



A Workshop for Parents

East Orange School District

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What Is PARCC?



The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers:

- Made up of **13 states**
- Developing common, high-quality **Math** and **English Language Arts** (ELA) tests for **grades 3–11**
 - Computer-based and linked to what students need to know for college and careers



What Is PARCC?



**PARCC is the Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers**

What is College and Career Readiness?

College Readiness



- **College readiness** means that graduates have the skills they need to do well in college.
- **“College”** doesn’t just mean a four-year degree. It can mean **any program that leads to a degree or certificate**.
- Being **“ready”** means that students graduate from high schools with **key skills in English and Mathematics**.

Career Readiness



- **Career readiness** means that high school graduates are **qualified for and able to do well in long-term careers.**
- **“Career”** doesn’t just mean a job. It means a profession that lets graduates succeed at a job they enjoy and earn a competitive wage.

Why New Assessments *Now*?



- **Career readiness** means that high school graduates are qualified for and able to do well in long-term careers.
- **“Career”** doesn’t just mean a job. It means a profession that lets graduates succeed at a job they enjoy and earn a competitive wage.



What are Common Core Standards?



What are Common Core Standards?



- A single set of **clear standards** for English Language Arts and Mathematics
- **A tool** to help students and parents set **clear** and realistic goals for success
- **A first step** in providing young people with the high-quality education that will prepare them for success in college and careers

What's different in the new standards?



English Language Arts/Literacy:

- Focus on **non-fiction**, careful reading
- Discuss reading and write using **evidence**
- Increase **academic vocabulary**

Mathematics

- Learn more about **fewer concepts**
- Focus on **skill building, speed and accuracy**
- Use of **real world examples** to better understand concepts

How Will PARCC Be Different?



Students: Will know if they are **on track** to graduate ready for college/careers

Teachers: Will have access to **timely data** to guide learning and instruction

Parents: Will have **clear and timely information** about student progress

States: Will have **valid results** that are comparable across borders




Math: Grade 3 Sample Item

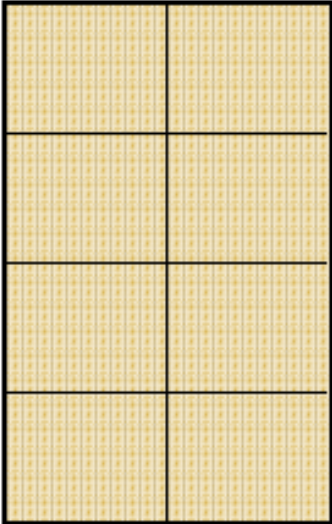



SAMPLE ITEM

Part A
A farmer plants $\frac{3}{4}$ of the field with soybeans.
Drag the soybean to the field as many times as needed to show the fraction of the field that is planted with soybeans.



Farmer's Field




Soybean

- This a fairly traditional fraction task in a computer-based setting.
- Unlike traditional multiple choice, it is difficult to guess the correct answer or use a choice elimination strategy and there is more than one correct solution.
- Unlike paper and pencil tests, students can create a visual representation even though the task is scored automatically.

Math: Grade 3 Sample Item



SAMPLE ITEM

Part B
Type a fraction different than $\frac{3}{4}$ in the boxes that also represents the fractional part of the farmer's field that is planted with soybeans.

$$\frac{\boxed{3}}{\boxed{4}} = \frac{\boxed{}}{\boxed{}}$$

Farmer's Field

[Reset](#)

Explain why the two fractions above are equal.

- Second part of multi-step problem, and, unlike traditional multiple choice, **it is difficult to guess the correct answer or use a choice elimination strategy.**

Math: High School Sample Item



- Item has **two possible solutions**
- Students have to recognize the nature of the equation to know how to solve
- **Technology prevents guessing and working backward**

Solve the following equation:

$$(3x - 2)^2 = 6x - 4.$$

When you are finished, enter the solution(s) below.

Solution 1:

Click to enter another solution or click .

ELA/Literacy: Grade 7 Sample Item



- Students read the text that introduces the topic
- Items are designed to help students gather information from several texts to lead to the final writing prompt
- Items require different types of responses to allow students to demonstrate a command of evidence with complex texts

SAMPLE ITEM

Student Directions

Based on the information in the text “Biography of Amelia Earhart,” write an essay that summarizes and explains the challenges Earhart faced throughout her life.

Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.

Answer:

Font Size... ▾ Font Family. ▾ **B** *I* U ☰ ☷ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☿ ☿ ☿ x_2 x^2 🧠

ELA/Literacy: Grade 7 Sample Item



SAMPLE ITEM

Below are three claims that one could make based on the article “Earhart’s Final Resting Place Believed Found.”

Claims	Earhart and Noonan lived as castaways on Nikumaroro Island.
	Earhart and Noonan’s plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean
	People don’t really know where Earhart and Noonan died.

Part A: Highlight the claim that is supported by the most relevant and sufficient facts within “Earhart’s Final Resting Place Believed Found.”

Part B: Click on two facts within the article that best provide evidence to support the claim selected in Part A.

ELA/Literacy: Grade 7 Sample Item



SAMPLE ITEM

STUDENT DIRECTIONS

You have read three texts describing Amelia Earhart. All three include the claim that Earhart was a brave, courageous person. The three texts are:

- “Biography of Amelia Earhart”
- “Earhart’s Final Resting Place Believed Found”
- “Amelia Earhart’s Life and Disappearance”

Consider the argument each author uses to demonstrate Earhart’s bravery.

Write an essay that analyzes the strength of the arguments about Earhart’s bravery in at least two of the texts. Remember to use textual evidence to support your ideas.

Technology skills students will utilize for PARCC



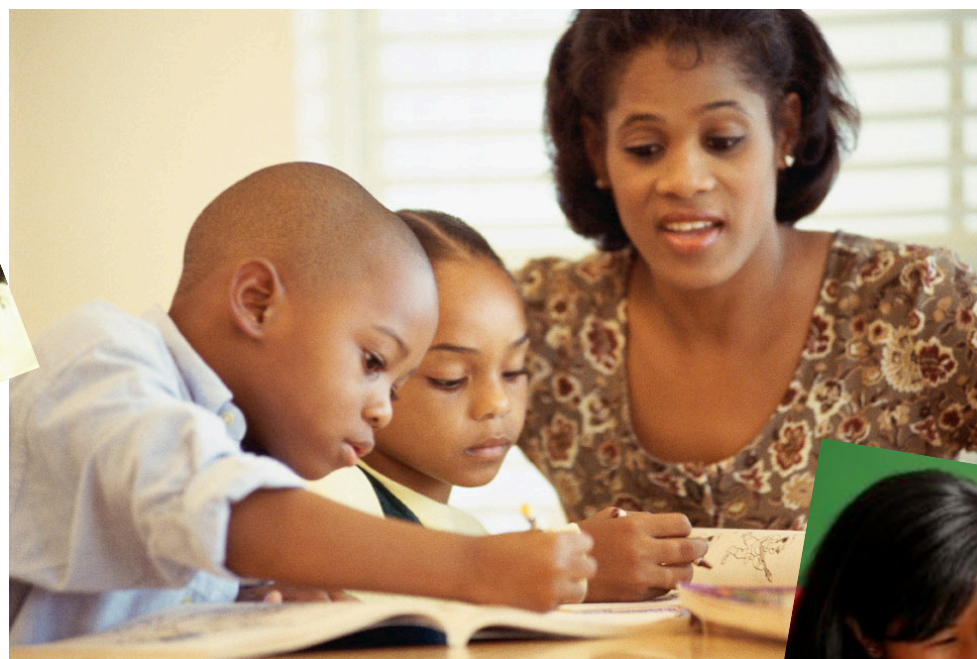
- Keyboarding
- Cut and Paste
- Ability to navigate
- Highlighting
- Using an on-screen calculator
- Dragging and dropping
- Changing font size and background color
- Click on multiple correct answers
- Using spreadsheets and documents
- Simulated research

How is EOSD Curriculum preparing students for PARCC?



- Learning.com lessons (technology skills)
- KidBiz3000/TeenBiz3000/Empower3000 (Bonus lessons with PARCC-like ELA questions)
- Multiple opportunities to take online assessments
- Typed writing tasks
- Performance tasks that include research and typing
- Research projects and papers
- Think Central lessons (ELA and Math)
- Virtual Labs in Science
- Data Analysis
- Graph construction

What can parents do to help?



Activity



- With a partner, discuss your after school routines. Ask each other the following questions:
 - How do you help your child with homework? How closely do you review it?
 - How closely do you review their schoolwork?
 - How often do you communicate with their teachers?
 - How do you celebrate your child's success in school?
 - How do you address poor performance?

Parents



- By **staying involved, informed and engaged**, parents can help students be successful
- There are many ways to help:
 - **Read** with your children
 - **Review** and discuss their homework
 - **Communicate** with their teachers
 - **Attend** public and PTO meetings to learn more
 - **Learn** about the standards and how they affect your child's education and school
 - **Provide** opportunities for your children to type
 - **Look** through your child's backpack each afternoon

Backpacks: What you should see?



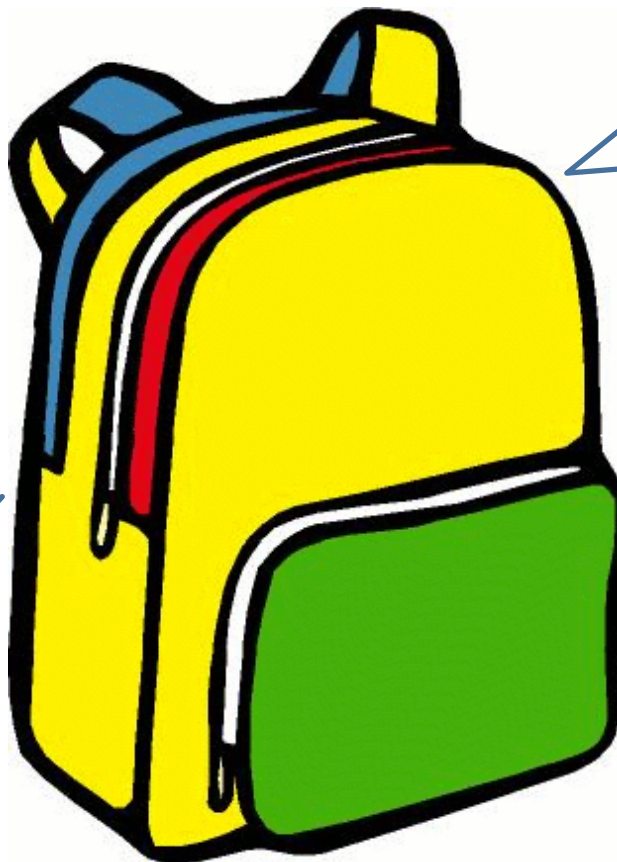
Real-world examples that makes what they're learning in English and math make more sense

Books that are both fiction *and* non-fiction

Writing assignments that require students to use *evidence* instead of opinion

Math homework that asks students to write out *how* they got their answer

Math homework that ask students to use different methods to solve the same problem



Some questions to ask your children?



Did you talk about anything you read in class today? Did you use evidence when you talked about what you read?

Did you learn any new words in class today? What do they mean? How do you spell them?



How did you use evidence in school today? Where did you get it?

How often did you use math today? How did you use it?

Practice Tests



Do you want to see
practice test items?





Resources

www.PARCCOnline.org

<https://www.engageny.org>

www.achievethecore.org

<http://www.eastorange.k12.nj.us/>