

TITLE I CALENDAR

Connecting Home and School

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Facts about PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers)

Starting in April, students in Grades 3-8 will be taking the PARCC tests. Some students will take a paper version with the majority of students taking PARCC on the computer. PARCC tests will have less multiple choice items and students will be required to show their work and explain their reasoning in order for teachers to better understand what the students know and what they can do.

This year's testing is considered a transition year while DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) works with consultants to develop a new assessment combining the elements of PARCC with parts of our existing MCAS assessment and items developed with the revision of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The Department will also begin to formulate a plan for 100% computer based testing by the year 2019.

Students in Grade 10 will continue to take the MCAS since it remains a requirement for graduation. This requirement will continue at least until the class of 2019.

Testing Schedule:

For schools doing computer-based testing (CBT)

Grades 3-8 English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics April 25-June 6

For schools doing paper-based testing (PBT)

Grades 3-8 English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics April 25-May 27

ELA/L Test has three separate units for each grade. Unlike MCAS, each unit has an allotted time.

Grade 3: Unit 1-90 minutes; Unit 2-75 minutes; Unit 3-90 minutes

Grades 4-5: Unit 1, 2 and 3 - 90 minutes each

PARCC Mathematics has four separate units for Grades 3-5

Grades 3-5: Units 1-4; 60 minutes each

How to Support Your Child:

- Read both fiction and non-fiction aloud or with your child.
- Discuss and "do" real life math with your child.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast before a test.
- Pack a healthy snack such as fruit, pretzels, yogurt or cheese sticks.

Remember that these tests are only one indicator of how your child is performing. Other measures to consider are report card grades, in-class performance and participation, homework assignments and ongoing formative assessments.

Sources: <http://bealearninghero.org/classroom/parcc>

<http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests>

PTA Parents' Guide to Success outlines learning expectations by grade level in both math and reading

<http://www.pta.org/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2909&navItemNumber=4065>