



PARK the PARCC -- Illinois Must Request a Federal Waiver for 2014-15

Raise Your Hand is joining school districts around Illinois in seeking support from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to request a waiver from the US Department of Education (DOE) from the 2014-15 PARCC exam. Ongoing national concern over quality and reliability of this test due to inadequate time for field testing, in addition to inadequate technology and lack of Common Core readiness across the state, support the view that this test is not yet ready for statewide, mandatory administration.

Only 11 states plus DC are using PARCC this year of the 23 states originally planning to use PARCC, and only 8 states plus DC will use both elementary and HS PARCC tests.

Raise Your Hand's Recommendations:

- Delay the PARCC until the test is improved and validated through additional field testing
- Continue the use of other nationally-normed reading/math tests in 2014-15, such as MAP/ACT
- Move ACT High School testing back to its original date in April (currently early March)

IL schools and students are not ready for the PARCC and the PARCC is not ready for IL

- Common Core standards not yet fully implemented in many schools
- Incomplete and inadequate accommodations for ELL and IEP students
- Test needs further revision before widespread use
- Field testing finished in early June, but analysis of results has not been released
- Many schools ill-equipped with computers or Internet bandwidth needed to administer test

Extensive time spent on testing: Impact to learning environment

- 10 hours per grade level of testing in grades 3-8 (spread across two periods, March and May)
- 11 hours of testing across the two test windows for high school students
- Disrupted learning time due to changes in schedule, lack of available space, technology, staff
- Technology inadequacies likely to result in additional time
- Lost instructional time and testing fatigue

Issues unique to High Schools

- PARCC is not used for college admissions or scholarships
- PARCC pushes ACT earlier, potentially resulting in lower scores - jeopardizing scholarships and admissions
- PARCC will only test students in English III and Algebra II. Doesn't allow for cohort comparisons by year
- AP test dates fall within same window as planned PARCC administration

What Parents Can Do to Park the PARCC:

- Sign Raise Your Hand's Petition at <http://bit.ly/1rcYC7t>
- Share this information with other parents
- Call or visit your legislators and share concerns listed here
- Ask your LSC to put PARCC on its agenda to make sure everyone understands its implications
- Attend a Raise Your Hand or More than a Score meeting to learn more (ilraiseyourhand.org)
- Join us at the Illinois State Board of Ed meeting on 11/21 in Chicago. Email us to get involved: info@ilraiseyourhand.org

