



Assistant Commissioner
Office of Assessment, Standards and Curriculum

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TO: BOCES District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Principals of Public and Nonpublic Schools
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Candace H. Shyer *Candace H. Shyer*

SUBJECT: PARCC Field Test Opportunities

Beginning this school year, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness of College and Careers (PARCC) consortium will administer English Language Arts (ELA) and Math assessments in Grades 3-11. Eleven states and the District of Columbia have chosen to administer PARCC in the 2014-15 school year in place of their state assessments. Although New York has no current plans to administer the PARCC operational tests, we remain an active participant in the PARCC consortium and will continue to monitor and support PARCC's progress. We will provide ample notice to the field if a decision is made to adopt PARCC tests for statewide purposes.

Some New York State school districts participated in PARCC field tests last spring and found the experience valuable, both as a pilot of the PARCC assessment and as a test of school readiness for computer-based testing. The Department has worked with PARCC to secure similar opportunities for New York State districts and schools this coming winter and spring.

There are two ways that schools may participate in PARCC field tests in winter/spring 2015. As was the case last year, participation is voluntary, and participating schools may be eligible for exemption from New York State Grades 3-8 field tests. A description of each opportunity and how to sign up is provided below.

1) PARCC Diagnostic Field Test

PARCC is seeking schools and classrooms to participate in the upcoming Diagnostic Assessment field test. When operational, the Diagnostic Assessment is designed to provide educators with timely snapshot and progress monitoring information to help inform instruction throughout the school year.

Schools may choose to field test the Diagnostic Assessment in Reading and/or Mathematics content areas, and may participate in as few as one assessment with two classes. Individual assessments range from a minimum of 20 minutes to a maximum of

50 minutes. Since these are field tests only, no score reports or feedback will be provided to participating schools.

There are two field testing windows for the Diagnostic Assessment. Participating schools may choose any of the options below in February and/or April.

February 16 - 27, 2015		April 6-17, 2015	
ELA Decoding	Grades 2-3	Reading Comprehension	Grades 2-8
Math Fluency	Grades 2-6	ELA Vocabulary	
		Math Comprehension	
		Reading Fluency Pilot	

By participating in this field test, schools and districts will gain an early preview of PARCC’s Diagnostic Assessments and associated tools. Such participation will also provide an opportunity for students to practice computer test taking skills within classroom instruction. Participating schools will be excluded from selection for the New York State field tests as described below.

2) PARCC Stand-Alone ELA Performance-Based Assessment Field Test

PARCC will also administer a stand-alone field test of the ELA Performance-Based Assessment (PBA). The experience will be similar to the Spring 2014 Field Test and will provide schools an opportunity to try out one component of the PARCC ELA summative assessment. The PBA field test will give students an opportunity to read authentic quality texts and demonstrate the ability to write using and analyzing these source materials.

The Stand-Alone ELA PBA will be administered from May 4, 2015 through June 5, 2015. It will be available for Grades 3-8 only. Participating schools will be excluded from selection for the New York State field tests as described below.

Exemption from Spring 2015 New York State Grades 3-8 Field Testing

In order to minimize the amount of testing as much as possible, schools that volunteer to participate in the PARCC field tests will be excused from participation in the New York State Grades 3-8 field tests as follows:

- A maximum of 350 New York schools with enrollments in Grades 3 to 8 will be permitted to participate in the PARCC field tests and be excused from New York State field tests in Grades 3-8 ELA and Math, and Grades 4 and 8 Science.¹

¹ Note that some of the schools that volunteer to participate in Grades 3 to 8 PARCC field tests will be selected and required to have their Grade 8 accelerated students participate in New York State Regents Exam-level field tests in math or science in order to ensure a representative sample in the Regents Exam field tests.

- Schools that volunteer for PARCC field tests, but subsequently withdraw from participation, will be required to participate in all typical New York State field testing.

Signing Up to Participate in PARCC Field Tests

To participate in PARCC field tests, schools must take two steps.

STEP ONE: Notify the Department of the intention to participate in PARCC Testing. To be eligible for exemption from the above specified New York field tests, **schools must respond by December 19, 2014** to the Department survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nys-parcc> to confirm their intention to participate in PARCC Winter/Spring 2015 field tests. If interest/enrollment exceeds 350 schools statewide, only the first 350 to respond to the survey and follow up by enrolling online by the required deadline with PARCC will be able to participate in PARCC field tests. Sign up will be closed once the maximum participation of 350 schools is reached.

STEP TWO: Notify PARCC of intention to participate in the two available options. Steps and deadlines vary by option. Please consult the following table.

<p>PARCC Diagnostic Assessment Field Test</p>	<p><u>Deadline to sign up:</u> December 19, 2014</p> <p>Schools must complete the NYSED survey to confirm intention to participate. The survey is at the following link. https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nys-parcc</p> <p>Schools must also respond to a Pearson survey to confirm what portions of the field test they plan to administer. http://www.cvent.com/Surveys/Welcome.aspx?s=a732f8c1-066f-4a65-a80f-43faaf52cc9c</p>
<p>PARCC ELA PBA Stand Alone Field Test</p>	<p><u>Deadline to sign up:</u> December 19, 2014</p> <p>Schools must complete the NYSED survey to confirm intention to participate. The survey is at the following link. https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/nys-parcc</p> <p>Schools will be notified at a later date what is required to confirm participation with PARCC.</p>

Thank you for your continued assistance with this important work. If you have any questions about these opportunities for your schools to participate in PARCC field tests, please contact us at parcc@nysed.gov. If you have any questions about the New York State testing program, please contact us at emscassessinfo@nysed.gov.