner Hesper's [memo to the state board of education](#).

State Science Assessment Scheduled for May

While most of the attention has been on PARCC, NJASK Science and Biology Competency Testing is scheduled for late May. All students in grades 4 and 8 will take the NJASK Science paper test on May 25. All students enrolled for the first time in a high school biology test will take the Biology Competency paper test on May 25-26.

What Do You Think?

"A Walk in the PARCC" is designed to keep the entire Madison learning community informed as we transition to new educational standards and assessments. Please take a moment to complete a brief survey to guide the development of future newsletters.

The survey can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/AWalkInTheParcc>.

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