

PARCC Testing: Frequently Asked Questions - Student Refusals

1. **May a parent or guardian opt a child out of testing?**

No. The Illinois State Board of Education does not recognize the right of a parent or guardian to refuse participation in testing on a child's behalf. ISBE has made it clear that all students must be provided the opportunity to participate in required yearly testing.

2. **May a student refuse to participate in PARCC testing?**

Yes. Students may communicate to a test administrator verbally or in writing that they will not be participating in the particular PARCC unit administered.

3. **If a student refuses to test on one unit, does the student have to refuse again for subsequent units?**

Per ISBE, a student must be presented the opportunity to participate in each unit of the test. A prior refusal does not change a school's responsibility to present the student with the additional opportunity to participate.

4. **What should test administrators do with students who refuse while other students are testing?**

Students who refuse to test should be removed to another section of the room or to another location. They may engage in a silent, self-guided activity while the test administrator continues to monitor the testing students. Note: if the student remains in the testing room, the activity the student is engaging in should not be in the same subject that is being tested.

5. **May a teacher advocate for students to refuse to test?**

No, teachers may not engage in this advocacy during work time or on school property. This is a violation of both ISBE and CPS professional responsibilities and may be subject to disciplinary action (see [here](#) for ISBE). Such advocacy will subject the employee to discipline by the Chicago Board.

6. **May a teacher refuse to administer the PARCC test?**

No. Teachers must perform their professional responsibilities and assigned job duties, including administration of PARCC. Employees who refuse to administer PARCC will be disciplined by the Chicago Board.

7. **May the school principal prohibit a parent or other community member from handing leaflets, advocating PARCC refusal, to students or parents on school grounds?**

School staff may ask a parent or community member not to leaflet elementary school children, and may call the police if the individual refuses to stop. School staff should permit parents/community members to hand leaflets to high school students and parents on the public sidewalk or off school grounds, as long as they do not block individuals from entering or leaving the school. School staff do not have to permit a parent or community member to leaflet on school property or inside the school.

8. What should a Network Chief or principal do if a principal or teacher refuses to administer the PARCC test?

If a principal/teacher refuses to administer the PARCC test, their supervisor (Network Chief or principal) must:

- Use the email template provided to notify the employee of the violation, and
- Notify your direct supervisor (Network Chief notifies the Office of Network Support; principal notifies their Network Chief).