

Curriculum Corner

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Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessments

The PARCC Consortium is comprised of 18 states and is funded through federal Race to the Top funding. As part of the Race to the Top legislation, participating states committed to implementation of the Common Core State Standards and an assessment to measure this implementation.

PARCC is currently developing their assessment. One goal of the assessment is to streamline testing to an electronic environment where students complete the tasks on the computer. As one of the states in the consortium, Massachusetts is part of the pilot testing. The pilot test allows PARCC to norms its questions and results.

Duxbury was selected to participate in six field tests beginning in March. Several sections or classes of each selected grade will participate. The district does not receive results, either aggregate or individual. The field test does offer us an opportunity to experience the new assessment, which is especially important in the electronic format. Special education students will receive accommodations as written into their IEP's for MCAS. As March gets closer, the building principals will share specific information with the selected classes. All students will still take MCAS as it is typically scheduled. We will work diligently to balance the demands of the assessments while compromising as little instructional time as possible.

The precise future of the PARCC assessment is still to be determined in Massachusetts. We expect to have choices between PARCC and MCAS in the coming school year. MCAS will remain the basis of the competency determination for graduation at least through the 2015-2016 school year.

PARCC's web page provides background and sample questions if you wish to explore them further: www.parcconline.org.

Field Testing



March:

Grade 3 English
Language Arts
(paper/pencil)

Grade 7

Math (paper/pencil)

Grade 9 English
Language Arts (online)

Grade 9 Geometry
(online)

Grade 11 English
Language Arts (online)

May:

Grade 5 English
Language Arts
(paper/pencil)