



State of New Jersey

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October 2, 2014

TO: District Superintendents/Charter School Lead Persons
High School Principals and Supervisors
School Counselors

FROM: Bari Anhalt Erlichson
Assistant Commissioner/Chief Performance Officer

RE: Transitioning to PARCC Frequently Asked Questions

During the past several months, I have had an opportunity to speak with school counselors regarding the transition to PARCC assessments and have also recently been able to speak to superintendents and members of the State Board. I am grateful for those interactions and particularly to the many individuals who have reached out to me personally. Today, I would like to provide you with some answers to the most frequently asked questions that have arisen during those conversations.

Q1: Is passing the PARCC assessment a requirement for graduation for the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018.

A1: No. At a student level, school counselors can certify that a student in the classes of 2016, 2017, and 2018 met the state proficiency requirements in many ways. For instance, a student may demonstrate proficiency via an SAT or ACT score in addition to the NJDOE's long standing portfolio appeal process. However, if a student does pass a PARCC assessment in English Language Arts or mathematics, a school counselor will not be prohibited from using those scores as a demonstration of proficiency. The state will be providing additional guidance to school counselors on how to determine proficiencies on substitute assessments and the PARCC assessments.

Q2: Do students in the middle school who are taking Algebra I have to take the Algebra I PARCC assessment?

A2: If a district has communicated to its stakeholders that a student who completes Algebra I in the middle school will then move on to Geometry in the next grade level then the students should sit for the PARCC Algebra I assessment in lieu of the grade level PARCC exam. However, we are cognizant that course titles may not accurately reflect the content of the course. So districts should carefully evaluate the alignment of the course to the PARCC Model Content Frameworks.

Q3: Will the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment be scored separately?

A3: No, students will receive a single score report that brings together the student's performance on both the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and the End-of-Year (EOY) Assessment sessions.

Q4: When will the 2015 PARCC scores be available to school districts?

A4: Student score reports will be available toward the end of September/Early October 2015.

Q5: Is a student who does not pass a PARCC End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment required to retake the assessment?

A5: No. A student is not required to retake an assessment or retake the course based on their PARCC scores. However, if based on other local measures, a school requires a student to retake the course, the student can participate in the same EOC assessment in the following year or summer school.

- c: Members, State Board of Education
- Senior Staff
- Executive County Superintendents
- Executive Directors for Regional Achievement Centers
- Executive County Business Official
- NJ LEE Group
- Garden State Coalition of Schools