



## PARCC Facts

- **Why PARCC**
- Previous tests were tied to standards that were adopted in 1997. These standards were useful at the time but have become outdated and not adequately preparing our students for the new challenges the workplace presents.
- The Common Core standards mirror our modernized expectations of what it means to be prepared for the next grade, college, careers, and life outside of the classroom.
- A new CCSS based exam was needed to measure student mastery of the expectations.
- PARCC is not an additional test, it replaces the ISAT and PSAE exam, allowing for more meaningful feedback which will ensure students are achieving at a high level while developing the knowledge and skill set required to be successful.
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- **Content**
- **PARCC is the truest measure of the Common Core that will be common across students in elementary and high school.** Tests like NWEA only ask questions in a multiple choice format, which doesn't allow for students to show their writing, problem solving and research abilities. This helps answer the common complaint that many other assessments focus too much on filling in bubbles at the expense of applying deeper reading and math skills.
- PARCC will give us a clearer picture of where teacher investments in learning about and designing instruction aligned to the Common Core standards are paying off and where we need to provide more support.
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- **Technology**
- Online administration includes interactive multi-media activities. **Instead of just reading passages, students will also watch videos, listen to speeches or review artwork, while learning about a topic.**
- Students also interact with math in new ways. **Instead of just picking an answer, students can use online tools to draw their answers, manipulate pictures and explain their thinking.**
- Testing this year will use proctor caching, further reducing the load on wireless networks.
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- **Reporting**
- **PARCC data will be available by early summer.** This quick turnaround will allow educators time to better understand the successes and challenges across groups of students and for individuals. This will provide a richer set of information to improve summer and fall planning.

