



Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers

PARCC Changes in New Mexico for Spring 2016

Based on the input and feedback of Superintendents, principals, testing coordinators, and technology coordinators across the state, the following improvements to PARCC administration will be implemented for the spring 2016 administration.

1. Consolidate the two testing windows into one

- Combines the PBA and EOY test administrations into one
- The single testing window will simplify administration of the test for districts and schools that experienced challenges with scheduling and preparing for two testing windows.

2. Begin the single testing window nearly a full month later in the year

- The testing window for the 2015-16 school year will be April 4 through May 13, 2016 for computer-based testing.
- Most schools will be able to complete testing in one to two weeks during that window.
- The testing window for paper-based testing will be April 4 through April 29, 2016.

3. Reduce testing time for students

- Average reduction of 90 minutes of unit times for each grade level
- Grades 3 through 5 – change from 8 units to 7 units of testing
- Grades 6 through high school – change from 9 units to 6 units of testing

4. Increase the uniformity of the testing units

- Unit times have been standardized to facilitate scheduling and planning.
 - There will be three ELA units in grades 3 through high school. All ELA units in grades 3 through 5 will be 75-90 minutes in length, and 90-110 minutes in grade 6 through high school. Selected districts, will also have a ELA field test section that is 90 minutes at grades 3 through 5 and 110 minutes at grade 6 through high school.
 - There will be four math units for grades 3 through 5 and three math units for grades 6 through high school. All math units in grades 3 through 5 will be 60 minutes in length, 80 minutes for grades 6 through 8, and 90 minutes for high school.

Frequently asked questions regarding the changes

Why is the PARCC test changing next year?

- The development of PARCC is a collaborative process that includes significant input from local educators, school leaders and higher education faculty.
- The Public Education Department is listening to feedback on educators' experience in administering the assessment in the first year and refining the process so that we continue to improve the testing experience for students, educators, and schools.
- As always, the ultimate goal of administering the PARCC assessment is to ensure that districts, schools, and families have the information they need about each student's academic progress. The adjustments being made for next year are based on what we learned after the first full administration so it will best serve students, educators, and parents.

Will the PARCC test still be valid and reliable?

- Yes. The test will include fewer questions overall—but it will continue to test the full range of standards and provide valid and reliable results.
- In alignment with test security best practice and in order to ensure continued validity of future test versions, select schools will participate in an additional ELA field test unit on a rotating schedule.