

# A Maryland PARCC Assessment Update

## *Measuring Success in Our New Curriculum*

### *Becoming College and Career Ready for a Global Market*



**My child took the PARCC Assessments last year.**

**When will I get results?**

- ⇒ This fall, FCPS will receive percentile ranks for each student. This will let parents know how their child is performing compared with other FCPS students.
- ⇒ This winter, FCPS will share individual score reports with parents. This will let you know how your child is performing to the standards set for all students.
- ⇒ Results for your child's 2015-16 PARCC Assessments will arrive by summer 2016. The 2014-15 results are delayed as educators from many states are scoring responses in a process called "standard setting."

***PARCC provides a more accurate snapshot of student knowledge and skills than previous tests because students must apply and demonstrate what they know—and what they learned in class more than with prior assessments.***

Maryland's experience shows that scores on state assessments since the 1980's, like the MSA



and MSPAP, begin low at first, then improve over time as students, and their schools, rise to the challenge to meet new standards.

With PARCC, we're looking deeper into how students learn specific skills, based on more rigorous standards. Because this is a new way to measure achievement, we can't simply compare PARCC results with earlier tests.

***Did you know 5 million students in 11 states and DC took the test this past spring?***

***Did you know that states selected 240 educators and experts to set the performance levels?***

***Maryland educators will decide how best to use the scores to help improve student and school performance.***

**What should I expect the results to show?**

Expect information about student strengths and weaknesses in key areas. For example:

- ⇒ How well does the student understand math equations or apply mathematical reasoning?
- ⇒ Does the student understand passages from history, science, and literature?

**PARCC Performance Levels** are different than previous assessments. They will tell us who needs support and who is ready for new challenges. Mastery shown is:



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Frederick, MD

I have heard that the PARCC Assessments are changing for the 2015-16 school year. What are the changes?

How will the changes affect the results?

- ⇒ There are no longer two parts to the exam. The performance-based assessments and end-of-year assessments have been combined into one test.
- ⇒ Overall testing time for Reading/Writing and Mathematics is reduced by 90 minutes.
- ⇒ There is 1 less unit in grades 3-5, and there are 3 fewer units in grades 6-8 and at high school.
- ⇒ The great news is that these reductions will still allow for detailed reporting as to how your child is doing in specific areas of the curriculum.

Do these new state assessments affect my child's ability to graduate?

- ⇒ There have always been assessment graduation requirements in Maryland.
- ⇒ The core content areas of Algebra I, English 10, Biology, and Government will still hold assessment graduation requirements.
- ⇒ Algebra I and English 10 are PARCC Assessments, while Biology and Government are the traditional Maryland High School Assessments (HSAs).
- ⇒ Students are required to take, but not pass, the PARCC Algebra I or PARCC English 10 Assessments until the 2016-17 school year.
- ⇒ FCPS will distribute a more detailed communication on assessment graduation requirements that will include combined-score options once details are confirmed from the Maryland State Department of Education.



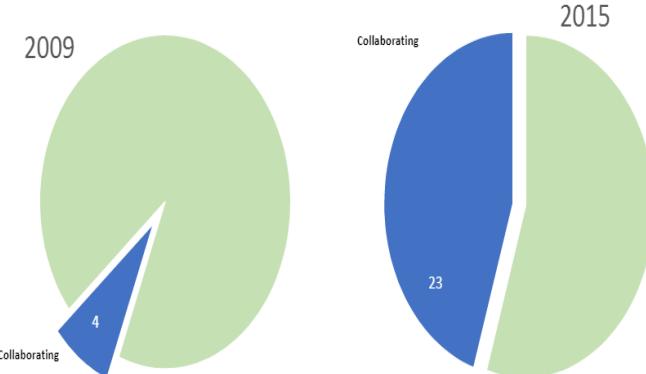
Is my child required to take any other state PARCC Assessments?

Yes. The Maryland College and Career Ready Act of 2013 requires all Maryland students to take an assessment by the end of 11th grade to determine if they are college and/or career ready. FCPS students will be offered the PARCC English 11 and PARCC Algebra 2 Assessments to meet this legal requirement. Additional scores *may* be utilized to meet this requirement including SAT, ACT, Accuplacer, and others. More information will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

***Did you know that in 2009 only 4 states had common standards, and by 2015 43 states plus DC have common standards?***

***Did you know that in 2009 only 4 states were collaborating on state assessments and by 2015 there are 23 states collaborating .***

States Collaborating on Annual Assessments



For information about data privacy, our new high standards, or assessments in high school, please visit [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)

If you have specific questions about your child's performance on assessments, please contact your child's school.