DC STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS SY 2015-16

THE NINE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW.

DC STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS | FAQS

As District of Columbia students learn and progress each school year, we want to determine what they know and are able to do in core academic skill areas, both individually and at the school and state levels.

Statewide assessments are an important source of information on students' progress and performance relative to the District's educational standards, including the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards. Results from the 2014-15 school year are available at results.osse.dc.gov.

Statewide assessments are administered in public and public charter schools in the District of Columbia. Detailed results from these assessments help parents understand their child's needs and strengths and can help them work with their school to identify resources to support their child's education.

Schools can use the information to better plan instruction and enrichment for students in the coming year. District of Columbia statewide assessments include:

ASSESSMENT NAME	CONTENT AND GRADES ASSESSED	ADDITIONAL DETAILS
Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)	Grades 3-8 and once in high school for English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics	DC's required high school assessments are Geometry or Integrated Math II and English II
DC Science Assessment	Grades 5, 8 and high school Biology	Assesses the Next Generation Science Standards
The Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) and the DC Science Alternate Assessment	Grades 3-8 and once in high school as appropriate in place of PARCC/ DC Science	Administered to a small group of students with significant cognitive disabilities; formerly known as the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Assessment
ACCESS 2.0 for English learners	Grades K-12 for English learners	Assesses English language proficiency

Nine things to know about DC Statewide Assessment in the 2015-16 school year

#1:New, independent reports confirm PARCC is a top-quality assessment: Newly released studies from multiple sources show the high quality of the PARCC assessment and alignment to Common Core State Standards.

- The National Benchmarks for State Achievement Standards Study found that PARCC is the only assessment evaluated that aligns to Educational Progress (NAEP) proficient level in mathematics to determine if a student has learned the skills to be successful in college math.
- A National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY) report and a Teach Plus survey of 1,000 teachers found that PARCC is superior to previous state tests, and makes strides in assessing complex skills and aligning closely with high-quality instruction.

#2: PARCC is streamlined this year: This year, PARCC has been redesigned to be taken just once during the year, meaning fewer administrative steps for schools and a shorter test for students (by an average of 90 minutes). That means more time for classroom learning.

#3: PARCC results will come sooner:
PARCC test results will be reported this summer. In 2015, DC scores and test results for other states came later because, in the first year of an assessment, we had to complete the process of setting "performance levels." DC Science still has to undergo this process, so science results will come in the fall.

#4: Student participation in state assessments is important: Students and families use assessment results to ensure that students are progressing toward their own educational goals. Teachers use assessment results to improve instruction and better support all students. There is strong support for high-quality student assessments as a way to ensure students of color are getting what they need to be on track for college and careers. "We rely on the consistent, accurate, and reliable data provided by annual statewide assessments to advocate for better lives and outcomes for our children," 12 national civil and human rights groups wrote. More information on participation rate is available on the OSSE website.

#5: Most students will take their assessments on a computer: This year, about 95 percent of students will test on a computer for PARCC, DC Science and ACCESS. Last year, 92 percent of students took PARCC on a computer. DC is moving toward 100 percent computer-based testing next year unless students with a disability need a paper test as an accommodation.

#6: There are new PARCC resources available for educators and families:

- Results from last year's test at the school level are available in interactive reports at results.osse.dc.gov.
- Guides to the assessment for families, guides to the reports received this fall on individual student performance, and data files of school test results at osse.dc.gov/parcc.
- Interactive practice tests and sample items at parcc.pearson.com.
- Extensive released real test items from the 2015 test, along with samples of student work on writing tasks, at prc.parcconline.org.

#7: New Science test is rolling out citywide: Students in grades 5, 8 and high school Biology will take our new science assessment, aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. To help prepare for these new tests, OSSE has released sample questions and test blueprints on our website: http://osse.dc.gov/page/dc-science-assessment-assessment-next-generation-science-standards-ngss.

#8: PARCC is scored by people and computers: This year, automated scoring on PARCC is expanding to include some constructed responses on the English language arts test. Humans score other responses. Automated scoring drives effective, accurate, and efficient scoring of student assessments. PARCC only uses automated scoring in areas of the test where research has demonstrated that it is at least as consistent, accurate, and efficient as human scoring.

#9: Our new assessments better enable *all* students to demonstrate what they know and are able to do: A new report from the Center for American Progress, Better Tests, Fewer Barriers: Advances in Accessibility through PARCC and Smarter Balanced, showed how PARCC's design and technology enhancements increase accessibility for students with disabilities and English learners.