

BOGOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: Bogota Staff
From: Anna Vargas, Director of Curriculum
RE: PARCC Information

Last school year marked the end of the NJ ASK and HSPA and the beginning of online assessments. PARCC, which will replace these tests in grades 3-8 and in high school, aligns to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and will include two testing windows at different times of the school year. This memo will provide information and additional learning to better prepare for this new generation of testing.

Who will take the PARCC? Students in grades 3-8 in mathematics and English Language Arts will take both the Performance Based Assessments (PBA) and End of Year assessment (EOY). Students enrolled in English 1, English 2, English 3, Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 will also take the PBA and EOY.

Performance-based assessments (PBA) in ELA/literacy and mathematics are summative tests taken at 75% of the school year. In ELA/literacy, this will involve analyzing literature and a narrative writing task. Students will read texts and write several pieces to demonstrate they can read and understand sufficiently complex texts independently; write effectively when using and analyzing sources; and build and communicate knowledge by integrating, comparing and synthesizing ideas.

In math, students will be asked to solve problems involving the key knowledge and skills for their grade level (as identified by the CCSS), express mathematical reasoning and construct a mathematical argument, and apply concepts to solve model real-world problems.

The End-of-year assessments (EOY) in ELA/literacy and math is administered at 90% of the school year and the results will be combined with the performance-based assessment to produce a student's summative assessment score. For the end- of-year assessment, students will demonstrate their acquired skills and knowledge by answering computer-based, machine- scored questions.

What are the administration dates for the PARCC? The district has from March 2, 2015 to March 27, 2015 to complete the PBA test and from April 27, 2015- May 22, 2015 to complete the EOY component. A definitive testing schedule will be forthcoming. It is important to note that your students will NOT be testing for the duration of the time mentioned above.

How can I better prepare my students for the PARCC? Simply put, continue to teach the standards! Ensure that instruction and assessments are aligned to the CCSS. Remember, ALL teachers are teachers of reading and writing and this is no longer the burden of just English teachers. Additionally, using technology as a routine part of the classroom environment will prepare students for PARCC. When integrating technology, ensure that :

- technology usage is planned an purposeful
- technology is used to support curricular learning goals
- technology is mostly being used by students, not the teacher
- students create and develop new thinking processes using technology
- technology is used to facilitate collaboration in and out of the classroom
- technology is used to facilitate activities that would otherwise be difficult or impossible

What resources are available to me? A list of resources is attached to this memo. Also, Nicole Stols, our district Common Core Implementation representative, sends monthly emails with helpful information. The most updated curriculum is on the district website, and it is expected teachers refer to these documents for instructional guidance.

Continue to stay updated as the New Jersey Department of Education continues to finalize PARCC requirements and guidelines.

CC: Letizia Pantolino, Ed.D

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Common Core/PARCC Resources

- ❖ PARCC Interactive Practice Tests
Visit <http://practice.parcctestnav.com/#> and click on Practice Tests to choose the subject and grade of your choice. It is recommended that teachers take the test to understand the skills necessary for successful administration.
- ❖ <http://www.readworks.org> stores units, lessons and non-fiction and literary passages for grades K-8. You can filter resources by skill or strategy.
- ❖ The Learning Network of the New York Times provides lesson plans in most subjects and serves as a great resource:
<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/?module=BlogMain&action=Click®ion=Header&pgtype=Blogs&version=Blog%20Category&contentCollection=U.S..>
- ❖ <https://learnzillion.com> is an online community to access free, effective, standards-aligned resources
- ❖ <http://achievethecore.org> provides CCSS for all grade levels.
- ❖ EngageNY has wonderful resources and videos on CCSS.
<http://www.engageny.org/resource/common-core-toolkit/>
- ❖ Illustrative Math supports the kinds of tasks students will be asked to perform on the PARCC assessments: <https://www.illustrativemathematics.org>
- ❖ North Carolina has posted excellent resources for CCSS at <http://maccss.ncdpi.wikispaces.net>
- ❖ The Teaching Channel includes a growing collection of videos that focus on the Common Core State Standards, some of which focus on the background of the Common Core in certain grades/subjects, while others highlight instructional practices aligned to specific standards. https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos?page=1&categories=topics_common-core
- ❖ <http://njcore.org> serves as a quick point of access for CCSS aligned lesson plans.