



**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.*

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Detailed PARCC Results Shared

At the February 23, 2016 Board of Education meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Matthew Mingle presented detailed PARCC results from the 2014-15 school year. The full presentation is available [here](#). Highlights include:

- Madison students outperformed their peers from similar socio-economic school districts on 14 out of the 18 PARCC tests. The exceptions were grades 3 and 8 math and grades 5 and 9 English language arts.
- Madison students' performance relative to that of socio-economic peers was better during the first year of PARCC than it was during the last year of NJASK/HSPA.
- Madison students did particularly well in grade 7 math, algebra II, and grades 7-8 English language arts where students exceeded similar socio-economic schools' performance by 10 or more percent.

Mr. Mingle also summarized steps the district is taking to build upon a successful first year of PARCC testing.

- Elementary school teachers continue to participate in professional development related to early literacy and mathematics instruction.
- The phase-in of adjustments to the middle and high school mathematics programs continues with an emphasis on ensuring high expectations for all students.
- The English-as-a-second-language and basic skills programs are being evaluated. Recommendations for how to improve the services they provide are expected before the end of the year.
- Additional attention is being paid to the district's PARCC participation rate to ensure all families understand the importance of the assessments and challenges that may be associated with not participating.

What Parents Should Know About PARCC



Bari Erlichson of the New Jersey Department of Education was interviewed by the New Jersey School Boards Association last fall. The focus of the interview was providing parents with accurate and up-to-date information about the assessment system and its appropriate role in the overall education system in New Jersey. Watch the video [here](#).

2016 PARCC Schedule

This year, PARCC testing will take place during only one testing window. The total testing time has been reduced by about 90 minutes per grade level. These changes, combined with the district's successful implementation of a 1 to 1 Chromebook initiative in grades 1-12, significantly reduce the disruption of standardized testing on the school calendar.

Elementary Schools

Testing will last between 60 and 90 minutes each day.

English Language Arts – April 14, 15, 18

Mathematics – April 19, 20, 21, 22

Madison Junior School

English Language Arts – May 2, 3, 4

May 2, 3 – 110 minutes

May 4 – 90 minutes

Mathematics – May 5, 6

May 5 – 160 minutes

May 6 – 80 minutes

Madison High School

Testing will last between 90 and 110 minutes each day.

English Language Arts – April 25, 26, 27

Seniors will report to school on a delayed opening schedule.

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.

Please note that students with modifications that require paper-based testing may have an altered testing schedule due to state requirements regarding paper-based testing.

PARCC Seeks Parent Feedback on Score Reports

PARCC is conducting a parent survey to gather feedback about the usability of the individual student score reports that were mailed home in December. Survey input will be used to make changes to the score reports for 2016 testing, which are expected to be mailed home over the summer. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

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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