**Below are frequently asked questions related to the Partnership for Assessments of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test.**

**Q: When is the PARCC test?**

A: PARCC is administered in two parts. Part 1 will be administered between March 10 and April 8. This part of the test will measure writing and research skills and assess a student’s ability to solve complex math problems. Part 2 will be administered between May 7 and June 5. This part of the test will measure students’ reading comprehension as well as students’ knowledge of math concepts and skills through multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Each school will determine its testing days and will inform you of the testing dates for your child. Ask your child’s teacher or principal for more information.

**Q: Why are there two parts to the PARCC test? Will testing take up a lot of instructional time?**

A: The first part of the PARCC test, the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) asks open-ended questions. For example, students will be asked to analyze literature and write essays to demonstrate that they can read and understand complex text. The second part, the end of year (EOY) assessment, will require students to answer questions that will be scored electronically. Scores on both parts of the test will determine your child’s overall score. The PARCC takes about the same amount of time to complete as the DC CAS.

**Q: Is my child’s school prepared for this computer-based test?**

A: We’ve done lots to prepare in our schools, from great teaching and learning to installing new computers. We are confident in our preparations, but we know there will be glitches and questions as there are with any new technology. Staff members at all schools are being trained on how to respond to and support students so our young people are comfortable as they complete the test. In addition to providing technical support in every school, we are also setting up helplines to answer questions from schools.

**Q: Will my child still have classes during PARCC testing?**

A: Yes. Not all students will be testing at the same time, so the school will continue teaching and learning. Ask your school how your child’s schedule may change.

**Q: Are there any special policies in place for the PARCC tests?**

A: Students are not permitted to have cell phones with them in the testing room during PARCC testing. Schools will develop a procedure for students to turn off and store their cell phones during testing. Also, to ensure that the tests are fair for everyone, school staff and students are not permitted to discuss the specific content of the test with anyone during the testing period.

**Q: My child has an IEP or 504 plan: What does PARCC mean for these students?**

A: There are a number of new accommodations for computer-based testing built into the PARCC. Contact your child’s teacher to make sure your child’s plan is current.

**Q: Are PARCC tests required for graduation?**

A: PARCC tests do not impact whether or not a student will graduate from high school.

**Q: How will PARCC results affect students’ applications to a specialized high school or another school?**

A: Assessments are just one factor among many that contribute to school applications. Since all public school students in DC will take PARCC, the change to PARCC should not disadvantage any student applying to a school.

**Q: How do we know PARCC is a good test?**

A: Hundreds of educators from PARCC states have reviewed the assessment items, and District schools participated in the field test. These field tests have confirmed that the tests reflect what our students should know at each grade level and are based on what they learn through the Common Core standards.

**Q: How can I help?**

A: Talk with your child’s teacher about your child’s progress and support your child’s learning every day. Here are a few easy ways:

* Talk with your child about their school day.
* Work with your child on homework assignments.
* Read together and talk about what you read.
* Use your everyday activities to solve math problems. For example, when visiting the grocery store, count the items in your cart and have your child estimate the total cost before going to checkout­.

For additional information, visit [www.osse.dc.gov](http://www.osse.dc.gov).