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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.*

## State Commission Recommends Retaining PARCC

On January 11, 2016, the New Jersey Study Commission on the Use of Student Assessments recommended that the state continue using PARCC. The Commission determined that PARCC is a high quality assessment that has the potential to support quality learning for all students.

The Commission was created by Executive Order by Governor Christie on July 14, 2014. The Commission was charged with reviewing and making recommendations to the Governor regarding the quality and effectiveness of student assessments administered to kindergarten through grade 12 students.

Among the Commission's 49 recommendations were many that reference PARCC testing:

- Recommendation 2 – "...include a review of the results of the 2015 PARCC assessment...as they might provide insights regarding the clarity of the (Common Core State) standards and how the standards have been implemented."
- Recommendation 23 – "...continue its membership and participation in the PARCC consortium and annually administer the PARCC instrument as its Statewide assessment."
- Recommendation 24 – "...engage in ongoing dialogue with other states in the PARCC consortium regarding issues of collective concern..."
- Recommendation 25 – "...provide opportunities for waiver requests for the PARCC English language arts 11 (ELA 11) test for students who participate in an assessment that provides information for college placement nationwide (e.g., International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement)."
- Recommendation 26 – "...require all students enrolled in public schools in grades 3 through 12 to take, as appropriate under federal law, the Statewide standardized assessment in English language arts, mathematics, and science as prescribed in State statute and the EOC (end of course) assessment (i.e., Algebra I & II, geometry, and ELA 9, 10, and 11)..."
- Recommendation 27 – "...identify a range of best practices that may be adopted by district boards of education when considering how to work with parents and communities to ensure all eligible students complete the Statewide assessments..."
- Recommendation 28 – "...provide additional guidance to educators and parents of students with individualized education programs (IEPs) or 504 plans and students who are ELLs regarding the students' participation in the State assessment system and the selection of appropriate accommodations and accessibility features..."
- Recommendation 29 – "...explore the feasibility and desirability of expanding resources, including tools to measure literacy in ELLs' native languages."

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## State Commission Recommends Retaining PARCC (continued)

- Recommendation 30 – “...recognizes the U.S. Department of Education (ED) currently requires students with an IEP to be tested at the grade level in which they participate rather than at the level at which they are taught ... recognizes this requirement may not always be in the best interests of affected students ... recommends that the NJDOE enter into a dialogue with the ED to address this concern and seek the authority to exercise greater flexibility when circumstances warrant.”
- Recommendation 31 – “...provide educators ... with additional professional learning on PARCC accessibility features and accommodations...”
- Recommendation 32 – “...continue its efforts to use assistive technologies to make PARCC assessments meaningful for students with disabilities.”
- Recommendation 33 – “...pursue aggressively its current application with the ED to exempt newly arrived ELLs from the requirement to participate in Statewide standardized testing for two years from date of entry to a U.S. school district...”
- Recommendation 34 – “...explore ways to improve the user friendliness of the PARCC computerized format.”
- Recommendation 35 – “...develop and communicate best practices in testing preparation to ensure students are technologically prepared to take the assessment, but the preparation time does not unduly distract from instructional time and the learning experience...”
- Recommendation 36 – “...consider every opportunity to reduce testing time and the testing administrative burden.”
- Recommendation 37 – “...develop a plan for the annual public release of PARCC assessments results...”
- Recommendation 38 – “...school districts engage in a consistent and rigorous review of PARCC and other available student performance data...”
- Recommendation 39 – “...provide professional learning to educational practitioners...about how to analyze and use assessment data in program and curriculum planning.”
- Recommendation 40 – “...communicate a consistent message about the lessons learned as a result of the PARCC implementation in spring 2015...encourage school districts to embed within their strategic plans the use of student assessment data as an important tool for school improvement.”
- Recommendation 47 – “...begin a transitional period for the use of PARCC as a high school graduation assessment... allow students through the graduating class of 2020 to demonstrate proficiency on a standardized assessment through PARCC EOC assessments or the identified substitute assessments...beginning with the graduating class of 2020, eligible students should be required to take the PARCC EOC assessments in courses in which they are enrolled ... before they can access the alternative assessments for high school graduation ... the graduating class of 2021 be the first class to be required to satisfactorily pass the appropriate PARCC EOC assessments as a condition for high school graduation ... establish ELA 10 and Algebra I ... as the State assessment requirements for graduation...”
- Recommendation 48 – “...encourage IHEs (Institutes of Higher Education) ... to use PARCC assessment scores for identifying course placement and enrollment in dual-credit programs...”

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

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## MHS Schedule Adjusted on PARCC Test Dates

With the adjustments to PARCC testing this year and the district's 1:1 Chromebook program, all Madison High School students enrolled in assessed courses (English 9, English 10, English 11, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II) will test at the same time. This will significantly reduce the overall burden on the school schedule.

To facilitate this change, students not enrolled in an assessed course will have a delayed opening on testing dates.

April 25, 26, 27 – All students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will report at regular time. All other students will follow a delayed opening schedule.

May 16, 17, 18 – All students enrolled in Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II, regardless of grade level, will report at regular time. All other students will follow a delayed opening schedule.

More details will follow in a letter from Madison High School in the spring.

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## Your Guide to PARCC Test Question Resources

Parents and teachers can now view PARCC test items from last year's test. The Partnership Resource Center was developed as a guide to these new resources to make it easier to navigate the questions and related materials, including sample student responses to open-ended test questions and annotations that explain how student work was scored.

### PARTNERSHIP RESOURCE CENTER

Welcome to the Partnership Resource Center. Our community of educators, parents, and others committed to quality assessment leading to student success invite you to register, browse, learn, and implement to enhance your knowledge of assessments within the classroom.



The Partnership Resource Center can be accessed [here](#).

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## 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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