



Arkansas Measures of Academic Success: PARCC-developed English Language Arts and Mathematics

PARCC assessments help prepare students for success

About PARCC

PARCC tests are modern learning tools developed by educators to allow students to show what they know and what they can do. PARCC helps students improve their skills and gain the knowledge to succeed in school and life.

PARCC assessments compared to other tests

Other tests	PARCC assessments
Test basic knowledge and skills, encouraging memorization and “test prep.”	Allow students to compose answers and detailed responses, eliminating guesswork and allowing students to show their thinking and knowledge.
Test students’ memorization.	Assess students’ abilities to read carefully, communicate clearly and problem solve.
Offer basic, one-step problems.	Present challenging, multi-tiered problems.
Do not offer detailed insight on students’ mastery of knowledge to gauge their readiness for success.	Provide students, parents and educators detailed information so they can understand how students are progressing, where they need assistance and where they can be encouraged to do more.

Why PARCC

FOR STUDENTS: Unlike other tests, PARCC assessments present students with problems and questions that require them to apply knowledge, problem solve and show their thinking. This higher-level approach prepares them and assesses their readiness for success in school and beyond.

FOR PARENTS: PARCC’s detailed assessments provide parents with clear information about how their children are doing in school and how that performance correlates with readiness for success in school and beyond. With this information, parents can more deeply engage in their kids’ academic experience.

FOR TEACHERS: Designed with unprecedented input from educators, PARCC assessments provide teachers with subject-specific student performance information that allows teachers to track students’ progress, address areas needing improvement and target instruction. Because the tests gauge learning and not memorization, they also empower teachers to deliver high quality instruction, rather than drill students or do “test prep.”

FOR ARKANSAS: PARCC assessments align with academic standards that set a higher bar for student achievement and a common metric for comparing student performance across states and districts. With more rigorous and comprehensive standards, Arkansas will be better positioned to raise student achievement. This will prepare the next generation of Arkansans to compete in a global workforce and ensure our country has the human capital needed for economic success.