

Bilingual/ESL PARCC 2018 Info

PARCC and ELLs Frequently Asked Questions (updated October 2017)

Q: What native language options are available for the PARCC assessment?

A: PARCC assessment is currently translated in one language (Spanish) for one content area (mathematics) in grades 3 through 8 and high school (i.e., Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2).

Q: Are English Learners exempt from taking all of the PARCC assessments?

A: For grades 3 through 12 newly arrived students attending U.S. schools on or after June 1 of the prior school year, are not required to participate in the English Language Arts Literacy (ELA/L) portion of the assessment. However, they must take the mathematics portion of the assessment. Newly arrived high school students entering U.S. schools are required to participate in the ELA/L only if they need to take the assessment for graduation requirements.*

***Q: With PARCC, will any newcomers to high school (designated <) be exempt from language arts (LA) portion of the test? All English language learners (ELLs) tested in grades 9, 10, and 11?**

A: Newly arrived EL high school students must participate in the PARCC ELA/L assessments with the appropriate EL test accommodations only if they need to take the assessment to meet graduation requirements.

Q: How should teachers indicate that a student should receive the math section of the PARCC in Spanish? The accommodations form did not seem to contain that option, and I know there are lots of questions. Any advice you have will be most helpful.

A: Students, for whom districts have determined their participation on the mathematics portion of the PARCC assessments will be in their native language (i.e., Spanish in New Jersey). They must be identified as Spanish language mathematics test participants via the Student Registration File, if participating via paper-and-pencil, or by the Personal Needs Profile, if participating online.

Q: If the LEA is to have the test administrator read in the student's native language, what level, if any of translation ability is required? How are the LEAs to obtain the translators and what credentials are they to have?

A: Districts/schools are responsible for providing a human reader, if needed, to EL students who will participate in the Spanish language version of the mathematics portion of the PARCC assessments. Test administrators providing this accommodation should be literate and fluent in English, as well as in the student's native language. Please note in order to serve as a test administrator, the individual must hold a professional certificate and have a valid Student Management Identification.

Q: What is happening at the high school level? I have five students in junior year (which determines their graduation) ... are they exempt from taking the PARCC if they have been here less than one year?*

A: Newly arrived EL high school students (i.e., June 1 of the prior school year) must participate in the PARCC ELA/L assessments with the appropriate EL test accommodations only if they need to take the assessment to meet graduation requirements.

Q: Will students whose parents refused services still receive ELL accommodations?

A: Yes. They should receive ELL accommodations until they exit ELL status.

Q: Do English Learners receive 150 percent time for the PARCC assessments?

A: English Learners may have the testing accommodation of "extended time". Students with extended time have until the end of the school day to complete a single unit of testing during the prescribed window; therefore, time is not limited to 150 percent time.

Q: Will students who participate in the Spanish version of the Mathematics assessments have their Spanish responses scored?

A: Yes.

Q: Will ELLs whose parents have refused Bilingual/ESL/ELS program services be exempted from the EL Subgroup?

A: No. All ELLs are counted in the LEP subgroup regardless of what program services they have or have not received.