



**A Publication of the
Madison Public
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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.

Adjusted PARCC Testing Schedule

In late February, the New Jersey Department of Education announced that once every three years each district in the state would be required to administer an extra section of the PARCC English language arts assessment as part of the ongoing field testing process for new test items. Madison was selected to be part of the field testing for 2016. This means that the PARCC schedule had to be modified a bit to accommodate the additional section. Please note that district administrators, teachers, and students will not know which test session contains the field test questions so it is important to treat each day of testing the same way.

Elementary Schools

Testing will last between 60 and 90 minutes each day.

English Language Arts – April 13, 14, 15, 18

Mathematics – April 19, 20, 21, 22

Madison Junior School

Testing will last between 80 and 110 minutes each day.

English Language Arts – April 25, 26; May 2, 3

Mathematics – May 4, 5, 6

Madison High School

Testing will last between 90 and 110 minutes each day.

English Language Arts – April 25, 26, 27, 28

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.

Three Ways to Support Children at Home

Throughout their academic careers, all students will take standardized tests, including an annual state test beginning in grade three to measure how well they are progressing in the skills and content at each grade level. Tests can open doors to many great opportunities, but for many students and parents, standardized tests also bring stress and anxiety. Here are three resources to support parents in better understanding the PARCC assessment and how to help their children feel prepared and confident.

1. **Find out the facts.** Each section of PARCC – English language arts and mathematics – will be broken down into three or four units with one unit administered each day. Review the schedule for your child's school so you can help them with knowing what

to expect. The amount of time provided is based on an analysis of students' needs on field tested questions in the past so students should not feel rushed while testing. For more information about the PARCC test, visit <http://belearninghero.org/classroom/parcc> and review past issues of *A Walk in the PARCC* on the district's curriculum and instruction website.

- 2. Review the practice tests.** PARCC has published many example items to help educators, parents, and students better understand how the test is aligned to classroom work. You may want to walk through the test yourself or with your child for familiarity. To see a practice test, visit <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>.
- 3. Know what your child is learning in English and math.** PARCC is designed to assess the standards adopted by the New Jersey Department of Education in English language arts and math. To learn more about those expectations, visit the PTA Parents' Guide to Success at <http://www.pta.org/>. You can also see samples of what writing that meets the standards looks like at each grade level at <http://raisethebarparents.org/>.

Adapted from "PARCC Parent Checklist: 5 Ways to Help Your Child," accessible at parconline.org/images/Parent_PARCC_Checklist.pdf.

FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YEAR TWO OF PARCC

IMPROVEMENTS FOR YEAR TWO OF PARCC	SPRING 2015 PARCC	VS.	SPRING 2016 PARCC
ONE TESTING WINDOW Two testing windows last year have been reduced to just one testing window this year.			
LESS TESTING TIME Overall, the tests are 90 minutes shorter.			
FEWER TEST QUESTIONS There are fewer testing sessions than last year—six or seven sessions this year versus eight or nine.			
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING Under the new condensed schedule, most districts are expected to complete testing in two weeks or less.			
DATA BACK FASTER Results will begin returning to districts around the end of current school year, and parent reports are expected to be released over the summer. This is several months sooner than the last year.			

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment is one tool used to provide schools with information to improve classroom instruction, and give parents valuable feedback about their child's progress. PARCC was administered for the first time in spring 2015, and improvements were made to the assessment based on that experience for the second administration in spring 2016. For more information visit the NJDOE website: www.state.nj.us/education/

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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>.