



**Spring 2014 PARCC  
Field Test**

September 9 & 10, 2013

MA Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education

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- Overview of PARCC Field Test
- MCAS participation exemptions
- Confirming schools' participation
- Questions
- Technology requirements
- Next steps
- Questions

# Conference Call Protocols

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- Participants will be muted except during the Q&A.
- Time will not allow for all questions to be answered. Please try to limit your questions to those that are general and apply broadly.
- During the Q&A, dial 5\* if you have a question.
- If time allows for your question to be asked, you will be unmuted and you will hear a message that you have been unmuted – you will then be called upon to ask your question.
- Send questions specific to your district to [parcc@doe.mass.edu](mailto:parcc@doe.mass.edu).
- Send questions regarding Tech Readiness to [TechTool@doe.mass.edu](mailto:TechTool@doe.mass.edu)



# **Overview of PARCC Field Test**

## **The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers:**

- Made up of 20 states , chaired by Commissioner Chester
- Developing common, high-quality **English language arts (ELA)** and **math tests for grades 3–11**
  - Computer-based and linked to what students need to know for college and careers
  - For use starting in the 2014–15 school year
- Two summative assessment components:
  - Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)
  - End-of-Year Assessment (EOY)

# Field Test Purposes

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- The primary purposes of the PARCC Field Test are to:
  - Examine the quality of items so that PARCC can build assessment forms for the 2014-15 school year;
  - Pilot assessment administration procedures; and
  - Give schools and districts the opportunity to experience the administration of PARCC assessments.
- No student, school, or district results will be reported.
- Field Test materials are secure and should be treated as in MCAS test administration.

- PARCC states will field test the Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) and End-of-Year (EOY) assessment components in both ELA and Math at grades 3-11.
- Some students will take the Field Test on a computer, while others take it on paper.
- Typically, two classrooms per grade/subject in selected grades will participate, except at the high school level, where four or more classrooms per grade/subject often will participate due to the smaller number of high schools to select from.



- A student will participate in one of three conditions:
  - Students take the PBA in one content area.
  - Students take the EOY in one content area.
  - Students take both the PBA and the EOY in one content area.
- **In MA, grade 10 students take the EOY only** because the PBA would take away instructional time prior to MCAS testing.

# Field Test Sample

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- Over **one million** students are needed to participate in the Field Test to evaluate the quality of items for PARCC's operational assessments in 2014-2015.
- In order to get a sample of students that is demographically representative of each state and PARCC as a whole, the sampling design calls for PARCC to:
  1. Randomly select schools within each state, and then ask schools to
  2. Randomly select classrooms within their school (instructions will be provided to principals).
- Many schools will participate to allow for fewer classrooms in each school.

# The Massachusetts Sample

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- 360 districts
- Close to 1,300 schools
- Roughly 87,000 students in grades 3–11
- Nearly 800 schools will administer computer-based tests, and close to 500 schools will administer paper and pencil tests.

# Spring 2014 Assessment Schedule

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- **PARCC Field Test:**

Component	Administration Dates
Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)	March 24 – April 11
End-of-Year (EOY)	May 5 – June 6

- **MCAS:**

Subject	Administration Dates
ELA Composition	March 18 (make-up on March 27)
ELA Reading Comprehension	March 17 – March 31
Mathematics	May 5 – May 20
Science grades 5 & 8	May 6 – May 20
High school science	June 2 – June 3 (make-up thru June 6)

# Number and Length of Test Sessions

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- The number of test sessions for each PARCC assessment component in each subject area is:

<b>PARCC Component</b>	<b>Number of ELA/ Literacy Test Sessions</b>	<b>Number of Mathematics Test Sessions</b>
Performance-Based Assessment (PBA)	3	2
End-of-Year Assessment (EOY)	2	2

- PARCC recommends that schools set aside approximately 2-hour blocks for scheduling purposes for most testing sessions. This includes estimated time on task, a 50% overage for students who need extra time, and administration activities. Go to [www.parcconline.org/field-test](http://www.parcconline.org/field-test) for additional information.

- Many accessibility features that are considered accommodations on MCAS will be built in to the computer-based test and are available to ***all*** students (e.g., screen magnification).
- Other accommodations are available only to **students with disabilities** (e.g., scribing responses) and **English learners** (e.g., word-to-word bilingual dictionaries).
- A list of available features and accommodations will be provided this fall.
- Teams should continue to identify accommodations needed by students with disabilities and list them in IEP/504 plans.
- Students taking MCAS-Alt will not participate in the PARCC Field Test.

- For those schools not included in the Field Test sample, a computer-based practice test will be available to all schools.
- The practice test will be available in late March 2014.
- The practice test will enable students and teachers to become familiar with the PARCC assessments and to practice with the different types of technology functionalities.



# **MCAS Participation Exemptions**



- In order to mitigate the burden of participating in the PARCC Field Test, the Commissioner has agreed to allow superintendents to exempt certain classes that participate in the PARCC Field Test from the 2014 MCAS testing requirement.
- Later this fall, when the final list of schools participating in the PARCC Field Test is available, the Department will provide more information to superintendents regarding MCAS participation exemptions for the affected schools.

# Which classes that participate in the PARCC Field Test may opt out of MCAS testing in 2014?

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## PARCC 2014 Field Test Condition

	<b>PBA &amp; EOY</b>	<b>PBA Only</b>	<b>EOY Only</b>
ELA	✓	✓	
Math	✓	✓	

✓ = May opt out of MCAS in that subject

# Rules for opting out of MCAS

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- Exemptions apply only to classes in the grades and subjects participating in the PARCC Field Test.
  - For example, students who participate in the Math PARCC Field Test can be exempt from the MCAS **Math** requirement but will still be required to participate in MCAS **ELA**.
  - Students in other classes in the school that are not chosen for the PARCC Field Test still must take MCAS.
- Exemptions will be granted on an all-or-nothing basis.
  - If one class in a school is exempt, all classes in that school must be exempt.
- Superintendents may choose MCAS exemptions for some schools and MCAS testing for others.

- There will be no raw scores or scaled scores available from the PARCC Field Test.
- MCAS results will be reported following historical rules:
  - Achievement results will be suppressed for groups under 10.
  - Growth and school accountability results will be suppressed for schools with fewer than 20 students and for accountability subgroups with fewer than 30 students.
- Students who are exempt from MCAS because they participate in the PARCC Field Test will count positively toward MCAS participation rates.
- A notation will appear on public reports indicating that the school participated in PARCC field testing and that some students were exempt from MCAS testing.
- Parent/Guardian Reports will indicate that a student was exempt from MCAS testing because of participation in the PARCC Field Test.



# **Confirming Schools' Participation**

# Districts Confirm School Participation

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- Districts must confirm their schools' participation in the PARCC Field Test by completing the confirmation form at <http://bit.ly/PARCCMA> no later **September 18, 2013**.
- In the form, districts will be asked to verify participation of the selected schools and the technological readiness of the school (if administering computer-based testing). If a school does not meet the technical specifications,\* districts will be able to indicate this in the form.

*\*If a school thinks it might not have adequate technology for Field Test, please contact Pearson for further details, as well as strategy suggestions for leveraging existing technology capacity: [PARCC@support.Pearson.com](mailto:PARCC@support.Pearson.com)*

# Confirmation Form

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Thank you for participating in the Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test. This confirmation form consists of a few essential questions and will take approximately 5–10 minutes to complete.

Please complete this confirmation form by **9/18/2013**.

If your schools have been selected to administer computer-based tests, please share guidance and specifications posted at <http://www.parcconline.org/field-test-technology> with your LEA/district or school technology coordinator(s) and verify that your schools will have the technology capacity necessary for participation. By confirming your schools' participation, you are confirming your schools' technology capacity to administer computer-based tests during the Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test.

Please note: Your confirmation will not be recorded until you click "SUBMIT" at the conclusion of the form.

Pearson will be contacting you over the next few months with additional information, training, and updates about the field test. We appreciate your participation in this exciting opportunity.

Screenshot of  
Confirmation  
Form

# Confirmation Form

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Please enter your name and email address below:

Name:

Email address:

Please select your LEA/district from the drop-down menu: (Type the first letter of your LEA/district name to skip to that portion of the alphabet.)

A screenshot of a web form. At the top, there is a dropdown menu with a downward arrow. Below it is a list of LEA/district names and their corresponding IDs. The list is as follows:

- Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public (District) - 4450000
- Abington - 10000
- Acton - 20000
- Acton-Boxborough - 6000000
- Acushnet - 30000
- Adams-Cheshire - 6030000
- Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter (District) - 4300000
- Agawam - 50000
- Alma del Mar Charter School (District) - 4090000
- Amesbury - 70000
- Amherst - 80000
- Amherst-Pelham - 6050000
- Andover - 90000
- Arlington - 100000
- Ashburnham-Westminster - 6100000
- Ashland - 140000
- Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical - 8010000
- Athol-Royalston - 6150000
- Atlantis Charter (District) - 4910000

**Screenshot of  
Confirmation  
Form**



# Confirmation Form

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Your state has previously reviewed the schools selected from your district and indicated your district and schools would likely be able to participate in the Spring 2014 PARCC Field Test.

If there is a **compelling** reason any of the samples selected from your district are **unable** to participate in the field test, please select that sample(s) below and provide a specific reason on the next page.

Please note: If all of your schools are able to participate and will have the technology capacity, do NOT select any of the boxes below. Click "Next" to complete the confirmation form.

- Agawam High: Grade/Course: 11, ELA, 4 Class(es), Online, EOY
- Agawam High: Grade/Course: Algebra I, Mathematics, 4 Class(es), Online, PBA
- Agawam Junior High: Grade/Course: 7, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Online, EOY
- Agawam Junior High: Grade/Course: 8, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Online, PBA
- Benjamin J Phelps: Grade/Course: 4, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Online, PBA & EOY
- Clifford M Granger: Grade/Course: 3, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Paper, EOY
- Roberta G. Doering School: Grade/Course: 5, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Paper, EOY
- Roberta G. Doering School: Grade/Course: 6, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Paper, PBA
- Robinson Park: Grade/Course: 4, ELA, 2 Class(es), Paper, PBA & EOY

Screenshot of  
Confirmation  
Form

# Confirmation Form

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Please provide a specific reason as to why the sample(s) below cannot participate (e.g., insufficient number of devices, insufficient bandwidth, course not offered, etc.)

School closed

Roberta G. Doering School: Grade/Course: 5, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Paper, EOY

School closed

Roberta G. Doering School: Grade/Course: 6, Mathematics, 2 Class(es), Paper, PBA

Hit the Submit button at the next screen to complete the confirmation.

Screenshot of Confirmation Form

# Reasons for Not Participating

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- Participation is required unless “extraordinary circumstances” will prevent it – “My expectation is that schools selected to participate in the PARCC field test will do so.” (Commissioner Mitchell Chester, August 23, 2013)
- Reasons for not participating:
  - School closed or grade(s) no longer served
  - School lacks technology to give computer-based tests
  - High school math course not offered in subject of field test (high school math tests are course-based and not grade-based)
  - Number of classrooms requested for a grade/subject exceeds the number in the school: indicate the actual number of classrooms in the confirmation form
  - Level 4 schools may opt out

# What Happens Next?

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- Between September 18 and 25, Pearson will provide the Department with a list of schools that have indicated they are unable to participate and the reason given in the confirmation form.
- The Department will review the list and will follow up with superintendents as necessary.
- The Department will inform Pearson which of the schools have been approved to opt out.
- Pearson will draw a sample of replacement schools.
- Pearson will notify replacement schools of their selection in late October.

# Questions



# **Technology Requirements for Computer-Based Test Administration**




# Technology Requirements for PARCC Field Test

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- Schools selected to participate in the computer-based field tests must meet PARCC's technical requirements for devices and bandwidth.
- Most schools should be able to meet the requirements, since relatively few students need to be tested at one time and there is a long testing window. **Even schools with a relatively few computers and limited access to the internet should be able to participate.**
- Guidance about technology requirements can be found at [www.parcconline.org/field-test-technology](http://www.parcconline.org/field-test-technology). The guidance includes information relating to:
  - Computer Hardware Needed for Field Test
  - School Bandwidth for Field Testing
  - Proctor Caching as a Low Bandwidth Solution for the Field Test

# Technology Readiness for Field Test: Quick Start Checklist

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<p>1.</p>	<p><b>NUMBER OF TEST TAKERS:</b> <i>Estimate the maximum number of students that will be testing at one time.</i> Consider how the school might schedule classes of students for field testing. This may be multiple classrooms at a time over a shorter period, or only one class at a time — or even half a class at a time—over the course of the full testing window. Districts/schools will have flexibility to match their schedule to their computer capacity as long as they can complete the field tests within the testing window.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p><b>AVAILABLE DEVICES:</b> <i>Identify the school computers that will be available for testing.</i> Review the PARCC Technology Guidelines and verify that there will be an adequate number of school computers that meet PARCC minimum specifications to cover the largest number of students that will be testing at one time. If there seems to be a gap, schools can consider dividing classes into smaller groups to test at different times using the available computers throughout the testing window.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>BANDWIDTH:</b> Plan for <u>at least 50 kbps of bandwidth</u> for each student connecting to the Internet for testing at the same time. <b>OR</b> Plan to use Proctor Caching and have <u>at least 5 kbps of bandwidth</u> for each student testing at the same time.</p>	



# Technology Readiness for Field Test: Hardware Considerations

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- Review the PARCC Technology Guidelines for specific hardware operating systems and tech specifications
- Only count hardware in a “suitable testing environment”
- Computer based test administration requires logistical planning. From experience, we suggest planning for:
  - Power strips
  - Battery adapters for mobile devices
  - Extension cords
  - Headphones/ear-buds for every student
  - External keyboards for devices
  - Training for support staff or building personnel
  - District support techs for testing days, if possible
  - Extra computers per testing space

## Important Note:

- PARCC suggests the following seating configurations to ensure test security:
  - Seat students in every other seat (useful in a computer lab setup).
  - Arrange monitors back-to-back.
  - Seat students back-to-back.
  - Seat students in a semicircle (useful for schools using laptops).
  - Seat students in widely spaced rows or in every other row (appropriate for a classroom setup).
  - Physical and visual barriers between monitors.

# Bandwidth Requirements for Online Administration (Without Caching)

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- Connecting directly to the Internet during test administration, plan on **50 kilobits per second (kbps) of available bandwidth for each simultaneous test-taker.**
- The fewer students that are testing at the same time, the lower the bandwidth demand will be.
- Schools participating in the field test can take advantage of the relatively small numbers of students that need to participate during the testing window to schedule fewer simultaneous test-takers and, therefore, lower their bandwidth need for the Field Test.

# Bandwidth Requirements for Proctor Caching Administration

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- Proctor Caching is an option for lowering bandwidth requirements during test administration.
- Plan for **5 kilobits per second (kbps)** of available bandwidth in the external connection to the Internet for each simultaneous test-taker.
- With proctor caching, a school or district's internal wired or wireless networks will distribute test content to student computers, but local internal network connection speeds may vary based on wireless network configurations or other factors.
- For the more detail about Proctor Caching, please see the PARCC Field Testing Technology Page :  
<http://www.parcconline.org/field-test-technology>
- There you will find a link to :“  
Proctor Caching: Using Caching Strategies to Better Manage Network Traffic Demand During Online High-stakes Assessments”



## Next Steps

- Schools/districts assess technology readiness of schools selected for computer-based testing.
- Districts confirm schools' participation using the online confirmation form by **September 18**.
- Beginning in the fall, Pearson will conduct regular information sessions and trainings for principals to help them prepare for the administration of the field test and to provide necessary details as they are finalized.

# For More Information

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- For more information regarding PARCC and the 2014 Field Test, please visit the PARCC website at <http://www.parcconline.org/field-test>.
- If you have questions regarding the PARCC Field Test, please contact Pearson's PARCC Support Center: 1-888-493-9888 (open Monday through Friday, 6:00am to 8:00pm CST) or [PARCC@support.pearson.com](mailto:PARCC@support.pearson.com).
- If you have questions regarding state policies, please contact Student Assessment Services at [parcc@doe.mass.edu](mailto:parcc@doe.mass.edu).

# Questions