



What is PARCC?

A LOOK AT NEW MEXICO'S
STANDARDIZED TESTING



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Overview

PARCC, or the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career, has been utilized in New Mexico since 2015 to measure math and English proficiency for all third- to eleventh-grade students. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that to receive federal funds, all states must assess third- to eighth-grade students in math and English on an annual basis, and assess ninth- to twelfth-grade students at least once. New Mexico students are assessed annually so that growth, rather than proficiency, can be used as the primary factor in our teacher evaluations and school accountability systems.

About PARCC

PARCC was created by a consortium, or collaboration of states, that work together to develop and administer rigorous end-of-year assessments. PARCC measures students' content mastery, critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as their ability to use research to develop and communicate their points of view.¹ PARCC is one of the two main assessment consortia in our country. In 2017, 16 states participated fully in PARCC or Smarter Balanced—the other main consortia—and an additional four populated their assessment with consortia items.²

Compared to other standardized state assessments, an independent review found that PARCC required the least amount of rote memory and recall skills, instead requiring students to synthesize knowledge and think critically to solve problems.³ Additionally, PARCC has met all criteria in federally-required U.S. Department of Education peer reviews of state assessments, indicating that any state using PARCC meets the criteria for alignment with state standards.⁴

Other Assessments in New Mexico

PARCC is one of several assessments that New Mexico uses to measure student growth. To measure proficiency in science, students in fourth, seventh and eleventh grade participate in the Standards-Based Assessment (SBA). New Mexico also offers alternative assessments for English-language learners and students with disabilities such as NMAPA (New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment) for students with severe cognitive disabilities. In addition, ACCESS for ELLs is the annual English-language assessment given to English-language learners to assist in their transition to the classroom and help guide bilingual and multicultural programs in implementing successful strategies.

Additional Resources

- *Learning Heroes, About the PARCC Test*
<https://bealearninghero.org/in-the-classroom/parcc/>
- *New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), PARCC*
<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/assessment/parcc/>
- *Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC)*
<https://parcc-assessment.org/about/>

1 *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), "About"*. Accessed May 4, 2018. <https://parcc-assessment.org/about/>.

2 *Ibid.*

3 *Education First, "Whatever Happened to All Those New and Better State Tests?"*. February 2018. Accessed May 1, 2018. https://education-first.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Education-First-What-Happened-To-State-Tests_April-8-2018.pdf

4 *Education First, "Whatever Happened to All Those New and Better State Tests?"*. February 2017. Accessed June 5, 2018. https://education-first.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Education-First-What-Happened-To-State-Tests_April-8-2018.pdf