



**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 Score Release Update

This month the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) released its statewide PARCC results from the 2014-15 spring tests. It was the first year students took the PARCC test, which replaced the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) and High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA).

The NJDOE identifies four things the assessments are designed to do:

- Serve as an academic checkup to ensure that students are meeting grade-level expectations and remain on track for the next grade level and ultimately, high school graduation;
- Help teachers and schools identify students who need support so they can provide additional instruction;
- Help districts identify persistent achievement gaps so they can identify strategies and allocate resources appropriately; and
- Help districts measure the effectiveness of their curriculum, interventions and programs.

In the 2014-15 school year, approximately 850,000 students across New Jersey took the PARCC assessments, with nearly 99% of them taking it on computer platforms. State-level results are now available along with a great deal of supporting information [here](#).

Madison-specific information will not be available until late November. Individual student score reports will be sent home as soon as practical upon their receipt in the district.

*Article adapted from "The PARCC Assessments: Informing Teaching and Learning," published at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/parcc/informing.pdf>*

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## Preparing for PARCC Results to be presented to BOE

At the November 3, 2015 Board of Education meeting, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Matthew Mingle will present an overview of how the district is preparing to receive 2015 PARCC results. This will include information about the 2015 tests, a preview of the information that will be shared with parents from the NJDOE, how the district's teachers and administrators have been getting ready, and how the assessments will be different in 2016.

Please note that Madison-specific results have not yet been received and will not be presented at this meeting.

The public portion of the meeting begins at 7:30pm in the Alice Perlaw Library Media Center of Madison High School. *Preparing for PARCC Results* will take place early in the meeting.

Masthead Design:  
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## PARCC Releases 2015 Test Items

On Friday, October 23, 2015, PARCC published its [released items catalog](#) from the Spring 2015 test. This includes: PDFs of item sets for each grade level of English language arts and math; sample student responses for each grade level task; annotated student work (ELA only); a guide to how student responses were scored; general rules for scoring that were followed; scoring rubrics; and answer keys.

On Monday, October 26, 2015, all Madison teachers and administrators engaged in professional learning activities with this released information to ensure that classroom instructional practices match the style and rigor of PARCC wherever appropriate.

For parents, the release of the items provides insight into the kinds of questions students are seeing on their tests, so assessments aren't a mystery. The test items were built with robust mathematics problems and authentic reading passages selected and reviewed extensively by dozens of educators from PARCC states, including New Jersey.

The released test questions represent roughly one full test per grade level in each subject area, a collection of information never before available to parents or educators for standardized assessments in New Jersey.

*Article adapted from "Using Released Items as Instructional Tools," published at <https://prc.parcconline.org/library/using-released-items-instructional-tools>*

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## Parent Resources Posted

PARCC has established a one-stop [parent resource center](#). This site contains information about PARCC assessments, guidance for reading and utilizing the individual student score report, and links to resources that can assist parents in supporting their children's learning at home.

Featured Resource: [Be a Learning Hero](#)



The mission of Be a Learning Hero is to provide the best information and tools for parents to help their children succeed in school and in life. Resources include information about new state standards and assessments, learning tools broken down by grade and subject, and information from national partners such as the PTA.

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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>.

**Office of Curriculum and Instruction**

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