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August 8, 2017

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads

FROM: Jeffrey B. Hauger, Ed.D., Director  
Office of Assessments  
Division of Talent and Performance

SUBJECT: FAQ for Students Who Need to Retake the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Algebra I Assessment to Meet Their High School Graduation Assessments Requirement

On August 3, 2016, the State Board of Education approved updated regulations (*N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1*) for the high school graduation assessment requirements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. The regulations state that students in the Class of 2021 and beyond will have “multiple opportunities” to take and try to meet expectations on the PARCC Algebra I and ELA ten assessments.

Below are frequently asked questions regarding students in the Class of 2021 and beyond who need to retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment.

1. *Are students in the Class of 2021 and beyond able to retake the Algebra I assessment?*

Yes. Students in the Class of 2021 and beyond who did not pass the PARCC Algebra I assessment to meet their graduation assessment requirement in mathematics can retake the assessment during the summer, fall or spring PARCC administrations, but only if enrolled in a full-year, credit-bearing course, a refresher course approved by the Local Education Agency (LEA), or an LEA-designed instructional learning module(s) based on the student’s abilities, to ensure the student improves the skills he/she needs to successfully meet the requirement. (See Question #3 for related information.)

2. *Can a student in the Class of 2021 and beyond retake the Algebra I assessment in summer 2017?*

Yes. Please see guidance from the New Jersey Department of Education’s (NJDOE) [May 9, 2017 memo](#) on summer PARCC testing.

3. *Is a student in the Class of 2021 and beyond who did not pass the PARCC Algebra I assessment, but passed an Algebra I course, able to retake the assessment without retaking an Algebra I course?*

No. To retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment, students in the Class of 2021 and beyond *must do one* of the following, at the LEA’s discretion:

- Be enrolled in a full-year, credit-bearing Algebra I course; *or*
- Be enrolled in an LEA-approved refresher Algebra I course; *or*
- Be enrolled in an LEA-designed instructional learning module(s), based on the student's abilities.

This requirement is in place to ensure students improve the skills they need to successfully retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment.

4. *If a student in the Class of 2021 and beyond did not pass the PARCC Algebra I assessment, but passes an Algebra I course and is enrolled in a Geometry course the following school year, when will he/she have the opportunity to retake the Algebra I assessment?*

The student can retest in the summer or the fall if enrolled in a full-year, credit-bearing course, an LEA-approved refresher course, or an LEA-designed instructional learning module(s), based on the student's abilities. This requirement is in place to ensure students improve the skills they need to successfully retake the PARCC Algebra I assessment (see Question #3 for related information). This flexibility allows the student to have multiple opportunities to meet their high school graduation requirement for mathematics without interfering with their high school mathematics progression. In the scenario described above, the NJDOE highly recommends NOT waiting until the spring to retest the student since he/she will be administered the PARCC Geometry assessment.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Assessments at (609) 984-6311 or [assessment@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:assessment@doe.state.nj.us).

JBH

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