



Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers

February 2016

COUNTDOWN TO PARCC FOR FAMILIES

Families should have received PARCC score reports from spring 2015 assessments in fall or winter 2015–2016. Student scores identify a student’s strengths and weaknesses in English language arts (ELA) and math. PARCC results accurately identify student achievement because the tests:

- Include different types of questions such as short answer, essay, drag-and-drop, and multi-step problems that truly assess student understanding. This differs from other standardized assessments that are composed mainly of multiple-choice questions.
- Measure critical thinking, knowledge application, and reasoning skills at great depth. PARCC questions are connected to real-world applications to ensure full understanding of grade-level standards.
- Use passages and samples from real texts and multimedia. Instead of creating reading passages, audio, and video for the test, PARCC includes excerpts from real-life works that require deeper analysis.
- Are largely administered online, which maintains student engagement and promotes the essential integration of technology into instruction.
- Include tools and accommodations so that all students can participate in testing. More information is available in the *Accessibility Features and Accommodations Manual* here: <http://www.parcconline.org/assessments/accessibility>.



PARCC scores are one of many indicators of student comprehension and success. Additional indicators include how well a student performs on classroom tests, school attendance, engagement with academic material, persistence when faced with challenges, creativity, collaboration, and many other skills.

Families and teachers must work together to improve student achievement. You can support your child’s development of academic skills through conversations with your child’s teachers. The website www.raisethebarparents.org includes resources to help hold these conversations and to support students in their academic growth. To access this information, sign up for an account, click on *Character and Conversation*, and then access *Effective Parent-Teacher Conversations*.